



The First People

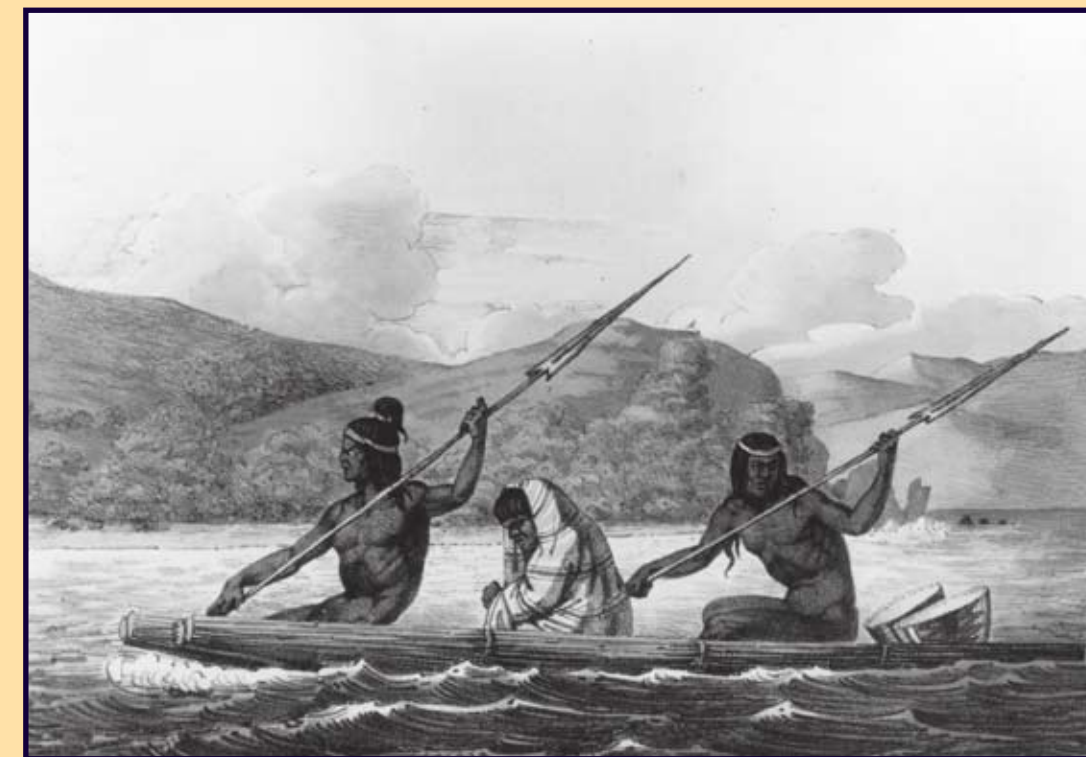
You are standing on the land of the Huchiun, one of 45-50 Indian Tribes who thrived in the Bay Area. Nearby is a village site that is more than 2,000 years old. Historic accounts and the oral traditions of living Ohlone provide insights into the traditional way of life of this area's first inhabitants. These accounts tell us that the people that lived in this area were known for their generosity, sharing, fair play, and humor.

*Tsiaiaruka uti ruk
The country around here
was their home
Tsiaiaruka ka ruk
This is my home
Haxe lattui
This is where I belong*

