

# **K'ómoks First Nation**

## **Community and Culture**

**By the end of the lesson you should be able to describe some aspects of the local K'ómoks First Nation community**



# Acknowledgement

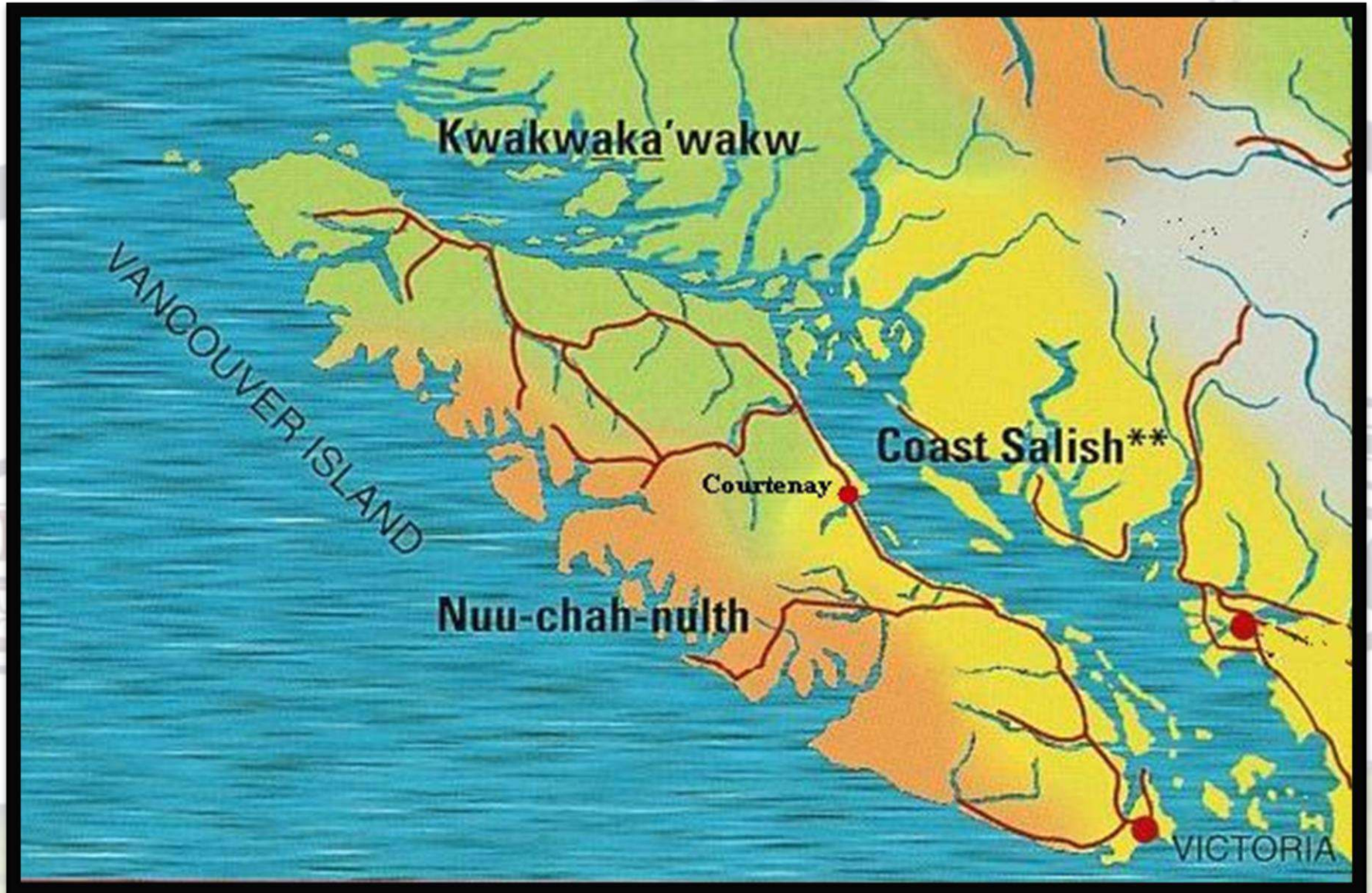
- We would like to acknowledge that we are on K'ómoks territory.



