

Northwest Coastal Indians



of North America

Native Americans: Northwest

The significant native tribes of the Northwest were the:

Tlingit
Nisga'a
Tsetsaut
Haida
Tsimshian
Gitksan
Haisla
Heiltsuk
Wuikinuxv
Kwakwaka'wakw
Nuu-chah-nulth
Makah
Coast Salish
Nuxalk
Willapa
Chimakum
Quileute
Chinook



Native Americans: Northwest

Some of the subgroups of Northwestern tribes include:



Everyday Life – Northwest Coastal Indian Men

- The Northwest Coastal Indians were not land hunters, but sea hunters.
- They would not go out to kill a whale; but if one died and washed ashore, they would rejoice and eat the meat and collect the oil from it's fat.
- They hunted seals, sea lions, sea otters, salmon, perch, bass and other fishes for food.
- All of the men were wonderful carvers of woods and ivory.
- Were judged by their hunting skills and how they shared their wealth.



A WEDDING GROUP



Everyday Life – Northwest Coastal Indian Women



- The main plant was the acorn. Women would grind it into flour. One tree can give 140 pounds of acorns!
- **Women were also in charge of drying meats for winter.** Some tribes would die of starvation if they didn't have a good winter storage.
- **Women were judged by their sewing, cooking and ability to produce children.**
- Women were often sold as slaves to other tribes if they didn't prove their worth!



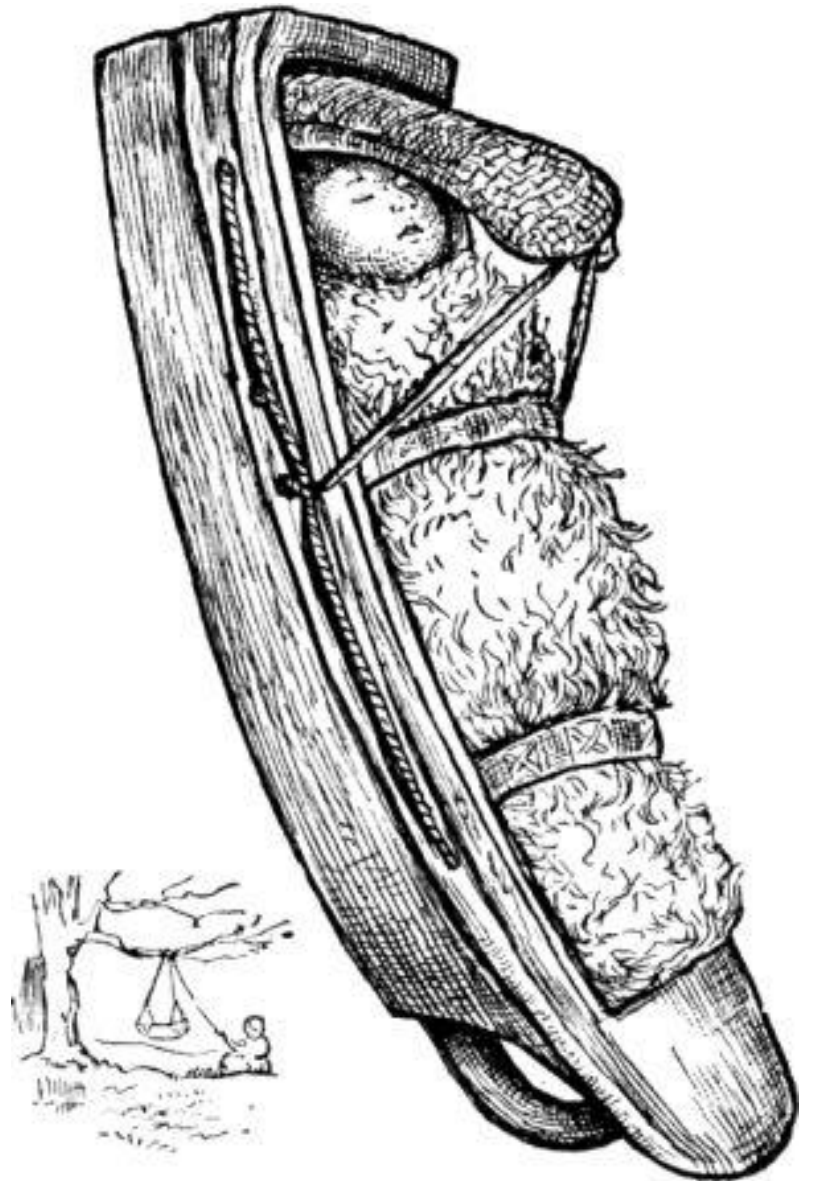
Drying meats



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBb-SGuQLac> (whole thing)

