

Work, Community, and Memory on California's Round Valley Reservation

Discussion Questions

What are the ways in which the Round Valley Indians built and maintained community through labor?

Bauer writes “[Round Valley Indians were] not victims of economic change, but work and labor become examples of Round Valley Indian agency, cultural adaptation, and survival.” How did they enter the capitalist system and shape it as workers for their own purposes?

How do these chapters, and Bauer's method of collecting oral histories, combat typical narratives you've encountered on Native American labor?

Why has Native American labor been invisibilized in history? What is needed to combat that?

Why do you think California Indian labor was obscured in historical narratives compared to that of Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and Hispanic workers?

What connections can we make between the struggles of Round Valley Indians agricultural work to our current struggles across different sectors today?

How does class exploitation and class consciousness take specific forms when we are studying Indigenous workers?

What lessons are there for conceiving and building a broader class unity from the specific lessons and insights raised in this case of Native agricultural labor?

What lessons are there from the politics of land that Bauer is writing about for struggles over housing and gentrification happening in cities now?