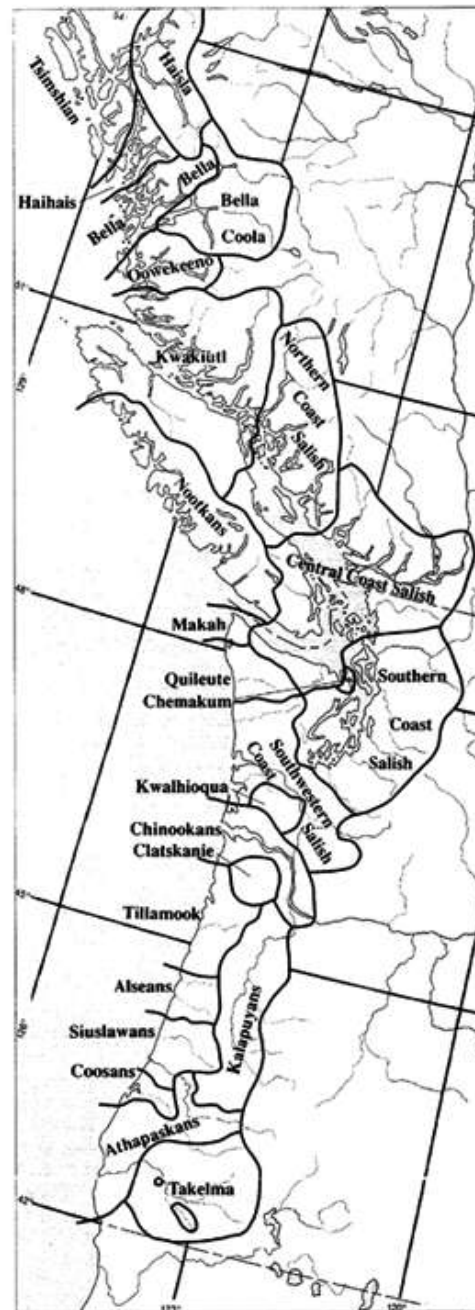
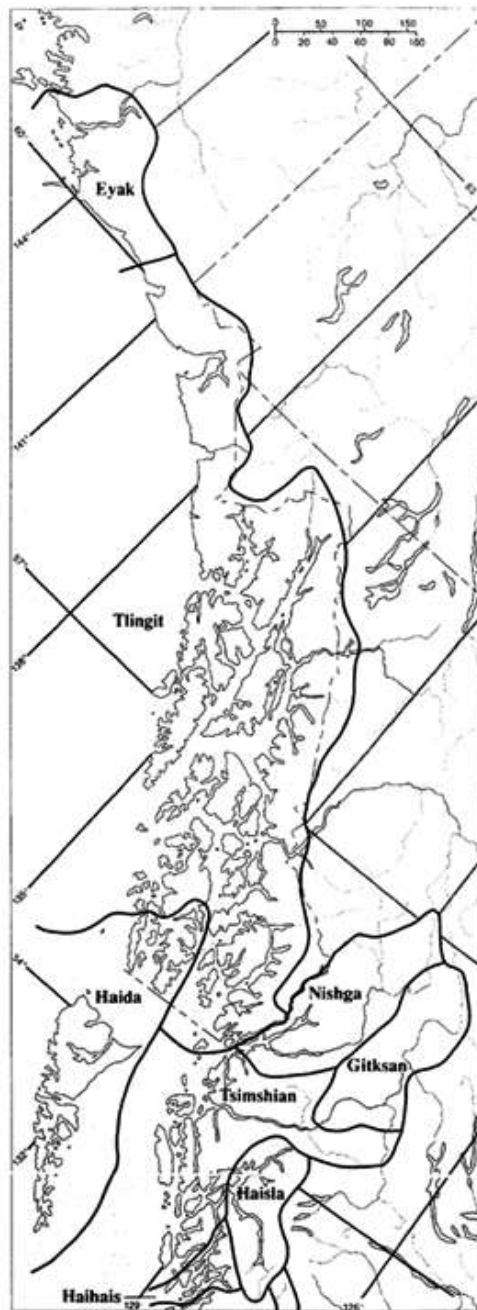


# Northwest Native Americans



# Background

- Coastal geography is multitude of islands bordering and protecting coastal area
- Dense forests of spruce and cedar
- Cedar important for building supports, planks, canoes, and totems
- Travel easiest by water, due to dense forest undergrowth
- Lots of diversity on wildlife

# Who are they?

- “Expanding northward for centuries, the Tlingit nation most recently consists of three language subdialect regions with 16 component "tribes" (which they call *qwaan*), each with a primary village. These are, north to south, the Gulf Coast region with Yakutat and Lituya Bay; the Northern region with Hoonah, Chilcat, Auk, Sitka, Hutsnuwu, Taku, and Sawdum; and the Southern region with Kake, Kuiu, Henya, Klawak, Stikine, Tongass, and Sanya. Neighbors to the south were the Tsimshian, to the west were the Haida, and to the east were Athapaskans (who call themselves *Dine*) of Interior Alaska. Further north were the Eyak, remotely related by language ancestry but adopting Tlingit speech and culture over past centuries.”-  
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/miller1.html>

Matrilineal society....inheritance through  
mother's side. Brothers of Mother  
(Uncles) more instrumental in teaching  
sons the way of people

# House

Worked as not just a physical dwelling, but an organizational system

Each house “owned” stories, artworks, myths, names, designs, songs, etc which were considered “crests” for each house

Physical house supported by 4 large posts, often elaborately carved, with plank sides and low sloping roof.

It is thought that the posts are the precursor to Totems



# Totems- What and Who?

- Name comes from Algonkian word “dodem”= to be related to someone
- The word *totem* is derived from the Ojibwe word *odoodem*, "his kinship group"
- Tradition of Northwest Native American cultures = Washington state, British Columbia (Canada), and parts of Southern Alaska (Athabaskan tribes)
- Purpose: Manifestation of cultural beliefs

\*Clan lineage

\*Family legends/stories

\*Notable events

\*Potlatches

\*Illustrate stories

\*Historic people

\*Shamanic powers

\*Mortuaries

\*Public awareness/shame: Murder, debt,



# Potlatches

- Celebrations that distributed wealth among all clans
- Food resources, blankets, artwork, household needs all given away by host house
- Totems often commissioned for event
- House would give away almost all their wealth, but would gain back when they attended another house potlatch

# Totems-Who makes them?

- Professional carvers and apprentices
- The master carver handles the part of totem viewed up close= first 10 feet
- Apprentices often carve the upper portion

# Totemic Imagery

- Thunderbird:
- Kolus:
- Eagles:
- Raven:
- Whale:
- Siskiutl:
- Bear:
- Beaver:
- Wolf:
- Frog:

<http://www.support-native-american-art.com/native-american-totem-images.html>



Kingston, B.C. 1910. The double-headed Totem.





Characteristics:

- \*Thick black outlines

- \*Solid, flat colors

- \*Animal imagery

- \*Stylized



# Resources

- <http://www.support-native-american-art.com/Native-American-Totem-Poles.html>

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/maps.html>

<http://www.wildnatureimages.com/S%20to%20Z/Totem-raven..jpg>