

## Comparing Paleolithic Societies

### The San of Southern Africa

1. northern fringe of the Kalahari Desert (present-day Angola , Namibia , Botswana )
2. 50,000–80,000 San still live in the region
3. part of the Khoisan language family, inhabited southern Africa at least 5,000 years
  - a. gathering and hunting way of life, with stone tools
  - b. remarkable rock art, going back 26,000 years
  - c. most of the Khoisan peoples were absorbed or displaced by Bantu-speaking peoples

## The San of Southern Africa

4. The San (Ju/'hoansi) still practiced their ancient life with few borrowings when anthropologists started studying them in the 1950s and 1960s

- a. use some twenty-eight tools, including digging stick, leather garment for carrying things, knife, spear, bow and poisoned arrows, ropes, and nets
- b. men hunt, women do most of gathering
- c. adequate diet
- d. short workweek, with even labor division between men and women
- e. uncertain and anxious life, dependent on nature

## The San of Southern Africa

5. San society characterized by mobility, sharing, and equality

- a. basic unit is band of 10–30 people, connected to other bands
- b. many people claimed membership in more than one band
- c. frequent movement to new territory
- d. no formal leaders, priests, or craft specialists
- e. very complex social relations
- f. high value given to modesty, cooperation, equality
- g. complex system of unequal gift exchange

## The San of Southern Africa

6. relative equality between the sexes
  - a. free sex play between teenagers
  - b. most marriages are monogamous
  - c. frequent divorce among young couples
7. frequent conflict over distribution of meat; rivalries over women

## The Chumash of Southern California

1. show a later Paleolithic stage than the San, with permanent villages



Spot Map 1-2  
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## The Chumash of Southern California

2. Chumash lived near present-day Santa Barbara, California
  - a. richer environment than the San
  - b. perhaps 20,000 when the Spaniards arrived in the sixteenth century
  - c. Chumash created new society after 1150 c.e. in response to violence and food shortages

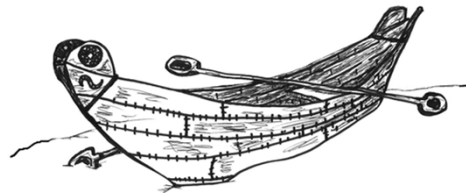
## The Chumash of Southern California

3. central technological innovation: the planked canoe (*tomol*)
  - a. ability to make and own tomol led to social inequality
  - b. stimulated trade between the coast and islands
  - c. made deep-sea fishing possible

## The Chumash of Southern California

4. living conditions were more elaborate than the San
  - a. round, permanent, substantial houses (for up to 70 people)
  - b. a market economy, despite being gathering and hunting peoples
  - c. beginning of class distinctions (e.g., bearskin capes, burials)
  - d. emergence of a permanent, hereditary political elite

## The Chumash of Southern California



A Chumash Tomol  
Myra of the World, First Edition  
Caricature Coast Conservancy/Redrawn by © Elizabeth Leahy

5. Chumash largely solved the problems of violence in the region

**OP:** Which of the following do you think would most improve our knowledge of Paleolithic man?

- a. A more precise chronological sequence for the spread of mankind across the planet
- b. A better understanding of their religious beliefs
- c. If more hunter-gatherer societies existed today
- d. A better understanding of the origins of our species



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*Ways of the World*, First Edition  
Tokyo National Museum, Collection of Mrs. Kane Yamazaka

**OP:** Would you like living in a Paleolithic society?

a. Yes

b. No