

# **K'ómoks First Nation**

## **Big House Experience**



By the end of the lesson you should be able to describe the importance of the Big House to the K'ómoks community.

# Acknowledgement

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





# K'ómoks First Nation Big House Experience



# ABC Brainstorm

A \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_ Q \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_

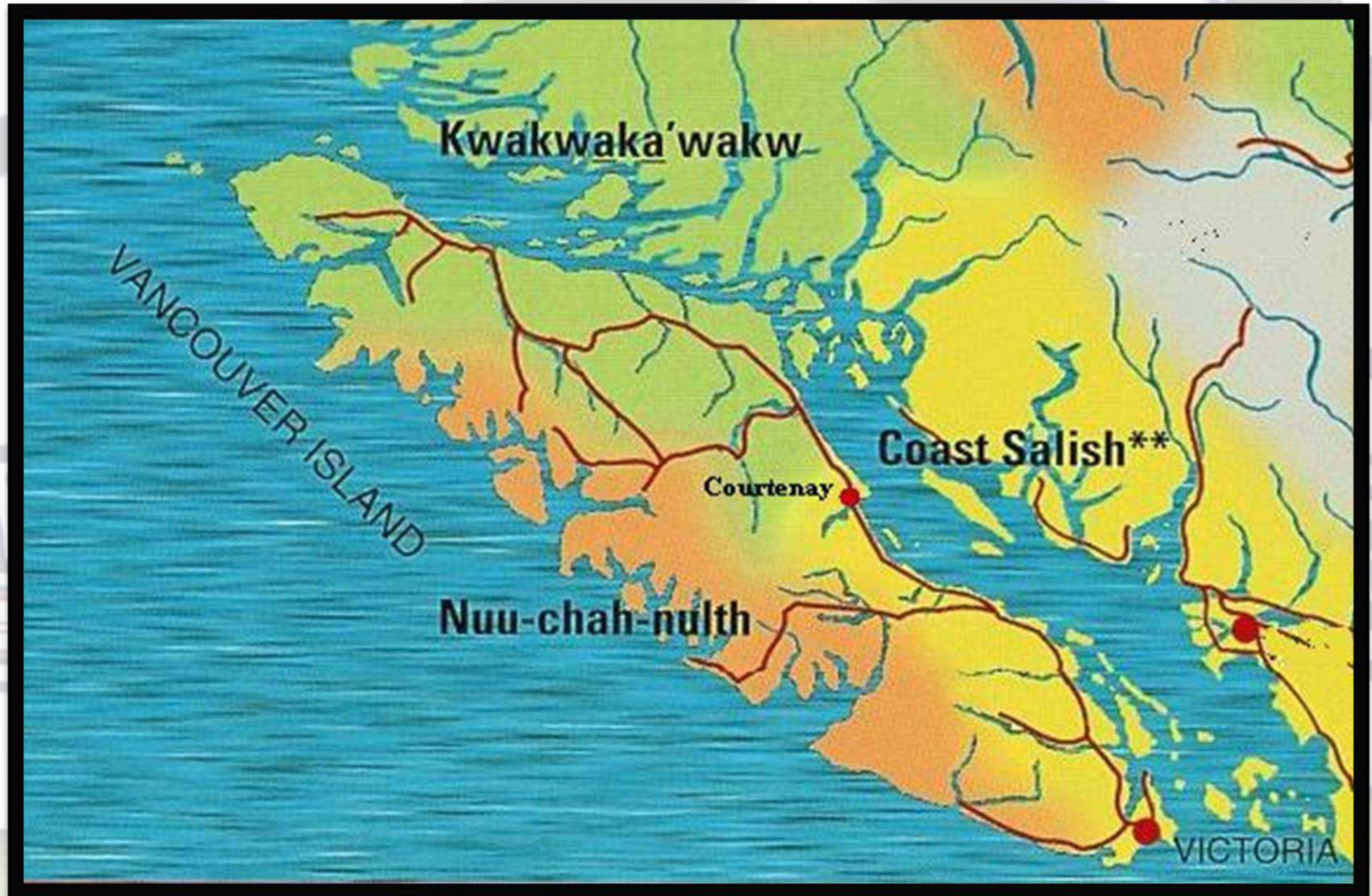
J \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_ Z \_\_\_\_\_

