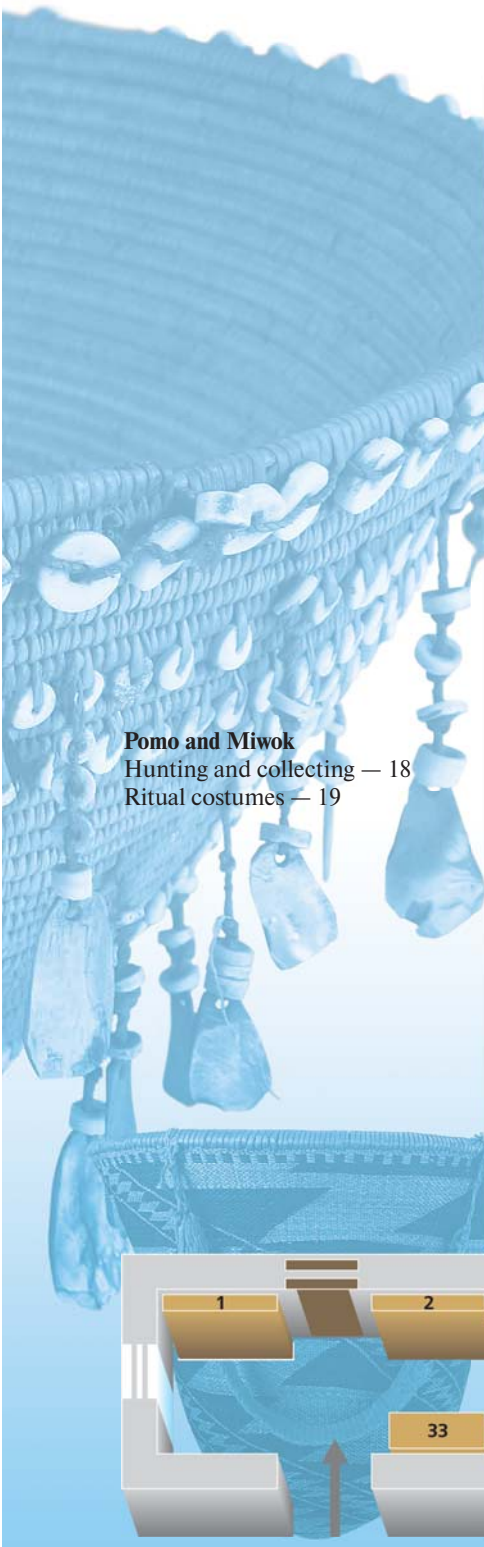
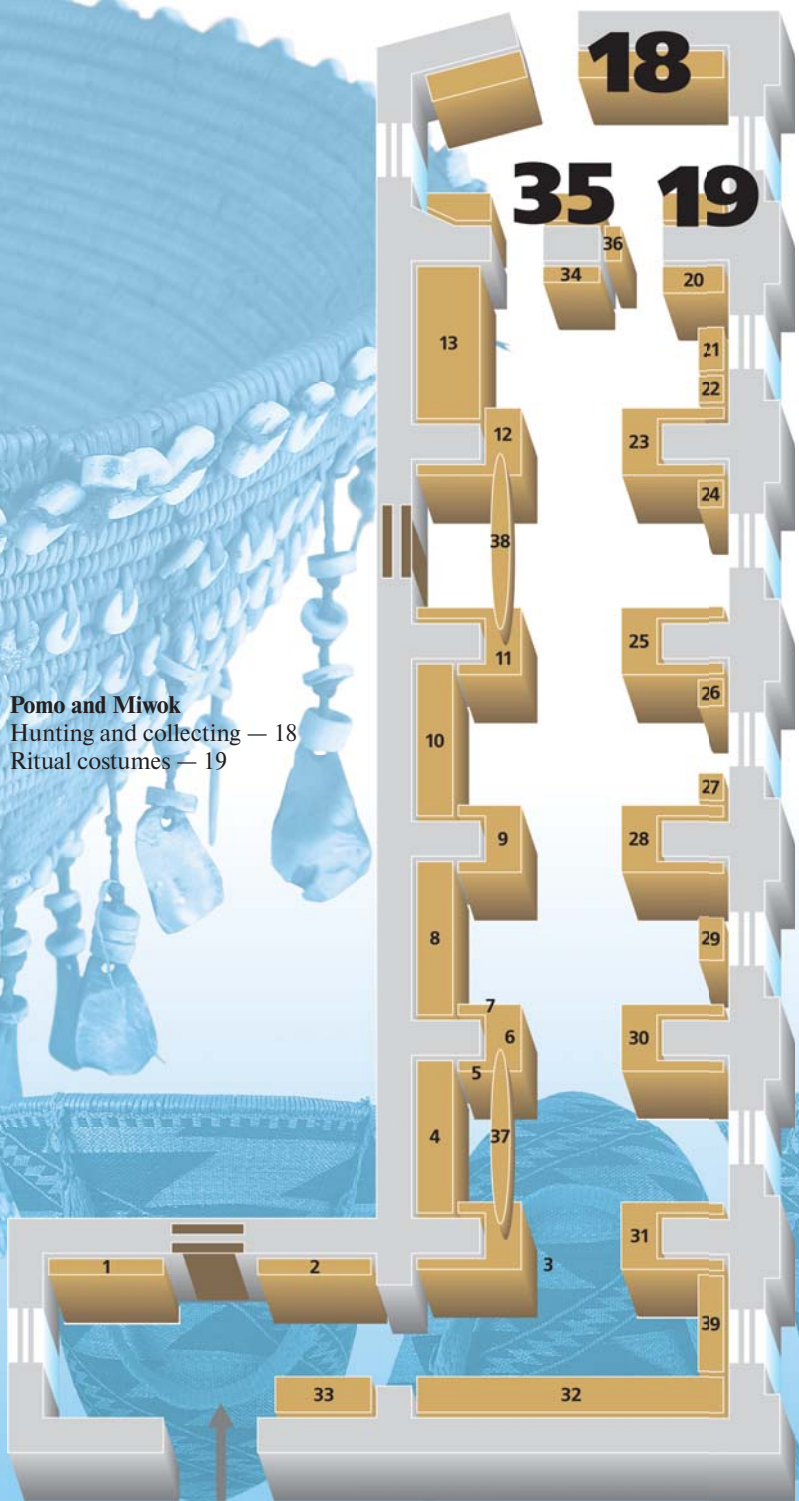




