

THE COAST SALISH

Color in the region where this group lived.



Who They Are

Native American Group:

What they Ate

Include illustrations and captions of what this group of Native Americans ate.

Homes

How They Lived

What They Believed

These Native Americans lived in the region.



Click this icon anywhere you see it to always return to this homepage

Who They Are

Where They Lived

What They Ate

How They Lived

Click a topic above to learn more.

LNK **activity**
Interactive Learning Guides

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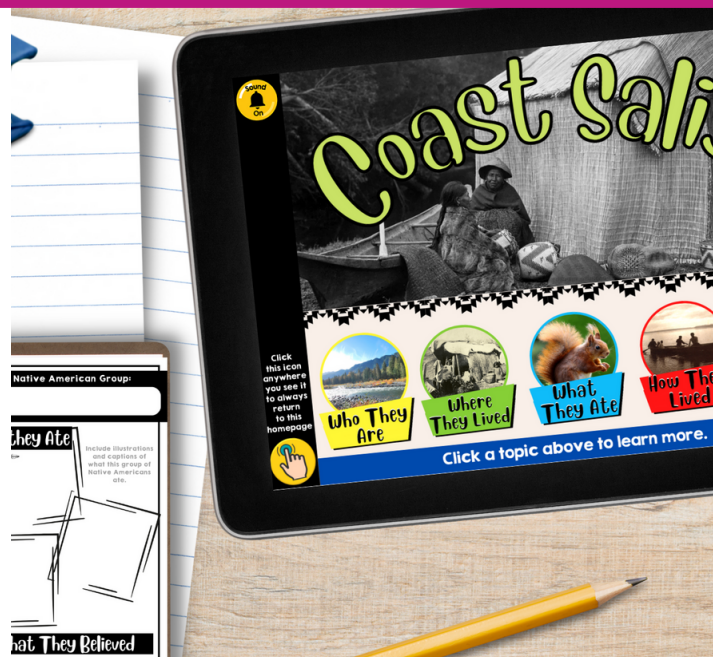
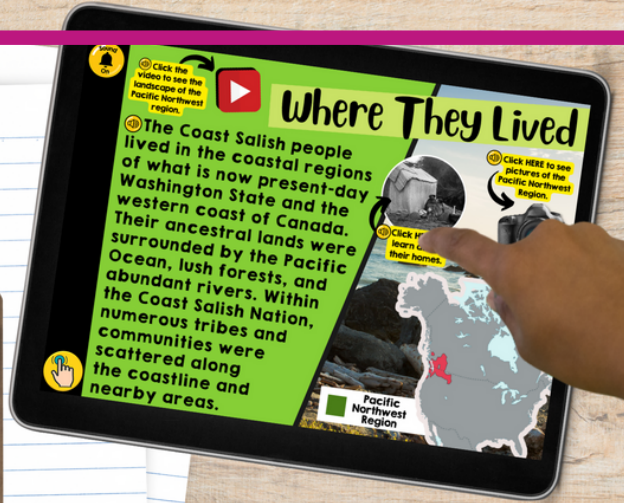
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JOIN NOW





In The Coast Salish LINKtivity, students will dive into the rich culture of these Native Americans. With videos, graphics, audio, and more, they'll uncover the essence of the Coast Salish people - their North American habitats, unique homes, foods they ate, daily routines, beliefs, and the vital role of storytelling in shaping their worldview.



More Sample Slides

Where They Lived

Click the video to see the landscape of the Pacific Northwest region.

The Coast Salish people lived in the coastal regions of what is now present-day Washington State and the western coast of Canada. Their ancestral lands were surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, lush forests, and abundant rivers. Within the Coast Salish Nation, numerous tribes and communities were scattered along the coastline and nearby areas.

Click HERE to see pictures of the Pacific Northwest Region.

Click HERE to learn about their homes.

Pacific Northwest Region

EARLY LIFE Chief Seattle

Chief Seattle, also known as Chief Sealth, was a Native American leader who was born around the year 1786 in what is now the Puget Sound region of Washington state, USA. He was a member of the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes, which were part of the Coast Salish peoples. As a young boy, Chief Seattle grew up in the lush, coastal environment of the Pacific Northwest. He learned important skills like hunting, fishing, and gathering food for his family and community. He also learned about the spiritual and cultural traditions of his people.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Chief Seattle was known for his wisdom and for being a good speaker. He believed that we should take care of the Earth and live in harmony with nature. He thought everything in nature was connected, and we should respect and protect it. He gave a famous speech about treating the land with care and living in harmony with all living things. People still remember and respect his ideas today, and the city of Seattle in the state of Washington was named after him to honor his legacy. His message about taking care of the Earth is still something we can all learn from and follow.

