The Yurok tribe people live in northwestern california along the pacific coast and the Kalath river. The origins of the tribe dates back to the 14 century and they were estimated to number around 2500 members before the arrival of the europeans. the Yurok tribe being fairly large was divided into approximately 50 different small villages, each ruled by the richest person in the village, who was called the peyrek *Peyerk, the pyerk*s lived in homes at higher elevation, wore finer clothing, and sometimes spoke foreign languages. the peyreks of each village would come together to discuss tribal disputes or hold importance tribal ceremonies. Unlike many other tribes the Yurok people believed in ownership of land and had their own territory with boarders. the tribe had its own language, government , laws, police and other services. And there was overall a very complex structure.

The tribe maintained peaceful interaction with europeans up until 1850 when california became a official state. Soon after the state passed “the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians”, a law that turned many Native American rights over to the state. And lead to a lelilization of native enslavement and murder, and perevented the tribe from being recognized as its own government . Laws also protected the settlers’ rights to land and water supplies. This caused much conflict, so to prevent any more white deaths the states offered people bunties for natives heads. and From 1851 through 1852 the new state of California spent $1 million a year on exterminating (killing) Native people. The combination of diseases and massacres reduced the Yurok population by almost 75 percent. And when a treaty was finally signed in 1851 in which the US promised food and other resources in exchange for the tribe moving to a reservation and keeping the peace with europeans. But the US senate failed to ratify although the Tribe did its part and followed to rules.