

Vegetation of the Willamette Valley

Field Biology

Tips –

- a. You do not need to read the entire paper, word for word, in order to answer these questions. Think of this as a research exercise – your goal is to answer the questions as efficiently as possible.
 - b. When answering these questions, visualize! Try to do more than simply write the words on your paper – imagine the Native Americans and European settlers actually doing the types of management activities discussed in the paper.
 - c. Use each other as resources – if there's something you don't understand, ask your partner.
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1. According to the evidence in this paper, how did Native Americans “manage” the Willamette Valley?
 2. How have European settlers and their descendents “managed” the Willamette Valley since the mid 1800's?
 3. *In your own words* explain why firs now dominate many former prairies in the Willamette Valley.
 4. Why did prairie fires burn the grasses but not the oak trees?
 5. 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?