



# NATIVE AMERICANS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE NORTHWEST U.S.



COMPILED BY HOWIE BAUM



## THE NORTHWEST

- ❖ About 10,000 years ago, people began living on North America's Northwest Coast
- ❖ By 3,000 BCE., people had set up permanent villages along the rivers, peninsulas, and islands of this region.
- ❖ The ocean and the lush coastal forests provided the Northwest Coast people with everything that they needed to survive.

## CALIFORNIA

- With over 40 recognized tribes, California has the second-largest Native American population in the United States
- Evidence of human occupation of California dates from at least 19,000 years ago.
- Because of the temperate climate and easy access to food sources, approximately 1/3 of all Native Americans in the United States, were living in the area of California.
- Early Native Californians were hunter-gatherers, with seed collection becoming widespread around 9,000 BCE. Due to the local abundance of food, tribes never developed agriculture or tilled the soil.
- Prior to European contact, they had 500 distinct sub-tribes or groups, each consisting of 50 to 500 individual members.

## NATIVE AMERICANS FROM CALIFORNIA

The more than 500 tribes that lived in this region developed very different cultures from one another.

In the summer, many tribes camped in temporary brush huts while they moved around to hunt and gather fruits and vegetables.

People of the forest-based Cahto and Wintun tribes, ate caterpillars, bees, and grasshoppers.

They also gathered acorns that could be ground into flour or made into soup.

The desert-dwelling Cahuilla and Chemehuevi snacked on snakes and lizards.





# NATIVE PEOPLE OF THIS PLACE



## THE ORIGINAL CALIFORNIANS WERE A DIVERSE POPULATION

They were separated by language into as many as 135 distinct dialects.

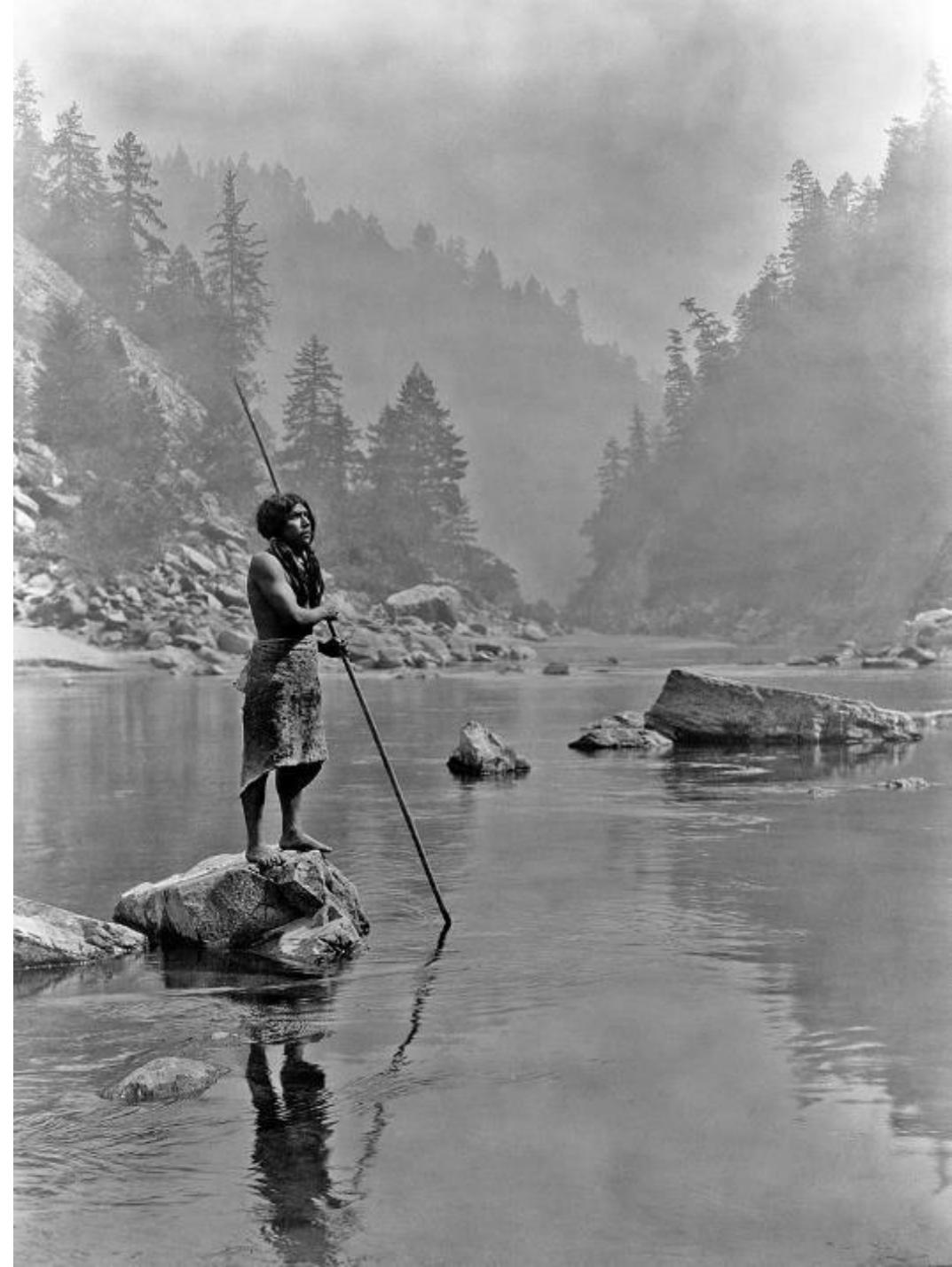
Tribes included the Karok, Maidu, Cahuilleno, Mojave, Yokuts, Pomo, Paiute, and Modoc.