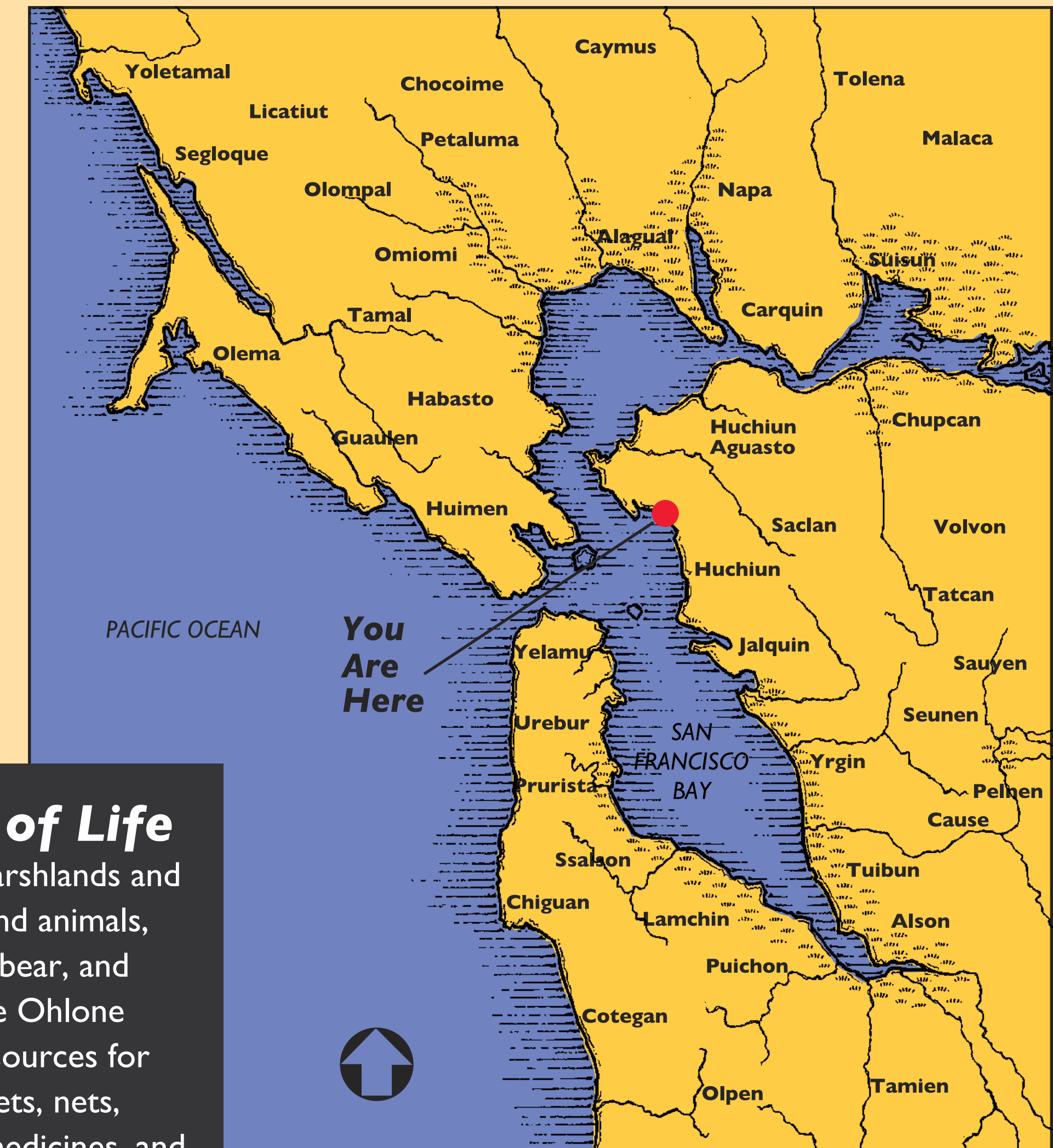
— Linda Yamane (Rumsien Ohlone)
from "What Does It Mean to Be
Ohlone?" 1991



Ohlone Families, Gathering of Ohlonean Peoples, Coyote Hills Regional Park, October 6, 1996. (Photo by Julie Francois, courtesy Beverly R. Ortiz, East Bay Regional Park District.)



The Ohlone used tules, which grew in profusion around the Bay. Here they were used to construct lightweight, buoyant, and maneuverable boats from which to hunt and fish. (Ohlone People in a Tule Boat on San Francisco Bay in 1816 from a lithograph of a watercolor by Louis Choris, by permission of the Bancroft Library)



Tribal Regions around the San Francisco Bay Area.
(Adapted from "A Time of Little Choice" by Randall Milliken)

The Ohlone Way of Life
Long ago, the Bay's waters, marshlands and mudflats teemed with plants and animals, including elk, antelope, grizzly bear, and millions of migrating birds. The Ohlone skillfully used these natural resources for buildings, boats, clothing, baskets, nets, traps, snares, hunting blinds, medicines, and elegantly feathered ceremonial regalia. They traded clam shell beads and pendants for objects that were not available locally, such as obsidian arrow heads and bows.



The Pt. Isabel to Miller/Knox trail is part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a hiking and bicycling trail system that extends around San Francisco Bay.