# Vancouver Island First Nations







# Legend of Queneesh



Andy Everson





# K'ómoks Big House (Kumugwe)



# I-Hos Gallery



Queneesh (the whale) is on the bottom, I-Hos (the double headed sea serpent), Xwayxway figure (carrying a rattle) is in the I-Hos mouth



# **K'ómoks First Nation: Administration Office**

Extended family share a common ancestor.



**Left:**  
Thunderbird on  
top of a killer  
whale

**Right:**  
Sun on top of a  
bear

These  
represent the  
four families of  
the K'ómoks  
First Nation





# **Ranking in Potlatch**

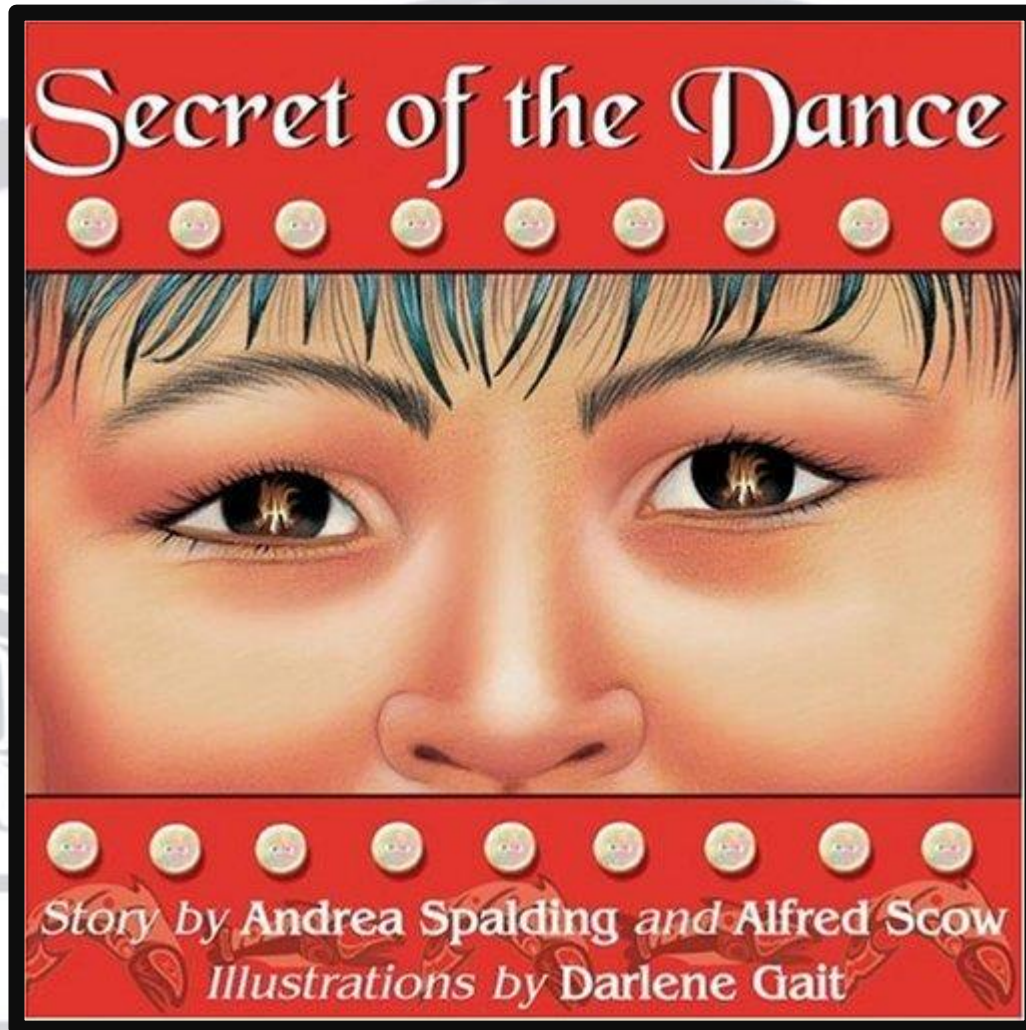
**Northwest Coast society was based on a strict hierarchy of rank, descending from nobles at the top through commoners and down to slaves.**

