

KIDS' PAGE

DISCOVER NEW AND EXCITING STUFF FROM THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM

NUU-CHAH-NULTH

“Along the Mountains”

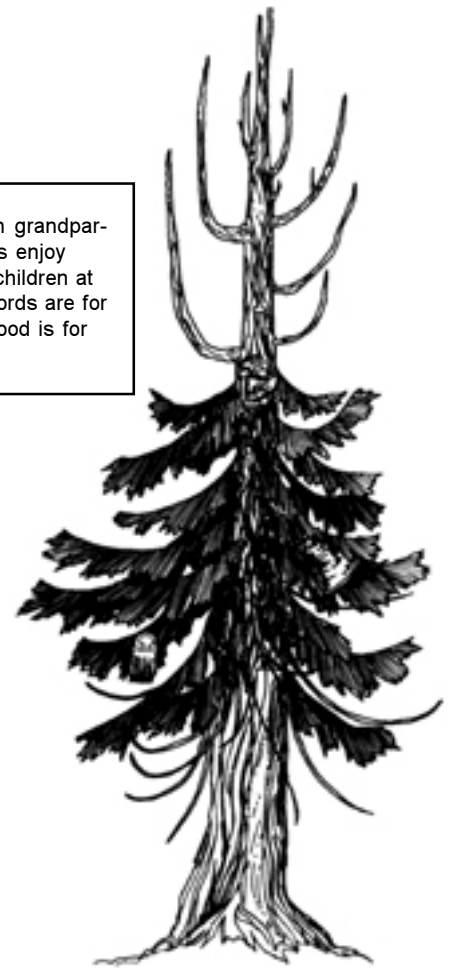


Where We Live

The people of the west coast of Vancouver Island used to be called Nootka by Europeans. We know ourselves as Nuu-chah-nulth, which can be translated as “along the mountains” and refers to our traditional territories.

The sea and the creatures in the sea, the beaches and the islands and the seafood on them, the rivers and all the fish that go up the rivers, the mountains, the forests - everything that keeps us alive belongs to the chief. He looks after all this for his people.

CEDAR “TREE OF LIFE”



The cedar tree is a gift from the Creator. It has always been very important in the lives of the Nuu-chah-nulth people. The wood is used for things like canoes, paddles, masks and poles. The bark is used to make baskets, ropes and clothing (such as hats, headbands, capes and skirts).



Can you find the mask, paddle, canoe, comb and hat in the tree?

SOAPBERRY Camus (dessert, pronounced *chumus*)

These small, red berries are ripe and ready to eat in June. Look for the large Soapberry shrubs (1 to 4 metres tall) growing in the dry open woods around British Columbia. The berries are very sour, but don't give up on this popular fruit! Try whipping up...



Nuu-chah-nulth grandparents and elders enjoy teaching their children at meal time...“Words are for your mind as food is for your body.”



Indian ice-cream

Place a big handful of soapberries in a clean glass container (make sure the container has no traces of oil or grease in it).

Add an equal amount of water and a spoonful of sugar.

Beat the mixture until it is foamy, like whipped cream, and light pink.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nuu-chah-nulth kids and adults still eat this traditional dessert at feasts and special family parties, just like their great, great grandparents did.

On a foggy day in 1778, the people of Yuquot heard strange noises coming from the sea. They went out to investigate and discovered a large boat drifting around, lost in the fog. The noises they heard were the bells on the ship. They guided the ship to Yuquot where they welcomed and fed the visitors.

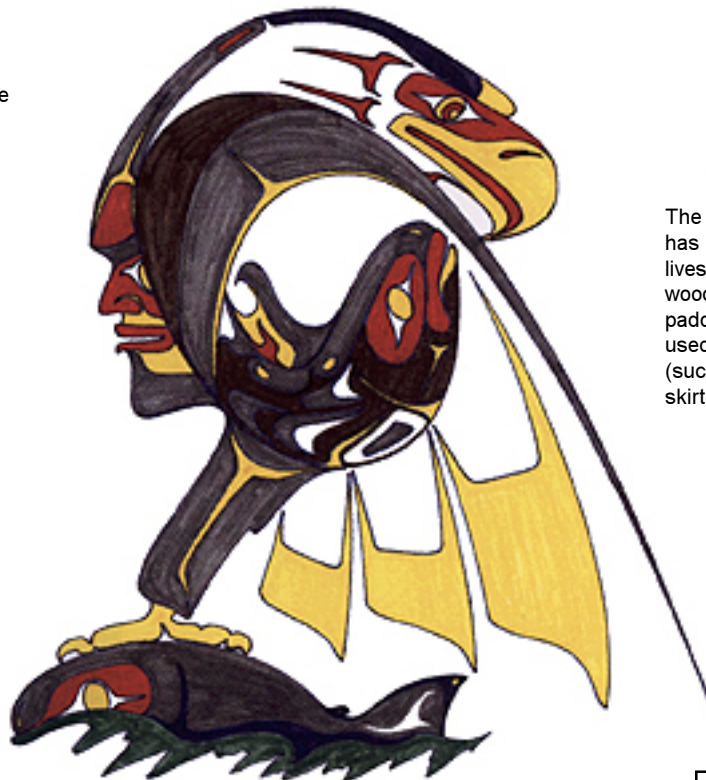
Question:

What famous European explorer was lost in the fog?

Answer: Captain James Cook

Chuu!
(So long!; pronounced *choo*)

SALMON SEASON



an illustration by Ahousaht artist George John Jr. George John's drawing is of a half-eagle/half-man catching salmon. What does it mean? George says, “Salmon Season represents living off the land - not only for yourself but by sharing with those in need.”

Nuu-chah-nulth people pray and give thanks to the cedar tree for allowing them to use its wood, bark, branches and roots.