“caretakers of the ‘land of plenty’ since time immemorial”



# Vancouver Island First Nations



# **Traditional Territory**

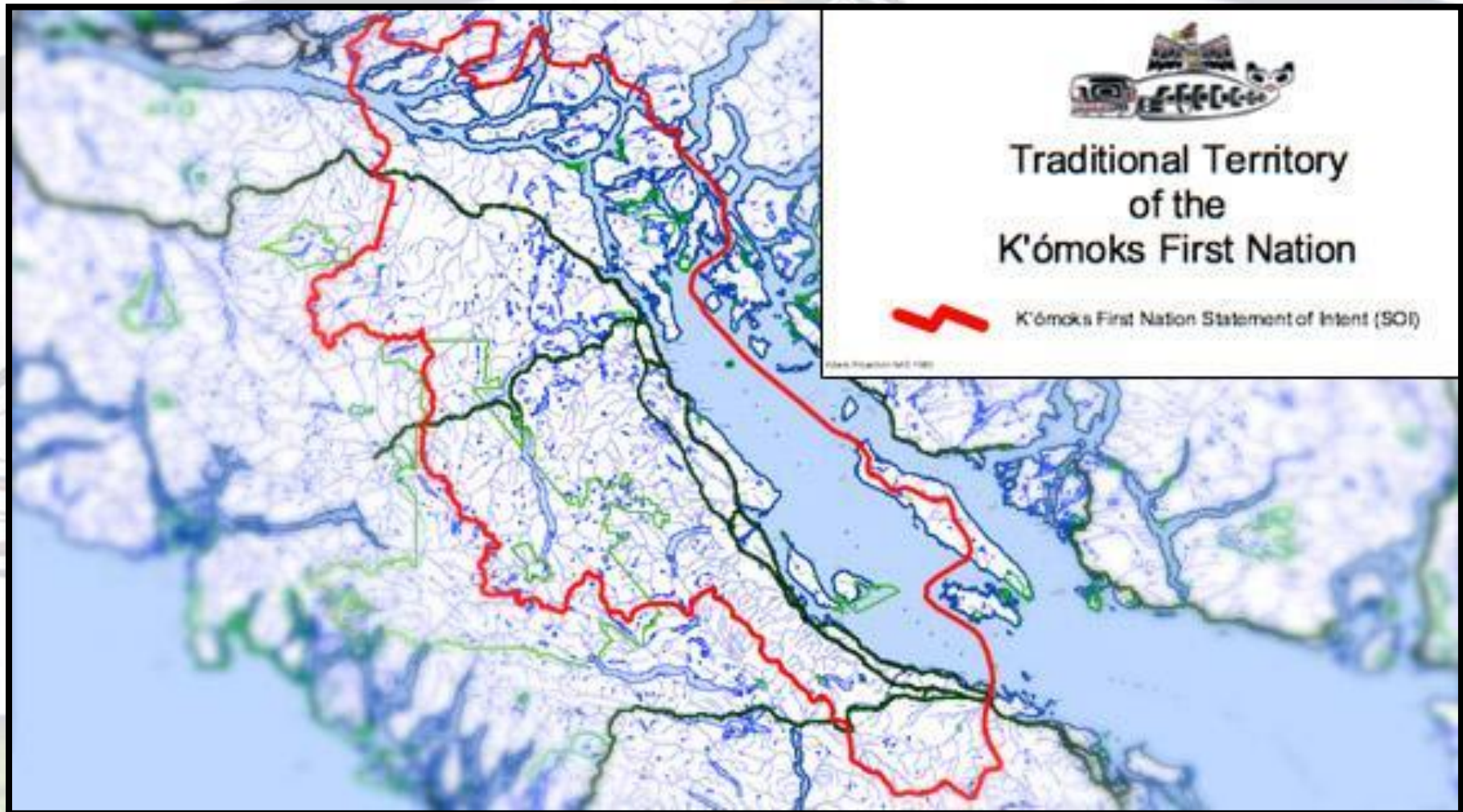
**Traditionally, this area was Coast Salish. The Pəntl' áč (Pentlatch) and K'ómoks peoples have lived here since Time Immemorial.**

