

Blackline Master 4-1

Shaping the Land

Here are some of the ways that First Peoples shaped the landscapes of their territories in the past. Many of these methods are still followed today. For each method, tell what you think the purpose of shaping the landscape might have been.

Activity	Purpose
1. Pruning or cutting down plants, such as berries or plants that provide materials for basketry.	
2. Burning individual or small groups of plants	
3. Landscape burning	
4. Digging and tilling the soil before, during and after harvest	
5. Transplanting bulbs or reproductive parts of plants.	
6. Creating terraced gardens	
a. Tidal estuaries	
b. Berry gardens	
c. Clam gardens	
7. Weeding and clearing out competing plants and rocks such as in a blue camas meadow	
8. Adding natural fertilizers such as ashes clamshells, animal or fish remains	
9. Building stone fish traps	
10. Imitating nature	
a. Putting hemlock branches in the sea when herring are spawning	
b. Imitating underwater features with reef nets for salmon fishing	

Blackline Master 4-1 Sample Responses

Shaping the Land

Here are some of the ways that First Peoples shaped the landscapes of their territories in the past. Many of these methods are still followed today. For each method, tell what you think the purpose of shaping the landscape might have been.

Activity	Purpose
1. Pruning or cutting down plants, such as berries or plants used to make baskets.	stimulate new growth, stronger plants, more and better quality berries
2. Burning individual or small groups of plants	cleans out the patch of land, encourages new growth, stronger plants,
3. Landscape burning	remove underbrush, improve growth of berry or root plants, create forage for animals like deer
4. Digging and tilling the soil before, during and after harvest	aerates the soil, decompresses soil, plants are more productive, weeds reduced
5. Transplanting bulbs or reproductive parts of plants.	controls the types of plants growing in a plot, sustains the important food plants; spreads plants to new fertile ground
6. Creating terraced gardens	
a. Tidal estuaries	rock or log walls trapped nutrients brought in by the tides and down the river; attracted birds which could be hunted
b. Berry gardens	created prime conditions to grow a variety of species of plants
c. Clam gardens	created the prime habitat for clams, resulting in a higher yield than many regular beaches
7. Weeding and clearing out competing plants and rocks such as in a blue camas meadow	encourages more productive growth, more vigorous plants
8. Adding natural fertilizers such as ashes clamshells, animal or fish remains	additional nutrients improve quality and yield of plants
9. Building stone fish traps	enabled a group effort to harvest fish efficiently, sustainably and selectively
10. Imitating nature	
a. Putting hemlock branches in the sea when herring are spawning	provides an accessible and productive way of harvesting nutritious herring eggs
b. Imitating underwater features with reef nets for salmon fishing	guides or corrals fish to make the harvest more productive