



Eyak/Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian Culture Try-It

Level: Brownie

Requirements: Complete 4 of the following activities.

- 1. Map it!** Find the Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Indian regions on a map of Alaska. Much of this area is similar to a rain forest, with tall, massive trees found in the region. What other plants and flowers are native to this area of Alaska?
- 2. Imagine That!** Discuss the matrilineal clan structure of this group of Alaska Natives. How does this compare with other cultures you know of? Talk to a tradition bearer from one of these cultures, if possible. What clan does she/he belong to? If your family does not follow the matrilineal clan structure, imagine what your own family would be like if you had grown up within this clan system. Share your ideas with your troop, another girl, or your family.
- 3. Ceremonial Regalia** Examine pieces (or pictures) of traditional clothing worn in villages in this area. What themes are represented in the designs?
- 4. Celebration!** For thousands of years, Southeast Alaska Natives have gathered to share their traditions through dance and song. “Celebration!” (started in 1982) is a biennial festival of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian dance, song, oratory and arts held in Juneau. Watch a Tlingit, Haida, or Tsimshian Indian dance performance. Notice the special clothing and regalia worn.
- 5. Unique Art** Study examples of art from these Northwest Coast cultures, using museums, the library, or the Internet as needed. Sketch your own piece of artwork using similar styles.
- 6. Who’s Who?** Use the Internet or the library to discover why Alaska celebrates Elizabeth Peratrovich Day on February 16. She was part of the Alaska Native Sisterhood. What did she fight for? Who was William Paul Sr., and why is he remembered as an important Alaskan?

“Awa’ahdahaanda’laxsa’a’ch’i” (Thank you for coming here) – Eyak

“Yak’eihattyigoode’e” (It’s good that you have come) – Tlingit

“Tatsgwiik” (Welcome, here is the place of honor for you) – Haida

“ts’im’wii’amhaw” (Greeting) – Tsimshian

See Eyak/Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian Culture Badge for additional resources.