**Over time, the K'ómoks have intermarried with the Pentlatch and the neighbouring tribes. The K'ómoks people are a mix of Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw.**

**Collectively, the local First Nation is now known as K'ómoks, whose traditions and heritage are a blending of cultures.**



# Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation



# World View



The European worldview: the world is a pyramid.



The Aboriginal worldview: the world is a web of life.

What are the similarities and what are the differences in the two types of world view?



# Welcome to the K'ómoks First Nation


Meet some members of the K'ómoks community









An aerial photograph of a coastal area. On the right side, there is a dense green forest covering a landmass. A narrow, light-colored sandy beach or spit extends from the forest into a large body of blue water. Further out, another smaller landmass is visible. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale blue. The text "K'ómoks – It takes your breath away." is overlaid in the center of the image.

K'ómoks – It takes your breath away.

# K'ómoks First Nation

**Hereditary Chief: Kerry Frank**

**Elected Chief: Nicole Rempel**

**Councilors: Melissa Quocksister, Josh Frank & Sharlene Frank**

**The current K'ómoks population is over 325 people.**

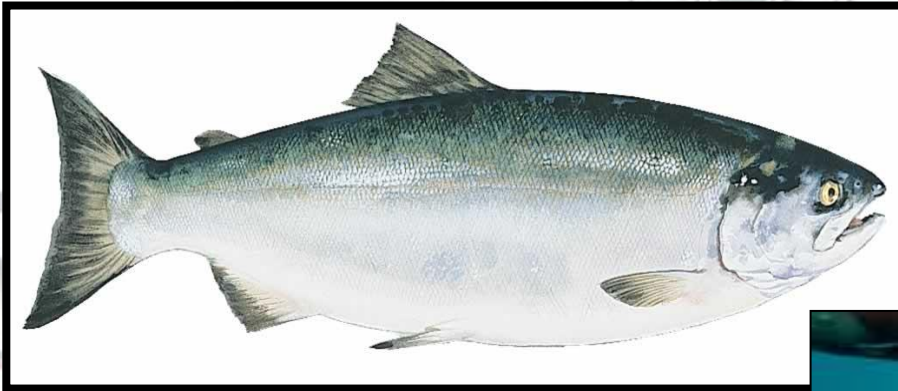
**Today the head chiefs of the K'ómoks are Kerry Frank (Sathloot/Puntledge) Ernie Hardy (Sasitla), Allan Mitchell (Sasitla/Cha'chae) and George Cook (leeksun).**





# **Foods**

**Salmon, seal, octopus, herring, cod, elk, deer, ducks, shellfish and many different berries, like salmonberry and thimbleberry.**

