

Indian society in cascade mountain range essay

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Earth, our home planet was created through different processes. This includes volcanism, earthquake, plate tectonics etc. which made up the earth's interior. These earth processes play a major role in developing a sense of place for North West Cascade Indian Society. Cascade Mountains which consist of several volcanoes with a distance of 700 miles across Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and Southern British Columbia, parallel to the Pacific are a product of volcanism, found in western North America. These mountain ranges were created through the subduction of Juan de Fuca plate to the North American continental plate.

These subduction processes began in Cenozoic time (400 million years ago). Some of the popular volcanoes found in cascade mountain range were Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams, Mount Baker, Mount Rainier etc. These volcanoes have same characteristics but each of them has unique geological traits and history. Inland from these mountains were series of valleys namely: Shasta, Willamette, and Puget. In the south of these volcanoes were great rivers namely: Wauna, Nchi'wana, Oregon, the River of Kings, the River of the West, the Columbia.

The geographic location of these volcanoes and rivers created a linguistic and ethnic diversity among Indian civilization in the North-West America. One of which are the tribal stories or myths which tell us a story about the creation of the cascade mountain range through mythological concepts of gods and goddesses. They believed that the earth was created by many gods and goddesses; and the mountains were the home of supernatural beings and considered as a sacred place. Aside from having a rich culture, their geographical location also affects the livelihood of the Indians. The Olympic

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rampant of the mountains absorb almost all the precipitation from the clouds, leaving the place dry. The mountains along the Cascade Range serves like a shield to the storms and typhoons that came along. These mountain ranges are also considered as a tourist spot where most of the scientists conduct their study because of their characteristic and uniqueness.

The forest along the mountains gives the people different resources that they need, such as food, shelter, clothing etc. Magma of the Cascades was made by the partial melting along the subduction zone or trenches. The most typical lava of Cascade volcano eruptions is andesite, a rock which is made from igneous composition which can be found in the subduction zones almost around the world. These lava from volcanic eruption fertile the soil, this will make their land an appropriate place for planting fruits and vegetables which may become a source of their income. Rivers on the other hand will be their primary source of water and other marine species. It could also serves as a means of transportation for trade to other countries.

Also, because they are surrounded by mountain range, communication outside their homeland is difficult. This is one of the reasons why they still contained their culture and tradition intact. As David M. Buerge stated: " To the surprise of many, the people, the Native Americans, survived the transformation, and in our own day they have reclaimed a place of honor in the civic household, restored vitality to many of their ancient traditions and crafted new ones adapted to novel conditions"(Buerge, D). Even though the geographic location of their homeland is quite dangerous due to the continuous volcanic eruption, earthquake and landslide, they look at it as a

blessing from their gods and goddesses which will nurture their land through time.