

Willamette Valley Historical Drawings

Field Ecology

The goal of this assignment is for you to be able to clearly visualize landscapes (both large- and small-scale) of the Willamette Valley as they existed 300 years ago. When you are done with the assignment, you should be able to picture the valley as it looked when it was inhabited only by Native Americans in the 1700's and before.

Working individually, use the internet to find descriptions and images of the Willamette Valley from before European-American settlement in the 1800's. (A Google image search on "historical vegetation willamette valley" will be very useful, among other searches.) Before you begin the assignment, look through some documents and images so you have an idea of how the valley has changed over the years. Once you have familiarized yourself with the available information, follow the instructions below.

1. On one full side of an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper (lined or unlined), draw a picture of the Willamette Valley as it might have appeared if you were standing at the top of a tall hill looking out over a large area (the size of Corvallis or even larger). (This is a "large-scale" drawing.) Use the entire surface of your paper for the drawing – make it big! Make sure your drawing indicates (with words or images) the following features:
 - a. The types of vegetation you would expect to see and how much of each type would be evident.
 - b. The location, amount, and kind (i.e., river vs. lake vs. wetlands) of water you would find.
 - c. The location and amount of human dwellings and other human influences (for example, cultivated areas, human-caused fires, permanent and temporary settlements).
2. On the other side of the paper (or on another sheet of paper if you prefer), draw a picture of a smaller area – the size of a small hill or a city park. (This is a "small-scale" drawing.) Again, use the entire surface of the paper for the drawing and make sure to indicate (with words or images) the following features:
 - a. What types of trees, shrubs, and smaller plants might you see? Try to list specific plants, preferably ones that we've looked at in class.
 - b. How much of the area would be covered in trees vs. shrubs and smaller plants?
 - c. What sorts of animals and birds might use the area as habitat? (This will be tough to draw for many of you, but you can use symbols and words to indicate what you would see.)