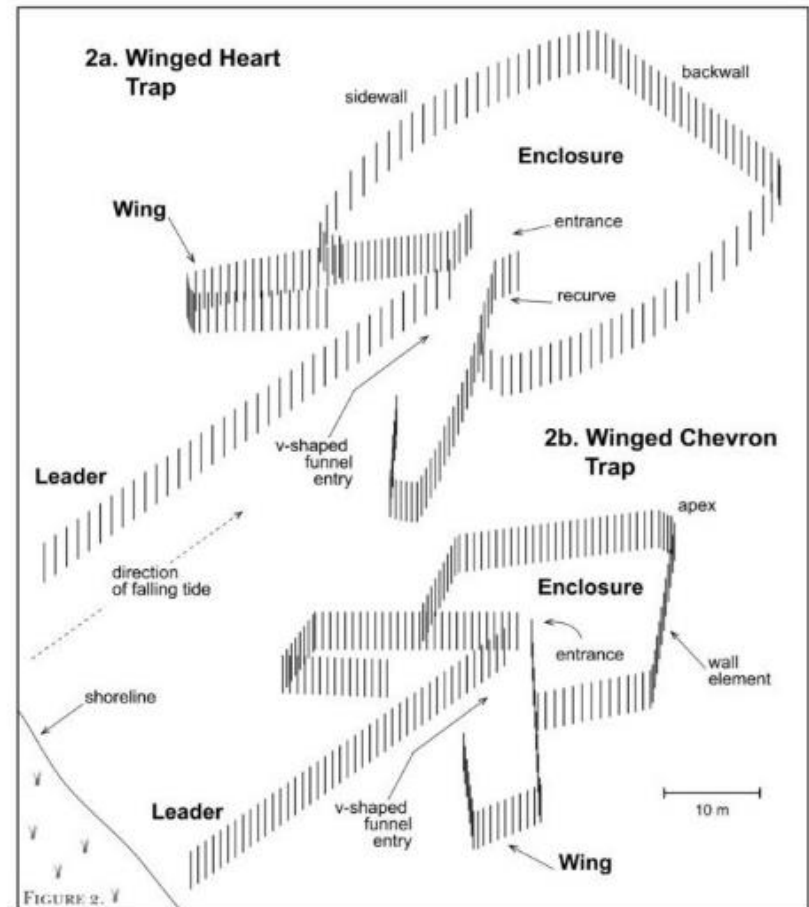


# Fish Traps





# Fish Trap Shapes and Locations



# Traditional Clothing



What do you think the K'ómoks  
people used to make their clothing  
long ago?