The mountains that divided the groups made extensive warfare impractical, and the California tribes and clans enjoyed a comparatively peaceful life.

The region's lack of rain during the growing season meant that agriculture was not a practical means of livelihood for early Californians.

The gentle climate and rich soil enabled these groups to live by skillfully harvesting and processing wild nuts and berries and by capturing the fish that crowded the streams.

The acorn, leached of toxic acids and turned into meal, was a staple of the diet of most California native peoples.



## CALIFORNIAN HUNTER-GATHERERS



California was a wonderful place for Native Americans to live. Except for the Mojave desert, the climate and resources made life easy.

Isolated by deserts and mountains from the warlike tribes to the east, the 50 tribes lived on fish and game.

**Seeds, especially acorns, played a major role in their diet.**

Their ceremonies asked the spirit world to ensure food and health.

The arrival of the Spanish in 1769, establishing missions in the south, began the erosion of their way of Life.

Sadly, the Gold Rush in 1849 in the North, destroyed it.

## FORAGING FOR ACORNS IS A TRIBAL TRADITION

Native American tribes have and still gather acorns from Oak trees, which were a very significant part of their diet.

They ate it in a hot mush, they called “Wiiwish” similar to Cream of Wheat. They also used them to make an acorn soup.

To prepare the acorns, they would first roast them to kill weevils, shell the nuts, and grind them into flour.

Acorns have tannic acid in them and are too bitter to eat right out of the shell so they would leach the flour, flushing the tannic acid out with water, in a creek or stream.

It took some time to do but when you have something that can last through the winter season, it really is worth it.



## NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE NORTHWEST



**OCEAN-GOING CANOES ARE CARVED FROM CEDAR OR SPRUCE TREES AND HOLLOWED OUT, TO FIT AS MANY AS 30 PEOPLE.**

Photograph By Michael Wheatley, Getty Images

## NATIVE AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA



**MEMBERS OF THE CHUMASH (CHOO-MASH) TRIBE PADDLE IN A TOMOL, A FLAT-BOTTOMED CANOE.**

Photograph By Spencer Weiner, Los Angeles Times Via Getty Images

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CALIFORNIA



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTHWEST COAST



## NATIVE AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA

People have lived in what's now California and Baja California (a part of Mexico) for almost 20,000 years.

