

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES: PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST

Research some defining characteristics of Native American cultures in the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Environment

*Where is this region?
Describe its physical features.*

It is an area along the Pacific Ocean stretching across present-day Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Yukon and British Columbia in Canada. It has many forests, rivers, and streams. The region gets a lot of rain.

Nations

List some examples of Native American nations in the Pacific Northwest Coast.

The Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Makah, Quileute, and Chinook were some of the Native American nations in the Pacific Northwest Coast region.

Food

What did Native American peoples in the Pacific Northwest Coast eat?

Salmon, whale, seal, deer, bear, moose, berries, and roots were some of the foods eaten in the Pacific Northwest Coast region.

Technology

Research some of the tools common to the Pacific Northwest Coast region.

Fishing tools like canoes and spears were made from cedar tree wood. Sharpened stone tools like hammers (or mauls), wedges, adzes, and chisels were used to cut down and shape the cedar wood.

Housing

Look at this example of a Tlingit dwelling. Research why the Tlingit chose this type of home and what materials they used to build it.



This Tlingit longhouse was built from the tall cedar trees available throughout the American northwest. Totem poles were sometimes built outside the longhouse. Totem poles displayed carvings of animals and other images important to the people who lived there.

Culture

How did living near the water influence art and lifestyle in the Pacific Northwest Coast? Research some examples.

The ocean provided food necessary for survival. Salmon, the most important food source, were featured in many stories and works of art. First Salmon Ceremonies celebrated the salmon's return to freshwater rivers from the ocean.