

The Northwest and the Arctic



Chapter 2, Lesson 5

A Region of Plenty

- Many Native American groups lived in this region including the Kwakiutl, the Makah, and the Chinook.
- Instead of farming, people of the Northwest Coast met their food needs by fishing and hunting, and gathering plants and nuts.
- The coastal waters were an important resource and salmon was a staple food for most groups.
- The Makah would go on whale hunts in huge canoes that carried up to 60 people.



Resources and Trade

- The shelters of the Makah were similar to Iroquois longhouses, only much larger.
- All members of a clan, or extended family, lived in the same longhouse.
- The Makah made nearly everything from wood, and also created tall totem poles that were used to tell a story or welcome visitors or traders.
- Trading was a large part of the region's economy. An economy is the way people of a state, region, or country use their resources to meet their needs.



Resources and Trade

- The Chinook are the best-known traders among the Northwest Coast Indians.
- The Chinook lived at the mouth of the Columbia River, which they controlled from the coast all the way to The Dalles, which was the center of the trading network.
- The Chinook were able to barter, or exchange goods, at The Dalles.
- Many Northwest Indians held celebrations known as potlatches, which was meant to show wealth and divide property among the people.



Lands of the North

- The Aleut lived along the coast of the Aleutian Islands.
- The Inuit lived in what is now Alaska and northernmost Canada.
- Because of the cold climate, few plants could grow in this region. The Inuit and Aleut hunted foxes, caribou, and polar bears.
- They also used harpoons and kayaks, one-person canoes made of waterproof skins stretched over wood or bone, to hunt seals, walruses, and whales.



Life in the Sub-Arctic

- Groups such as the Cree lived in the sub-Arctic region of North America, which stretches from what is now Canada to what is now Alaska.
- The plentiful trees provided the Cree with wood to meet their needs.
- The Cree used bows and arrows to hunt for game.