Because the landscape has so many different habitats, the ancient people who settled here split into hundreds of smaller groups, each developing their own culture and lifestyle.

- ❖ The rainy redwood forests
- ❖ The snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains
- ❖ The Central Valley farmlands
- ❖ The Mojave Desert
- ❖ The Pacific Ocean coastline





## THE RAINY REDWOOD FORESTS





# THE SNOW-CAPPED SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS





## THE CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLANDS





**THE MOJAVE DESERT**

A wide, calm river flows through a desert landscape. The banks are rocky and sparsely vegetated with green shrubs. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene is a typical Mojave Desert landscape.

**The banks of the Colorado River in California's Mojave Desert was home to many tribes.**

---



## THE PACIFIC OCEAN COASTLINE





Lake Tahoe  
Sierra Nevada mountains



**LIKE MANY NATIVE TRIBES,  
THE POMO BECAME  
EXCELLENT BASKET-MAKERS.**



**A POMO DANCER (KAL-SI-  
WA, ROSA PETERS) BY  
GRACE HUDSON**

Wikimedia Commons, is in the public domain.



## **THE POMO**

They lived north of what is now San Francisco Bay.

They had abundant resources and always had plenty of food from the ocean, lakes, and rivers and hunted in the forest.

They also gathered wild berries and plants and even used acorns.

Because of the warm climate, they wore very little clothing.



**GIRL'S COILED DOWRY OR PUBERTY BASKET (KOL-CHU OR TI-RI-BU-KU)**

late 19th century, Brooklyn Museum



**POMO BASKET (COLLECTED IN 1905)**

IN THE ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF BERLIN





## BEAUTIFUL POMO BASKETS



There are about 72 separate tribes of Pomo peoples, who live together today.

They lived in small villages and built different kinds of houses depending on where they lived.



**Near the forest, they built houses, or kotchas of redwood bark, by the coastal Miwok tribe.**



**Closer to a river, they made dome-shaped houses covered with dried grass.**



**A POMO WOMAN GATHERING SEEDS INTO A BASKET.**

Edward S. Curtis Collection/Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (neg. no. LC-USZ62-116525)

Miwok who live in the Southern Coastal region, built houses differently than the tribes in the north did. The Kumeyaay, or Diegueño, lived near what is now San Diego. Like many of their neighbors, they used wooden poles to make a frame for a house. Then they covered the frame with dried grass or brush

The mountain-dwelling Miwok made cone-shaped, bark houses



# THE MIWOK TRIBES

Though they now share a name with the groups known as the Coast Miwok and Lake Miwok, the territory of this largest group of Miwok was separated from that of the Coast and Lake Miwok.

## SETTLEMENTS

The Miwok, also called the Eastern Miwok, lived mostly along the foothills of the Sierras, and up into the mountains below the line of heavy winter snows.

Northern branches of the group, known as the Plains Miwok and the Bay Miwok, lived along the Sacramento River and its delta.

The Miwok considered themselves to belong to tribelets, or small groups of villages, of 100 to 500 people.



### Wiyot

A The westernmost part of California was full of huge redwood trees. So groups like the Wiyot built houses

using planks they cut from these trees. They used wedges to chop the planks from bigger logs.



### Maidu

A Diversest Maidu groups lived in three separate environments: valleys, foothills, and mountains. The rocky land-

scape and climate made life harder for tribes in the foothills and high in the mountains. So their houses were more primitive than Wiyot homes. These Maidu tribes used brush and sticks of bark to build basic shelters called lean-tos.

than Wiyot homes. These Maidu tribes used brush and sticks of bark to build basic shelters called lean-tos.



### Yuma (Quechan)

A The Yuma (Quechan) people lived in a desert climate. Some trees grew along the nearby

Colorado River. So, they cut logs to build basic frame-works for their homes. Then they covered the frame

with brush, sand, or woven twigs stuck together with clay or mud.



