

Vegetation of the Willamette Valley Reading Guide

- You will be working in groups of three.
 - You should talk with each other and share ideas, but everyone has to write their own answers.
 - You have to use complete sentences that are well written and insightful.
 - You will be turning in your answers.
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1. In 2 to 3 sentences, write down what you think the paper will be about.
 - Skim through the paper and read any section headings, table legends, and image descriptions.
 2. In 2 to 3 sentences, write down what you think the main sections of the paper will be about.
 - Read the introduction and summary and talk with each other about the reasons the paper was written and what were the conclusions of the paper.
 3. In 3 to 4 sentences, write down the main reason(s) the paper was written and what the main conclusion(s) were of the paper.
 - Read the following questions and talk with your group about the questions. **Make sure you know what the question is asking;** are there words used in the question that you will have to define?
 - Try to find the section of the paper that might have the answer by scanning the paper headings, table legends and image descriptions. **Skip parts of the paper that are irrelevant.**
 - Discuss with your group what all of your answers mean. **Put the information from the paper in your own words.** Try to visualize what the Willamette Valley looked like, what processes (like flooding or fire or farming) were involved, and make drawings or diagrams if they will help.
 - **What are the ecological implications of your answer?** How do these ecological aspects affect plants, animals, or humans? How do these ecological aspects affect non-living parts of the environment like water, air, or soil? What is the historical significance (if any) of these ecological processes?
 4. According to the evidence in this paper, how did Native Americans “manage” the Willamette Valley?
 5. How have European settlers and their descendants “managed” the Willamette Valley since the mid 1800’s?
 6. In your own words, explain why fir trees now dominate many former prairies in the Willamette Valley.
 7. Why did prairie fires burn the grasses but not the oak trees?
 8. Shantz and Zon characterized the native vegetation of the Willamette Valley as Douglas fir forest. However, it is clear that the dominant vegetation of the valley throughout recorded history has been prairies and grasslands. What did they mean by their characterization?
 9. How did the surveyors of 1853 describe the vegetation in the valley? Describe the vegetation or forest they called low wet prairie, ash swale, and bottomland timber.
 10. Describe vegetation changes in the Willamette Valley between 1853 and 1969 for a) current prairies; b) former prairies (open areas); and c) forested lands.