**In today's potlatches, rank is recognized in the order people are fed. The Hamat'sa are fed first, the chiefs are fed second, and the elders are fed third. The host family eats last.**

# Chief Andy Frank and his niece, Florence Prince (Sinclair) in dance regalia.

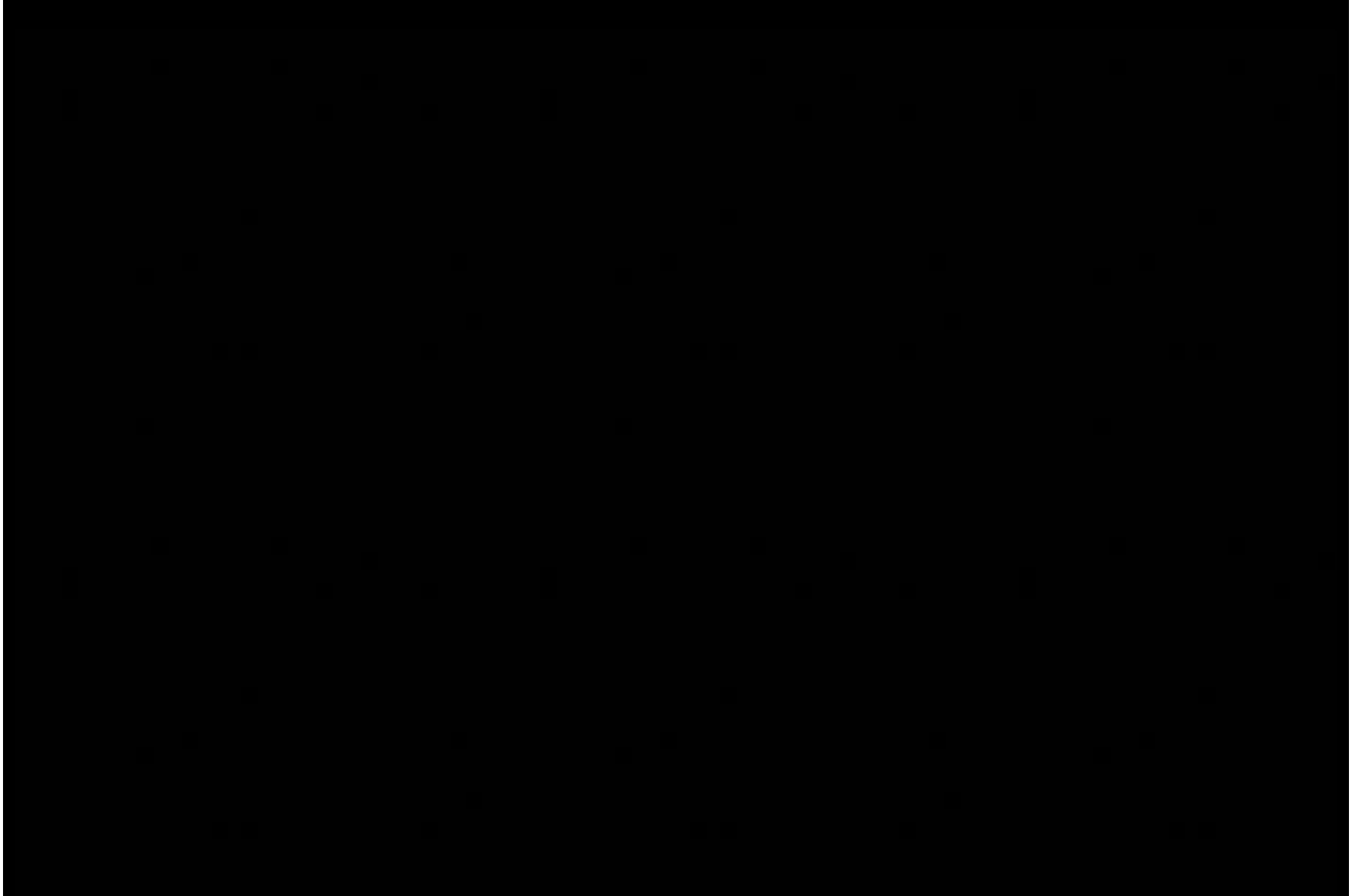


# Potlatch





# Potlatch Explanation



# Welcome Dance



Performed at the beginning of any ceremony to welcome guests.

# Hoylikala

These dancers are doing a chief's peace dance.