### Nisenan

A When water is now Sacramento, some Nisenan people lived in valleys. They built

homes by making a frame of wooden poles. On top of the frame, they added grass or

reeds. Then they covered the whole thing with a layer of earth.



### Serrano

← Serrano houses made round, dome-shaped houses out of willow branches. They covered the branches with bundles of reeds. There was a fire pit

in the middle of the house, but cooking was usually done outside. People mostly used their frames for sleeping and storing their things.



## MAN IN A YUROK CANOE ON THE TRINITY RIVER

Artist: Edward Sheriff Curtis - printed in 1923



YUROK HANDMADE WOOD SPOONS

## THE YUROK

Yurok means "downriver Indian."

They are an Indigenous people from along the Klamath River and Pacific coast, whose homelands are located in present-day California stretching from Trinidad in the south to Crescent City in the north.



Map 1. California, showing the location of Yurok territory.

Although the reservation comprises some 56,000 acres of contiguous land along the Klamath River, only about 5,000 acres of scattered plots are under partial tribal ownership.

Most Yurok land is owned by timber corporations or is part of national parks and forests.

This forest management has significantly disempowered the Yurok people and disrupted their ability to access natural resources, land, and practice Indigenous lifeways.



This replica of a Yurok redwood plank house can be seen at Patrick's Point State Park, north of Arcata. Note the small entrance opening, which helps conserve heat and makes the dwelling more secure.

Since the house surrounds a pit, the walls needn't be very tall. (Photo by Michael Roa.)



**RECONSTRUCTED YUROK PLANKHOUSE IN REDWOOD NATIONAL  
PARK**



**Replica of a Yurok sweat house at Patrick's Point State Park.**

(Photo by Michael Roa.)

# CHOCTAW

The word for their house is a 'chukka'

They lived in mud-and-bark cabins with thatched roofs. The Choctaw Indians cabins were also made from mud, cane, and straw.

Dwelling description: The Choctaw Indian, dwelling with his family, in a wigwam of a most primitive construction.

It was in the form of a bee-hive, or rather of a very high dome. The covering was made of a long, tough grass, that grows near the sea, and the texture was fine and even beautiful.

A post in the center supported the fabric, which was shaped by delicate curving poles. A hole in the top admitted the light and allowed the smoke to pass out; and the fire was near enough to the upright post to permit a kettle to be suspended from one of its knots (or cut branches) near enough to feel the influence of the heat.



## LIST OF 55 OF THE MAIN CALIFORNIA TRIBES

- Achumawi
- Atsugewi
- Cahuilla
- Chemehuevi
- Chilula
- Chimariko
- Chumash
- Cocopah
- Ohlone
- Cupeno
- Diegueno
- Esselen
- Gabrielino
- Halchidhoma
- Hupa
- Juaneno
- Karok
- Kashaya
- Kato
- Kawaiisu
- Kitanemuk
- Klamath
- Konkow
- Lassik
- Luiseno
- Maidu
- Mattole
- Miwok
- Modoc
- Mojave
- Mono
- Nisenan
- Nomlaki
- Nongatl
- Northern Paiute
- Panamint
- Patwin
- Pomo
- Salinan
- Serrano
- Shasta
- Shoshoni
- Sinkyone
- Southern Paiute
- Tataviam
- Tolowa
- Wailaki
- Wappo
- Whilkut
- Wintu
- Wiyot
- Yana and Yahi
- Yokuts
- Yuki
- Yurok

## List of California placenames of Native American origin

Inyo County – named after a Mono chief.

Inyo Mountains

Inyo Volcanic Chain

Inyo National Forest

Marin County – named after the nearby Coast Miwok chief.

Marin City

Marin Creek

Marin Headlands

Marin Hills

Marin Islands

Modoc County – named after the Modoc people.

Modoc National Forest

Modoc Plateau

Modoc Crater

Mono County – "those from the Sierra Nevada".

Mono Village

Mono Mills

Mono Lake

Napa County – "home".

