

### Ishi Arrowhead



Each month The California Museum will introduce a new artifact with accompanying information and questions, which will consist of three different difficulty levels to choose from. To be used as a sponge or opening activity, you can use the artifact of the month for your students to study, question and form ideas. You can also print the image and place it on each student's desk, have them work in teams or project the image for a class activity.

Use the provided questions to help your students learn more about the artifact and its importance to California -- or make up your own questions. Most importantly, have fun!

Be sure to check out our web site, [CaliforniaMuseum.org](http://CaliforniaMuseum.org), for other interesting and unique activities for your students.

### Ishi Arrowhead



Have you ever met a famous person? In 1914, a six-year-old boy with a broken leg was recuperating in a hospital when he met the most talked about California Indian, Ishi, who was thought to be the last surviving member of the Yahi band of Southern Yana Indians. Ishi gave this handmade glass arrowhead to the boy as a gift.

Ishi was born in 1860. He and his family went into hiding in a cave near Chico, CA to escape being hunted by settlers. In 1911, Ishi was starving and ventured into the woods near Oroville in search of food. The local sheriff took Ishi into custody for his own protection. Ishi was transferred to the Museum of Anthropology at University of California in San Francisco, where he taught anthropologists the language and culture of his people. One of the things Ishi taught the anthropologists was how to make an arrowhead.

Ishi usually made his arrowheads out of obsidian, a black volcanic rock, but he also used other materials like glass. To shape the arrowhead Ishi used a process called flint knapping, where he used tools to chip away pieces of the rock to make the right shape. The arrowhead that Ishi made for the six-year-old boy was made from a glass bleach bottle. In August 2011 we commemorated the 100th anniversary of Ishi's emergence from hiding. Ishi's arrowhead can be seen in the California Indians: Making a Difference exhibit.

## Ishi Arrowhead



### Elementary

- 1) Who was Ishi?
- 2) What gift did the boy receive?
- 3) What was the gift made from?

### Middle School

- 1) What is obsidian?
- 2) How did Ishi make arrowheads?

### High School

- 1) Why was Ishi called the "last wild Indian"?
- 2) Why do you think Ishi would emerge from hiding after settlers had hunted his people?

# Word Search!

## Ishi Word search

F A Z D I J G E I Z V P G G S  
Q P R N O J X H R F Y N U B K  
L F O R W I W T W U I C S C S  
F R P G O S W B V P T H O U K  
M P H G Y W B K P O S L M D Q  
B Q G S X F H A M B K R U O M  
G S J I A B N E Z S N S R C V  
T Q H S B K G L A I F O T W N  
Z S Y A T C H C L D V K Y S A  
I H X N I Z I N R I Y A H I I  
Z P I E U S N N L A O C L T L  
I L S C O S G L Q N Q P P T N  
F B K B X H E G A U G N A L I  
A N T H R O P O L O G Y R Q C  
D S Z G F Q E Z H S Z M K X H

ANTHROPOLOGY  
ARROWHEAD  
CULTURE  
FLINTKNAPPING  
INDIAN  
ISHI

LANGUAGE  
OBSIDIAN  
OROVILLE  
YAH I