Snapshots

Use the button on the camera to scroll through the photos.

Where They Lived

Many Coast Salish people lived in one-room homes called **longhouses**. These longhouses were well-suited to their semi-permanent settlements, which were often located near rivers and the coast. The frame of these houses was constructed from cedar logs, which were shaped and carved to create a strong and durable structure. The outside was covered with cedar planks or woven mats. Inside, they had plenty of space. People could stand up because they had high ceilings. Longhouses were like big family homes where many Coast Salish people lived together in harmony.

Pacific Northwest Region

What They Ate

The Coast Salish people moved around often in search of food and resources. They were skilled hunters and gatherers, relying on the rich natural surroundings of the coastal and forest regions they called home. Their hunting activities included tracking and capturing animals like salmon, seals, porpoises, deer, elk, rabbits, squirrels, and birds. Along the coastal regions, they harvested shellfish, such as clams, mussels, and oysters, which were valuable sources of protein. Some Coast Salish communities grew crops such as camas bulbs, wild potatoes, and berries.

Credit: Northwest Indigenous Council

What They Believed

Religion was important to the Coast Salish people. They were deeply connected to nature and believed that plants, animals, and the land held spiritual power and wisdom. Wise elders led the people in special ceremonies with drumming, singing, and dancing to honor their traditions and connect with the spirit world. Many Coast Salish people believed in special guardian spirits; some even thought they could **transform**, or turn into animals and have the animal-like abilities. They also took part in vision quests where personal spiritual journeys that included being alone, fasting (not eating), prayer, and meditation to seek guidance from the spirit world. Coast Salish people hold a deep respect for their traditions and believed they continue to offer guidance. The traditional art of the Coast Salish (carvings, paintings, and weavings) often show their spiritual beliefs.

Coast Salish stories were about nature and their history. They told about animals like salmon and eagles and how important it was to take care of the land and live in harmony with nature. Elders and storytellers often shared these stories as part of an oral tradition.

Click the video to hear the Coast Salish tale - "Salmon Boy."

storytelling

Who They Are

The Coast Salish are one of the Native American peoples with a rich history and culture. Today, the Coast Salish people continue to live in the Pacific Northwest. They have a wonderful culture that is centered around their traditional lands. They still love their customs and language, which are a big part of who they are. They live in modern houses, go to school, and hold many different jobs, just like everyone else. However they also take joy in celebrating their history by dancing, having special ceremonies, and creating artwork to honor their heritage. The Coast Salish tribes, like the Suquamish and Duwamish, each have their own special traditions and they're working hard to keep their culture alive and pass it on to the next generation. Coast Salish people continue to honor, celebrate, and share their traditions in today's world.

Click the video to see how the Coast Salish people of today keep traditions alive.

EARLY LIFE Chief Leschi

Chief Leschi was born around 1808. He became a respected leader of the Nisqually tribe, which was part of the Coast Salish peoples in what is now Washington state, USA. He was known for his bravery and efforts to protect his tribe's land near Puget Sound and Mount Rainier.

A BRAVE LEADER

In the mid-1800s, there were conflicts between Native American tribes and settlers over land and resources. Chief Leschi and his people tried to defend their land, which led to a war called the Puget Sound War. Unfortunately, Chief Leschi was captured and put on trial. Even though there was a lot of controversy about whether he was guilty, he was found guilty of a crime and sentenced to death. This event was very sad for Chief Leschi's tribe and for many people in the region. Even today, Chief Leschi is remembered as a courageous leader who fought to protect his people and their way of life. In fact, there is a school after him to honor his legacy.



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Click HERE to see pictures of Pacific Northwest Region

Click HERE to learn about their homes.

Pacific Northwest Region

**Perfect for English
language learners or
students who could use
a little extra support!**



Printable & Digital Student Recording Sheet

Printable Recording Sheet for LINKtivity

Color in the region where this group lived.

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What they Ate

Include illustrations and captions of what this group of Native Americans ate.

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Digital Recording Sheet for Any Native American Tribe LINKtivity in Google Slides