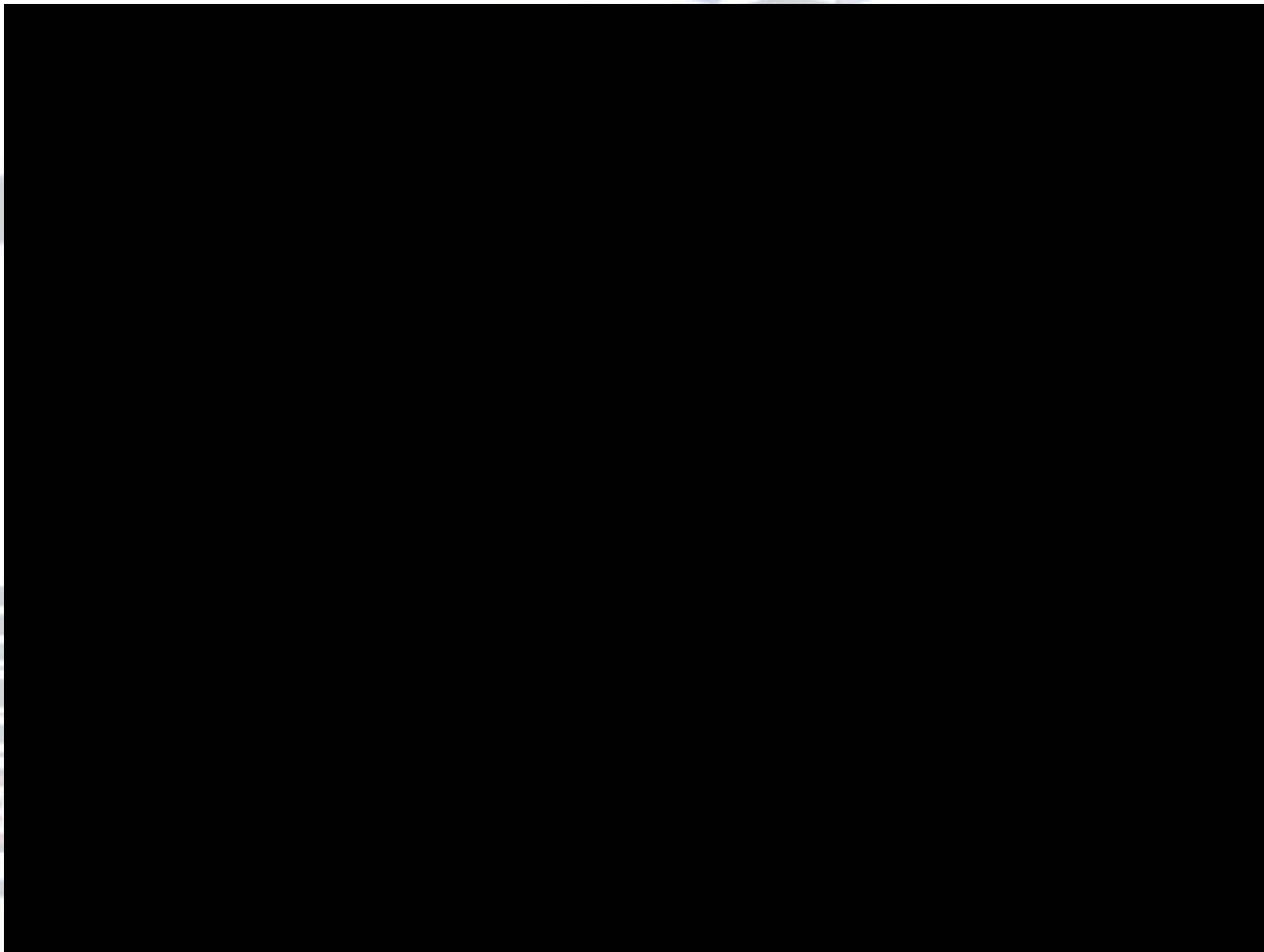




**Prestigious dances are a privilege of high-ranking K'ómoks families.**



# Dzunukwa



# Dzunukwa





# Possible Dances Performed

- Welcome Dance
- Grizzly Bear Dance
- Dzunukwa
- Ladies Dance
- Paddle Dance
- Fools Dance
- Full Moon/Half Moon (Dance competition)
- Bukwus (Wild Man of the Woods)
- Sapah (Echo Dance)
- Hoylikala (Chief's Peace Dance)
- Fun Dance that goes to River Song
- Fun Dance (Hoo yah hoo yay)

# Some things to keep in mind



## When in the Big House:

- You have been invited to be a witness to the oral traditions of the Big House.
- The fire is a symbol of the heart of the community, the gathering place. As in any community people want to stay warm, gather together, and tell stories to learn.
- Walk only please.
- Use inside voices.
- When the ceremony begins please stay seated until you have been excused.
- When the ceremony begins please no talking
- Remember it will be loud. Keep your ears open to listen.

# **K'ómoks First Nation**

## **Big House Experience**









**What is the importance of the Big House to the K'ómoks community.**

**Why do you think it is important to learn about the Big House?**



# What have you learned?

What are you thinking? What is important to know?	
<div>What do you know about this topic?</div> <div>Before</div> <div></div>	<div>How has your thinking changed?</div> <div>After</div> <div></div>
<div>What can I discover about the K'omoks First Nation?</div>	
<div>What connections can you make?</div>	<div>What are you wondering?</div>
<div>What pictures or visualizations do you have?</div>	<div>What inferences can you make?</div>