Everyday Life - Northwest Coastal Indian Children

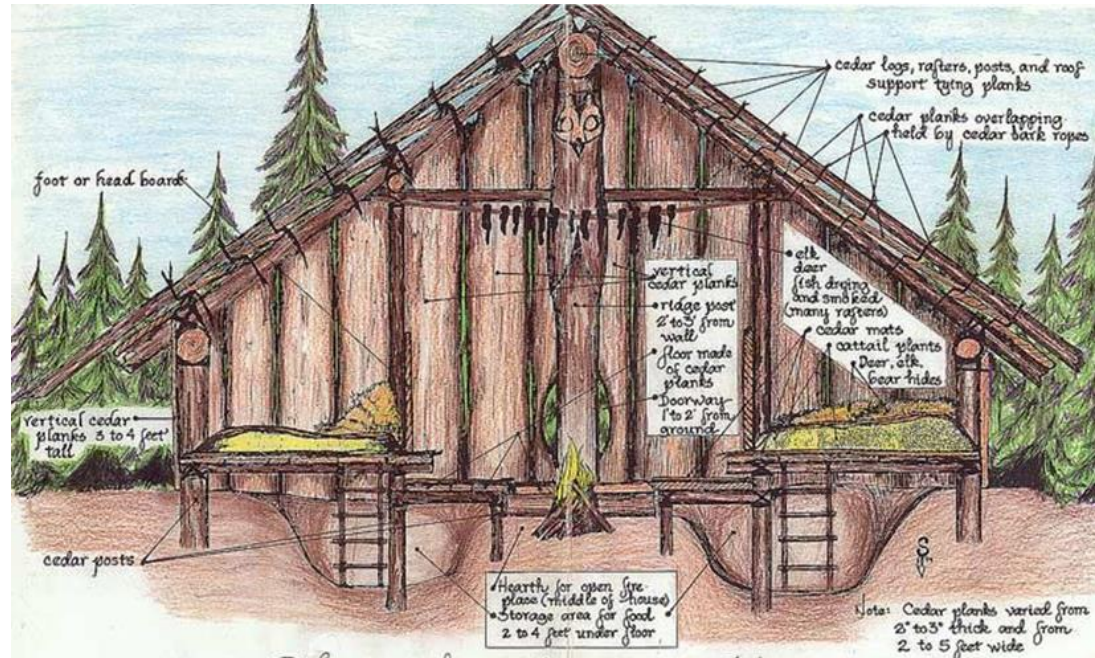
- Babies were rejoiced, and had ceremonies welcoming them.
- For the first few years of a child life they were swaddled for most of the day, never moving.
- It was thought “attractive” to have a flat forehead, so parents would tie a board to their foreheads for the first year of their lives.
- Children played tag, hide and seek, and hoop and spear.
- Children were taught that winning wasn't important, since everything had its place in life.



What Did the Northwest Coastal Indians Live In?

- The Northwest Coastal Indians mostly lived in plank houses.
- They are square family houses that have a sunken 5 foot square in the middle for the fire.
- They used the huge redwood and cedar trees as posts and beams for the house. These became totem poles.
- They used no nails or rope, but the logs fit together like a tight puzzle.





Chinook Native House



How did the Northwest Coastal Indians travel?

- Everyone made and used boats with paddles. These boats were made from fallen cedar or redwood trees.
- **The Northwest Indians were the first to make kayaks.** It was a waterproof way to travel.
- **The Northwest Coastal Indians were a trading community.** They would travel the ancient paths to the Bering Strait.
- This is why the Coastal Indians have some Asian influences in their crafts.