

Northwest Seacoast Natives



The NW Coast



- Wet climate with mild winters and cool summers
- Coast Mt and Cascade Range, offshore islands, dense forests
- Many resources: plants grow plentifully, beaver, bear, deer, elk



cradleboard

facial hair



MINE!

The Sea

- Salmon
- Herring
- Halibut
- Cod
- Seal
- Sea lion
- Whale

From the shore, they gathered clams, seaweed, and shellfish

Most important fish:

SALMON

Every year: salmon run when they swim upstream to lay eggs (during this run, families could catch over 1,000# of fish, most was dried)

Most was dried and smoked.





cedar tree

The Tlingit (KHLING iht)

- 1700's: controlled 400 miles along the coast
- Traded surplus which made them wealthy
- Wooden plank houses built for several families faced the sea



The Big-Houses, as they were called, were from 20 to 60 feet wide and from 50-150 feet long.





✓ Time to develop technology

Technology: the design and use of tools, ideas, and methods to solve problems

Used technology to build dams and traps for salmon and to make canoes that could travel long distances

Totem Poles

Often placed in front of house to decorate it and/or mark it with family crest

➤ Totem poles are still made today using traditional methods.

➤ They take 2-4 years to complete.



Some tribes continue the practice of potlatch. This is a "big house" in British Columbia built by Chief Mungo Martin in 1953. Very wealthy important hosts would have a longhouse specifically for potlatching and for housing guests.





Masks and headdresses worn during dances depicted the supernatural being who had "given" the dance to the host or one of his ancestors.





Important events were celebrated with a **potlatch**.

- Word comes from Chinook meaning “giveaway”.
- Usually in the winter, lasted several days-a week
- Special feast where the guests receive gifts (host retains status in society)
- Weddings, births, rights of passages, funerals, completion of totem pole
- Songs, dancing, feasting



potlatch figure welcoming guests

The Tlingit Today

- Europeans arrived in the NW later than in other parts of North America
- In 1741, Danish explorer Vitus Bering sailed from Russia and Alaska became a Russian colony
- 1867, the U.S. bought Alaska from Russia
- The Tlingit and other Natives found it hard to preserve their culture
- 1971, 44 million acres was returned to the Native Americans
- Today, they still trade but have modern businesses

