



Makah Tribe



PICTURE OF MAP

Economy



- Picture of museum
- Major economy is fishing for halibut and salmon,
- Fish hatchery at Neah Bay and three sites at lake Ozette, Hoko and Waatch.
- Tourism: Makah Cultural and Research Center, marina for sports fishermen, boat rentals, and guide services, motels, restuarants,
- Forest resources, timber harveting,

Makah Language



- The Makah language is part of the Nootkan subgroup of the Wakashan language spoken on Vancouver Island. The Makah are related to the Nitinaht on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- Picture of elder speaking

Related to Nitinaht



- The Makahs came to Cape Flattery 'from Vancouver Island about 500 years ago' ICC 1970:172
- At one time there was a village at the Jordan River on Vancouver Island. This ancient village became overpopulated, so the three brothers who lived there went out on their own to establish new residences. One brother settled Whyac and another settled nearby Clo-oose, both on the southwestern shores of Vancouver Island. The third brother settled at Neah Bay (Ruth Kirk 1986:23-24.)

Creation Story



- James Swan recorded a story that the Makah were created on the Cape. The animals were created first and some of the animals united with a star that fell from heaven. Frome this union came the Nitinahts, then the Clayoquots and the Makahs. (Swan 1990:429)

Q^widiččaʔatx



A name said to refer either to Cape Flattery (near Ozette), or to the north end of Vancouver Island (Renker and Gunther 1990:429)

First Contact



- 1788 John Meares, commander of the British ship Felice anchored near Tatoosh Island.
- 1790, the Spanish set foot at Neah Bay and named it Bahia de Nunez Gaona.
- 1792 a Spanish fort was erected at Neah Bay, but was abandoned after a few months because it was not defensible, and the Indians were not cooperative. (Gunther 1972:72)
- 1800's there were several Russian and Japanese shipwrecks at Neah Bay, the survivors were temporarily held captive (Renker and Gunther 1990:427)

Trading



- Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Makah traded whale oil, blubber, halibut, and herring eggs to the Nootkans on Vancouver Island and to the south as far as the Columbia River. In exchanged they received canoes; house planks, water boxes, cedar planks, cedar bark, ceremonial masks, dentalium, and slaves.
- Neah Bay was a stopping point for European vessels by 1789, the Makah acted as middlemen in what might be termed import/export operation.

Trading



- Settlers relied on the Makah for halibut, salmon, whale oil, dog fish oil, cedar bark mats, and furs.
- They traded sea otter pelts at Victoria, where they garnered blankets, beads, guns, kettles, flour, bread, rice, molasses, money and alcohol.
- After the treaty was signed, trading was reduced to local exchange.

Neah Bay Treaty



- The Makah and Ozette signed the Treaty of Neah Bay in 1855.
- The Makah Tribe is the only treaty that made sure they included Whale hunting as an amendment
- Most treaties clustered tribes together, the Makah are the only tribe to sign their treaty.

Reservation



- The Makah reservation was created only encompassing the cape. It did not include the villages of Neah, Wayacht, Tsoo-yess, Bideda or Ozette.
- In 1893 the reservation was enlarged to include all but the Ozette village.
- In 1893 the Ozette reservation was established, 64 people lived there.

Relocation



- 1896 the population of Ozette was reduced when families were forced to move to Neah Bay so that their children could attend school. (Colson 1953:20)
- 1914 there were only two remaining settlements, Neah Bay and Ozette. There were only 17 at Ozette.
- By 1932 there were only two.

Suppression



- 1863 there was an Indian Agency located at Neah Bay. The resident agent restricted traditional activities. Children attended the boarding school.
- 1890 the potlatches and bone games were suppressed.
- 1903 all the old smokehouses torn down and people were living in single family homes.

Remote location



- A road to Neah Bay didn't get built until 1931
- Tourism at that time was for women's baskets.

Indian Reorganization Act



- The Agency was abolished after the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.
- A constitution was accepted in 1936 and a charter in 1937.
- Since the trust period had yet to expire on the allotted lands, the land reverted to tribal trust which is protected from alienation, an important reason why the tribe accepted the act. (Ruby and Brown 1986:127)

Ozette



- In 1956 there was only one person who still had allotment rights at Ozette.
- The Makah Tribe sought legislation to place the Ozette Reservation in trust for the Makah Tribe. This legislation became law in 1970.

Indian Claims Commission



- The Makah filed a claim for loss of fishing and sealing resources as a result of two international agreements.
- The 1911 North Pacific Sealing Convention and The 1924 International Fishery Commission Treaty
- In 1959 the Indian Claims Commission ruled that the Makah were not entitled to recover fishing and sealing resources.

Indian Claims Commission



- The Makah did receive compensation for ceded lands.
- The Makah also received compensation for \$30,000 worth of fishing gear that was promised to them during the treaty negotiations.
- In 1984 The Makah were given, in trust status, the islands of Waadah and Tatoosh as compensation.

Whale Hunt



- This is the only Washington treaty that specifies whaling.
- The Makah hunted the gray whale and the humpback whale.
- By 1850 the Makah were producing 30,000 gallons of whale oil a year.



- In 1994 the eastern pacific stock of gray whale was taken off the endangered species list.
- The Makah proposed to begin whaling again.
- They expect to take five gray whales

The Whale Hunter



- Whale hunters required the most extensive ritual process for spirit acquisition, including years of bathing in cold water, scouring the body, and swimming and behaving like a whale. The whaler was always a chief or noble of his community and renown for his skill.



- The two prominent species of whale were the California gray whale and humpback. Both traveled along the coast from early spring through the summer.
- Each village killed two to three whales a year.

Seal hunting



- The northern fur seal was the preferred seal and was hunted in the spring, during its migration north. A major fur seal feeding ground is located off of Flattery Rocks at Umatilla Reef.
- Traditional sealing methods involved ritual preparedness, outstanding navigational abilities, and quality equipment.

Changing Economy



- Hop picking on Puget Sound
- Cranberry picking near Ozette
- Working in canneries
- Logging and fishing

James Swan



- The Makah practiced warfare for reprisal, to acquire slaves or avenge a theft or dispute.
- The heads of those killed in war was decapitated and displayed on poles in front of the village as trophies.
- After the establishment of the Indian agency, warfare ceased or was reduced to an occasional murder, because of the threat of incarceration

Slavery



- Makahs captured slaves from as far as the Columbia River to the south and up the eastern shore of Vancouver Island. The slaves were traded with Nootkans. One slave was worth up to 200 blankets.
- Slaves were treated with a mild kind of servitude.
- Descendants of slaves did not lose the stigma of slave blood for several generations.

Edward Curtis



- Recorded information about Makah social structure in 1914 before Waatch, tsues and hosset were abandoned.

Diseases



- Biheda was abandoned after the smallpox epidemic of 1852 that killed hundreds of people.
- In 1863, the population of the four remaining villages was reduced to 654.
- Prior to the epidemics, the population was estimated between 1800 – 2000.