# Cedar Clothing



**Coast Salish**



**Nuu-chah-nulth**

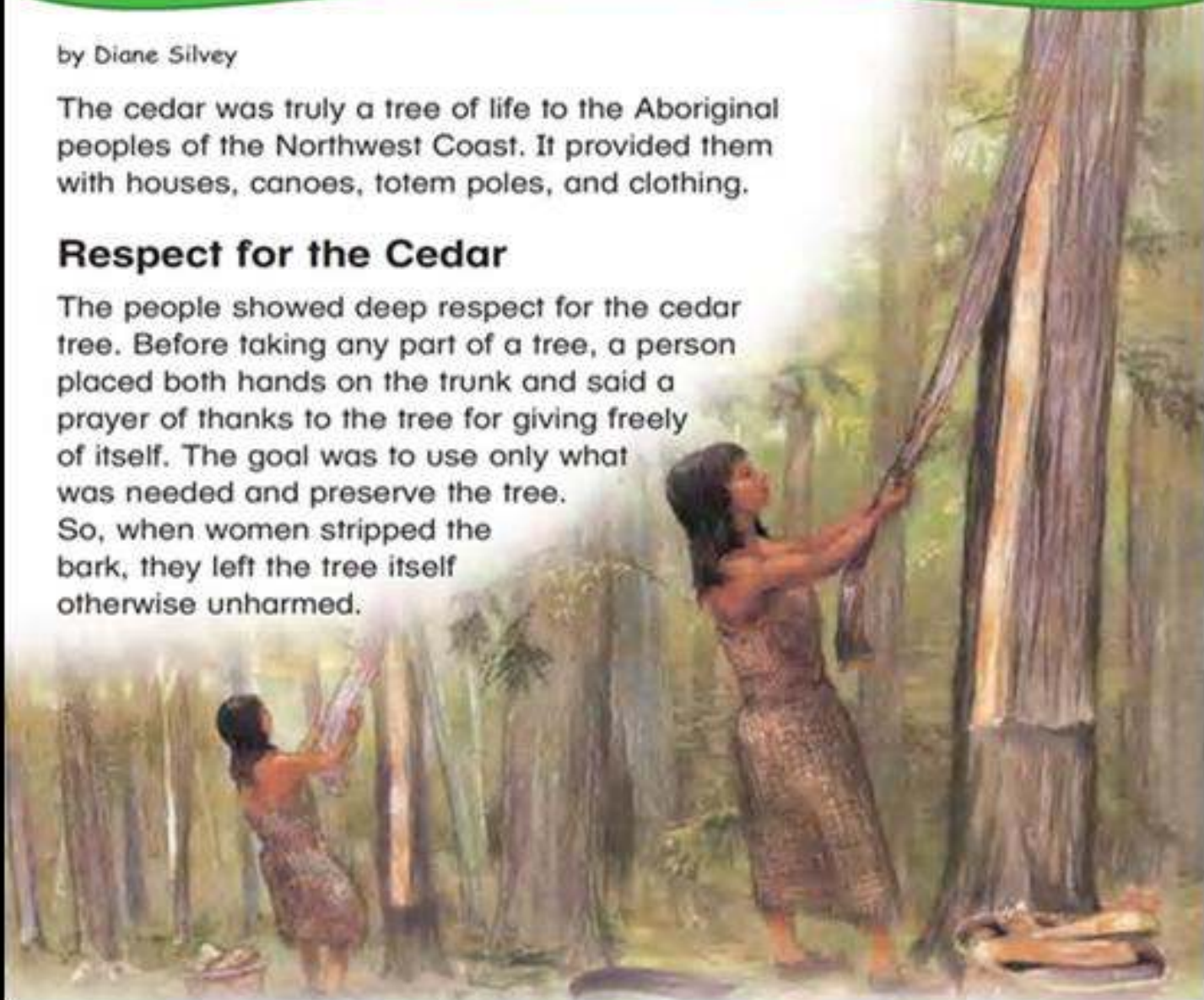
# Cedar—The Tree of Life

by Diane Silvey

The cedar was truly a tree of life to the Aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Coast. It provided them with houses, canoes, totem poles, and clothing.

## Respect for the Cedar

The people showed deep respect for the cedar tree. Before taking any part of a tree, a person placed both hands on the trunk and said a prayer of thanks to the tree for giving freely of itself. The goal was to use only what was needed and preserve the tree. So, when women stripped the bark, they left the tree itself otherwise unharmed.