City of Napa

Napa River

Napa Valley

Shasta County – named after the Shasta people.

Region of Shasta Cascade

City of Shasta Lake

City of Mount Shasta

Village of Shasta

Village of Little Shasta

Mount Shasta

Shasta Dam

Shasta Lake

Shasta River

Siskiyou County – "bob-tailed horse".

Siskiyou Mountains

Siskiyou National Forest

Solano County – named after a Suisun chief.  
Sonoma County – "valley of the moon".  
City of Sonoma  
Sonoma Valley  
Sonoma Mountains  
Tehama County – "high water".  
City of Tehama  
Mount Tehama  
Tuolumne County – "cluster of stone wigwams".  
Tuolumne City  
Tuolumne River  
Tuolumne Grove  
Tuolumne Meadows  
Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne  
Yolo County – "a place abounding in rushes".  
Village of Yolo

### **Settlements**

Acalanes Ridge  
Aguanga  
Ahwahnee

Alleghany  
Aptos[5]  
Azusa – from the village "Azucsagna".  
Cabazon  
Cahuenga  
Camanche Village  
Camanche North Shore  
Cherokee – named after the Cherokee people.  
Cohasset  
Concow  
Honcut  
Jurupa Valley  
Klamath River  
Named after the Klamath River  
Laguna Niguel  
Lake Shastina  
Lompoc  
Malibu – The surf makes a loud noise all the time  
over there.

Merrimac  
Milpitas[9]  
Mi-Wuk Village  
New Chicago  
Nimshew  
Nipinnawasee  
Ojai  
Petaluma  
Piru  
Pismo Beach – "Pismu" for "tar".  
Point Mugu  
Port Hueneme  
Poway – from Kumeyaay language.  
Rancho Cucamonga  
Saticoy  
Simi Valley – from Ventureño "Simiyi".  
Sisquoc  
Soquel  
Tehachapi  
Temecula – from Luiseño "Temeekunga".  
Tionesta

Toluca Lake  
Topanga  
Tujunga  
Wyandotte  
Yucaipa  
Yeomet  
Yreka  
Zayante

### **Bodies of water**

Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park – named after the Achowami people.  
Lake Cachuma  
Tahquitz Canyon and Creek, Falls, Peak, and Rock, named for Cahuilla legend Tahquitz  
Temescal Canyon, Creek, Mountains, and Valley Islands  
Anacapa Island  
Other  
Mojave Desert – named after the Mohave people.  
Yosemite National Park

## **NATIVE AMERICANS FROM THE NORTHWEST U.S.**

Approximately 8,000 years ago, the first Native American tribes settled in the Pacific Northwest after migrating south through modern-day Alaska and Canada.

They quickly adapted to the more temperate coastal climate and used large canoes to travel swiftly along rivers and coastlines.

**Famed for its enormous trees, the Pacific Northwest had plenty of wood for tribes to use as resources.**

**Tall cedars could make canoes up to 70 feet long and paddle in the ocean, to hunt otters, seals, and whales.**

**Canoe travel was popular due to the difficulty of overland travel through thick forests.**



## NATIVE AMERICANS FROM THE NORTHWEST U.S.



About 10,000 years ago, people began living on North America's Northwest Coast, a narrow area along the Pacific Ocean that stretches across parts of modern-day Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Yukon and British Columbia in Canada.

By 3,000 B.C., people had set up permanent villages along the rivers, peninsulas, and islands of this region.

The ocean and the lush coastal forests provided the Northwest Coast people with everything that they needed to survive.

They built long boats that they paddled into the sea to hunt otters, seals, and whales.

Salmon was such an important food source that these fish featured in many of their stories, and many tribes held a **First Salmon Ceremony** to celebrate the salmon's return to freshwater rivers from the ocean.

## 2021 SALMON CEREMONY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ-DE7kgBrQ>



## RESTARTING THE SALMON CEREMONY

(I recommend that you take time to read the article found at the link below and watch the great video, in it.)