# Sources cited

- <http://www.comoxband.ca/multiculturalfestival.php>
- <http://www.ihosgallery.com/>
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwak'wala](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwak'wala)
- <http://kwakwala.com/>
- <http://www.islandart.com/store/Andy-Everson.html>
- [http://www.google.ca/search?q=andy%20everson&rls=com.microsoft:en-ca&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1&rlz=&redir\\_esc=&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wi&biw=1259&bih=877](http://www.google.ca/search?q=andy%20everson&rls=com.microsoft:en-ca&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1&rlz=&redir_esc=&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wi&biw=1259&bih=877)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwakwaka'wakw\\_mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwakwaka'wakw_mythology)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/\*\*Potlatch\*\*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potlatch)
- [www.bigorrin.org/kwakiutl\\_kids.htm](http://www.bigorrin.org/kwakiutl_kids.htm)
- [http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/exhibits/timemach/galler07/frames/wc\\_peop.htm](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/exhibits/timemach/galler07/frames/wc_peop.htm)
- <http://www.artsoftheraven.com/treaty.html>
- Modified lesson from Carol Walters
- Thanks to Keisha Everson, Andy Everson, Suzanne Camp and Vanessa Isaac for sharing their stories.

# Teacher Resource Page

[Additional lesson on Potlatch](#)

[Bill Reid totem pole](#)

[K to Grade 7 Aboriginal Learning](#)

[Outcomes\[1\].pdf](#)