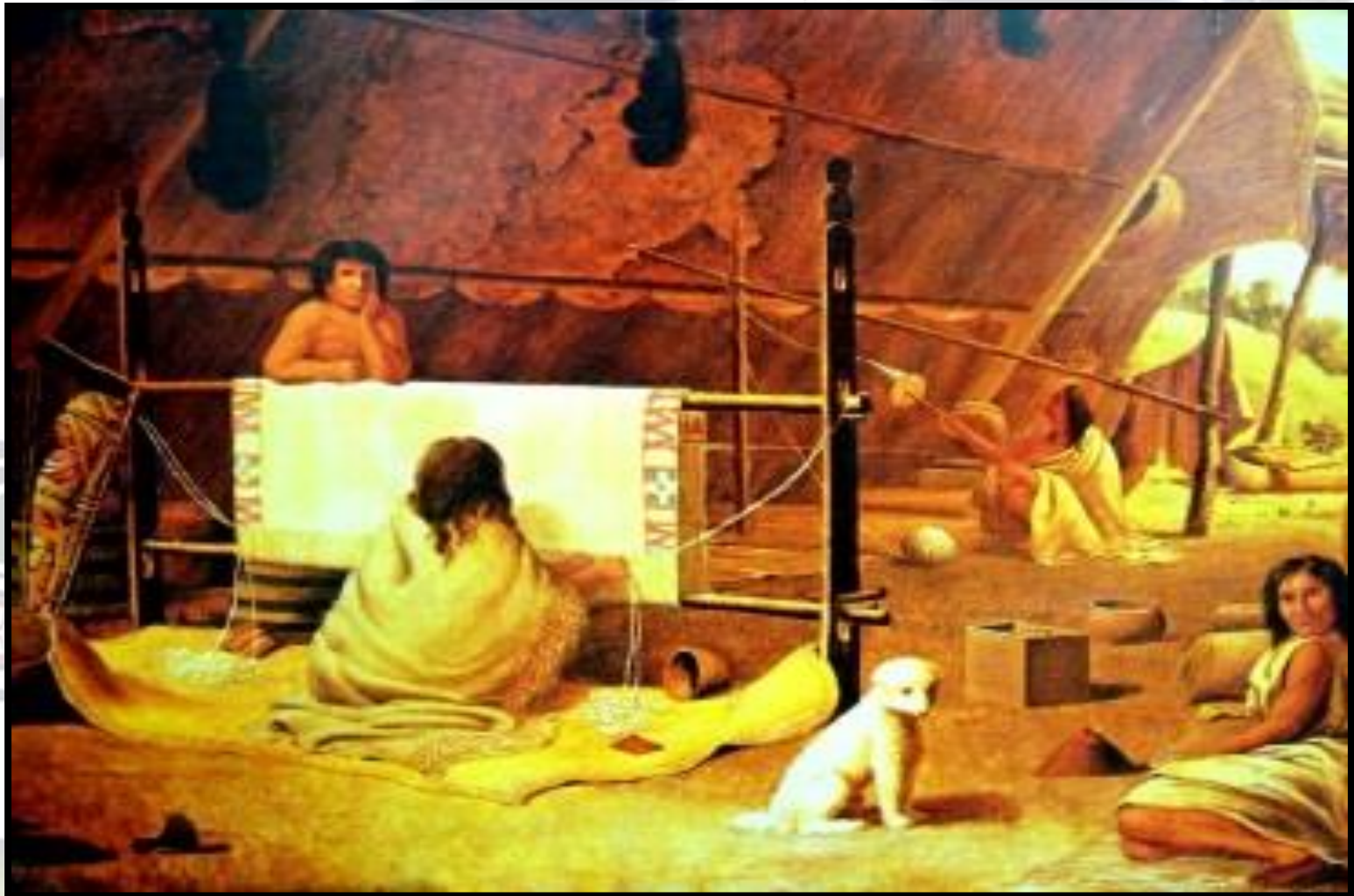




# Wool Clothing



# Wool Clothing





# Button Blankets



# Crests

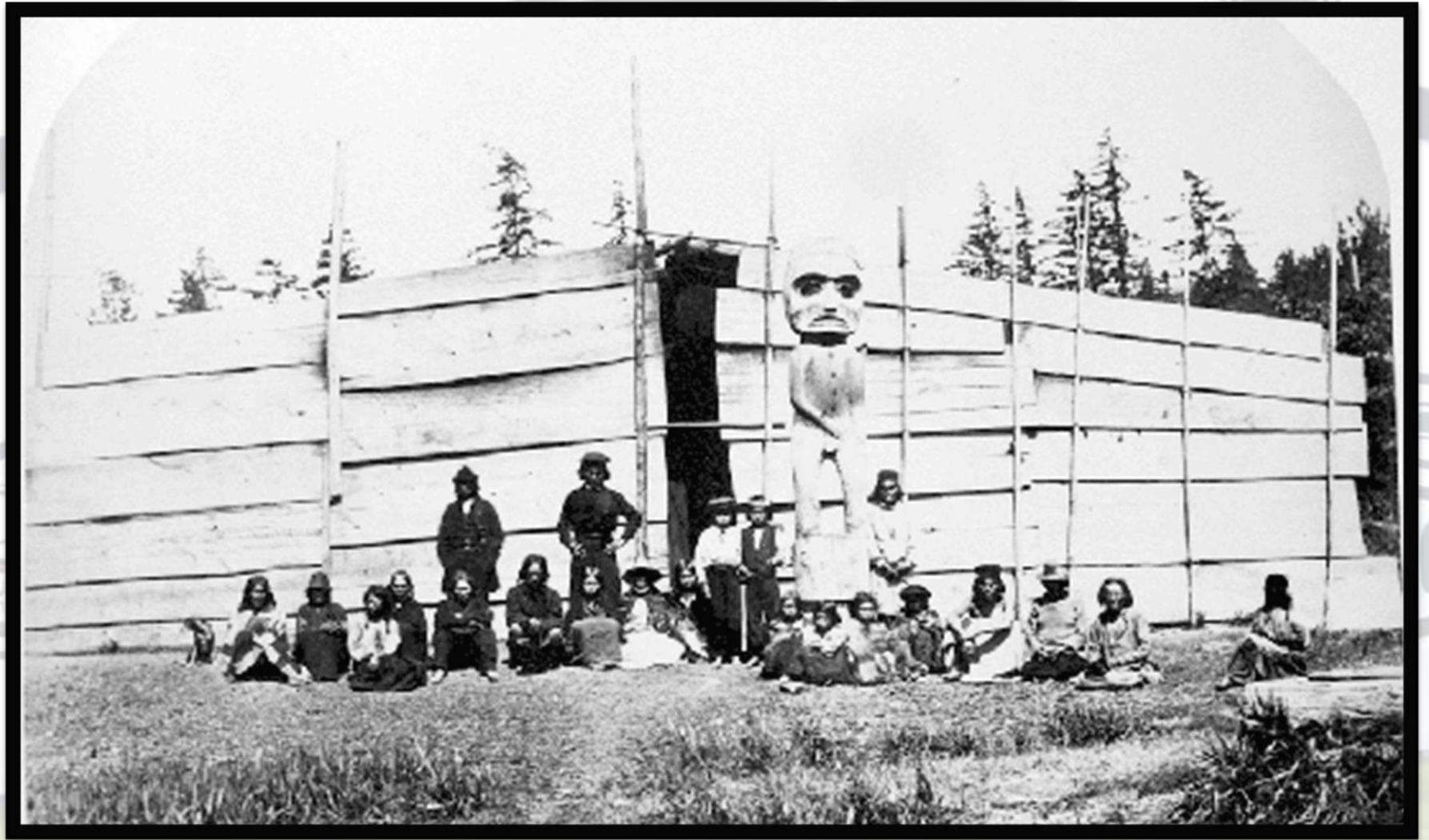


**K'ómoks people who share the same ancestors are identified by their family crest.**

**Does your family have a crest?**



# Housing

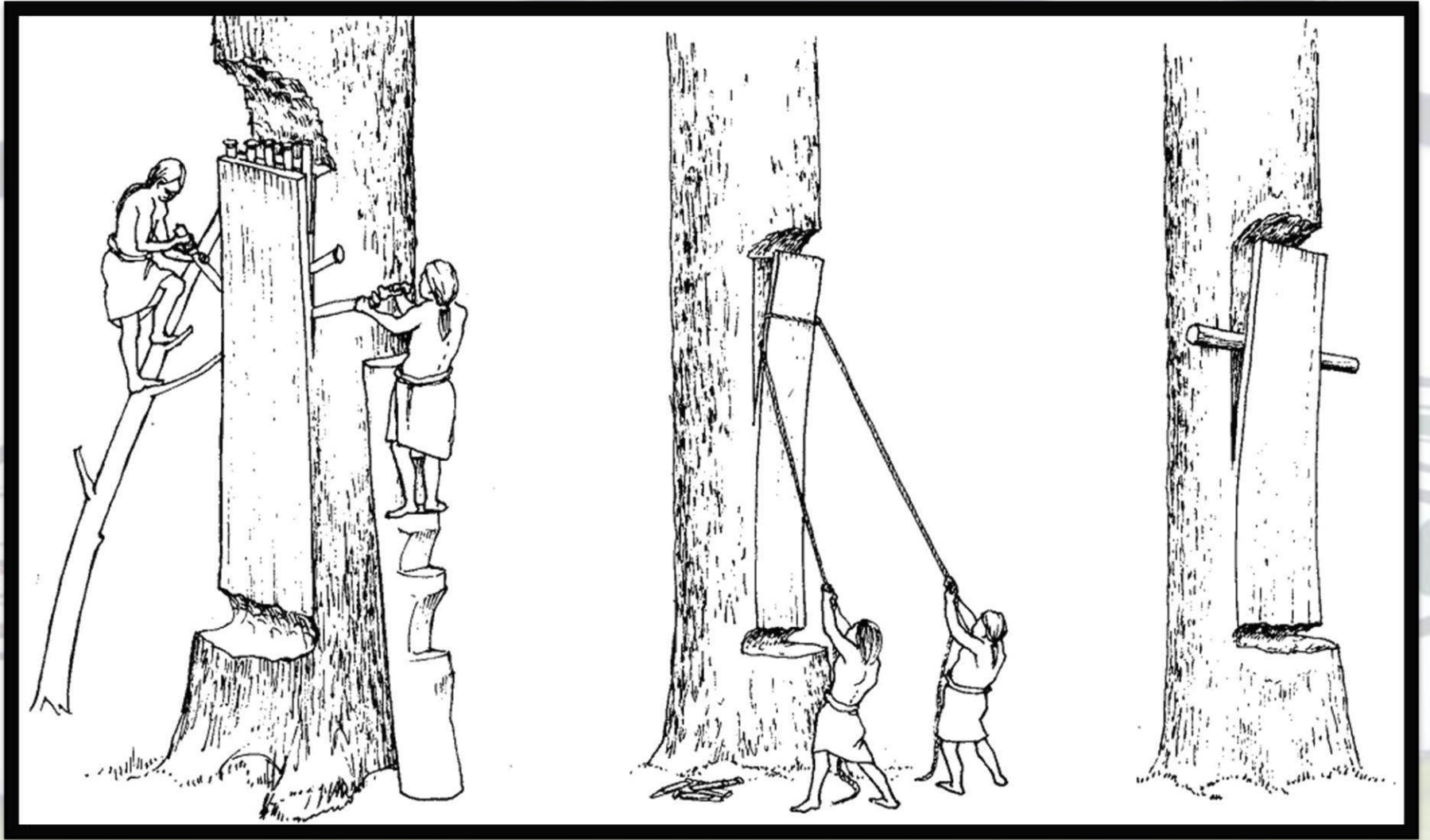


# K'ómoks Big House (Gukwdzi)





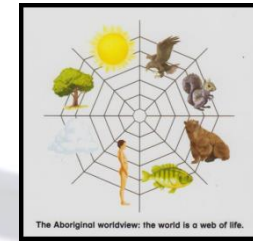
# Cedar Planks





# Potlatch

## Oral Traditions



Economic

- Circulation of wealth

Social

- Connections between people, conflict resolution, copper breaking, and shaming

Judicial

- Law making

Spiritual

- Renew people's connection to land and values

Culture

- Culture was passed down to next generation

Important events

- Marriages and death acknowledged
- Passing on of dances, songs, names in families

Political

- Rank was reaffirmed and ties to land and resources were validated



# Potlatch at Alert Bay



# Education



**“Our singing and dancing reminds me of who we are as a people, and watching my children participate gives me hope for the future of our culture”.**

**- Robert Everson**



# Language



First Voices

The Pəntl' áč (Pentlatch) people traditionally spoke Pəntl' áč language. The last speaker was Chief Nim Nim. The language has been a sleeping language since 1940.



Gilakas'la

t'li'na

ayandzistu

gadaluk'widze

čεčε haθεč

The K' ómoks people traditionally spoke the Island K' omoks language. The Kwak' wala language is spoken today in local ceremonies and official greetings.

# First Voices Website



App Now  
Available!



Kwakwaka app



# Traditional Transportation





# Arts and Culture





# Meet a Local Legend