GATHERERS AND HUNTERS OF CALIFORNIA



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THE POMO AND MIWOK PEOPLE

Before the appearance of the Europeans on the territory of the modern state of California, it was inhabited with people who spoke dozens of languages that belonged to different language families. Most of these families are united by linguists into two large groups – Penuti and Hocan. Coastal Miwok refer to the first group, Pomo – to the second.

Women collected acorns, nuts, fruits and roots. Acorns were soaked in hot water to remove bitterness. After that they were dried and pounded on a stone mill. The flour was used to make flat cookies or soups.

Men were occupied with hunting. When hunting deer, the hunters disguised themselves. They put on deer skins and, imitating the animals' goings-on, waited for them at a watering place. The deer have good sense of smell but poor eyesight, and it allowed a hunter approach the herd from the lee side and shoot arrows from a short distance.



▲ *Deer hunter*

Californian Indians were very skilful in making baskets and other wicker objects. This has always been a women's occupation. Young branches and thin roots of cedar, pine, maple and nut-tree were used. Baskets were covered with geometrical patters and decorated with shells and pearl plates.

Large baskets were used to keep and transport goods and for making food. They were woven so tight that they were waterproof. Baskets were filled with water that was boiled in them with the help of red-hot stones and then meat or fish was cooked in it. Californian Indians did not know pottery.



◀ *Basket* ▼



◀ *Waterproof basket*



▲ *Ceremonial costume
made of condor feathers*

Californian Indians' ritual clothes refer to the Museum's unique exhibits. These are costumes made of condor and raven feathers.

Such costumes were worn by the chiefs and shamans during the most important religious ceremonies dedicated to the local cults.



▲ *Ceremonial costume made of raven feathers*