Step by Step

Though their age remains unknown, these traditional Cahuilla sandals made of yucca fiber and leather were recovered in 1932, tucked away on a shelf within a large olla, alongside a deer hoof rattle, inside a cave near Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Yucca fiber is equal in strength to any imported commercial fiber used today. The fiber was an ideal material in making ropes and stings, mats, coiled rope soles for sandals, and saddle blankets. The sandals were acquired by the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in 2008.

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Protecting and Preserving

Although individuals in the past collected Native American objects, several federal, state, and local laws, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Archaeological Protection Act, are now in place to protect and preserve Native cultural material, ancestral remains, and items of cultural patrimony. Within the State of California, codified state preservations laws, public resource codes, penal codes, and California health and safety codes place additional restrictions on the removal of Native American heritage items, ancestral remains, and cultural materials. If you find Native American objects or artifacts, leave them in place and notify the local tribe or land manager for protection and preservation.