It is called the First Salmon Ceremony

<https://agnesbakerpilgrim.org/take/ima-culture/salmon-ceremony-revived/>

On the last page, is a link in blue letters to a very special 6 minute video:

[“FIRST SALMON CEREMONY”](#)

Here is the link to the video:

<https://watch.opb.org/video/oregon-field-guide-first-salmon-ceremony/>



**AGNES PILGRIM IN THE STORY CHAIR NEXT TO TI'LOMIKH FALLS**

(RORY FINNEY PHOTO, 2012)



Jennie, a Rogue River Takelma woman,  
who crafted the dress

Portrait photographed by Peter Britt

## TAKELMA VILLAGE SITE OF TI'LOMIKH

**It was located along the Rogue river in Oregon and near California.**

The Takelman people lived as foragers and collected plant foods and insects, fished and hunted. They cultivated only one crop, a native tobacco.

They lived in small bands of related men and their families.

They adapted to the seasons by spending spring, summer, and early fall months collecting and storing food for the winter season.

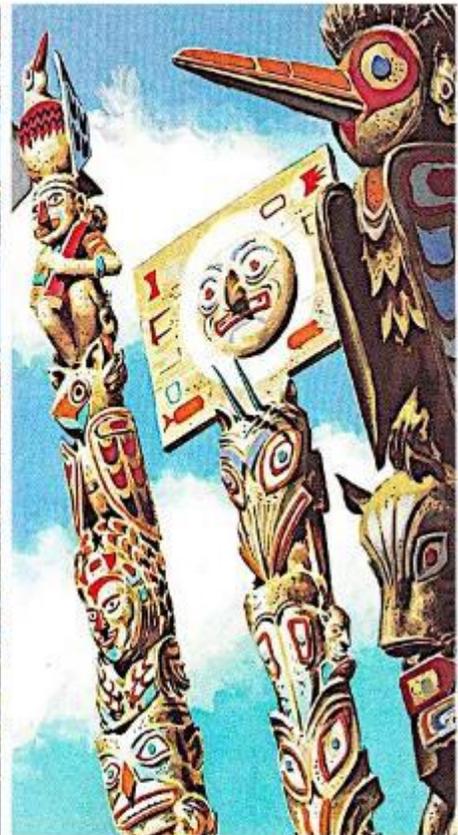
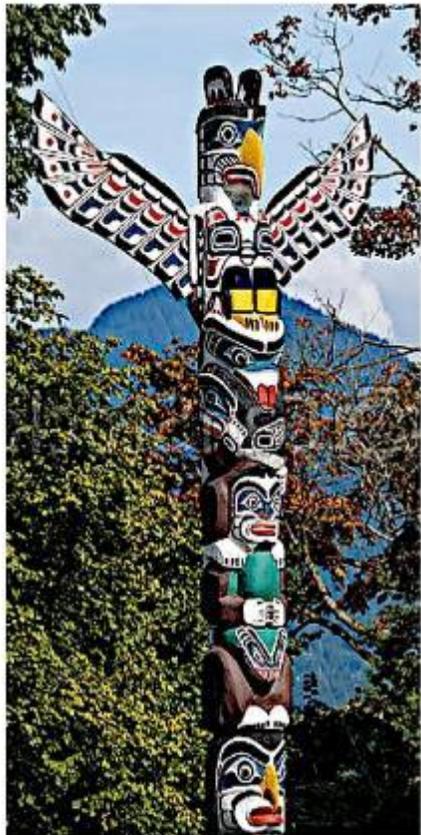
The Rogue River, around which their villages nucleated, provided them with salmon and other fish

The salmon diet was supplemented, or replaced in years of poor salmon runs, by game such as deer, elk, beaver, bear, antelope, and bighorn sheep.

## WAYS OF USING THE BIG TREES

- In addition to allowing the creation of large and elaborate canoes, **the Western Red Cedar trees had fibrous roots and inner bark that could be woven into baskets.**
- Board could be harvested from living trees.
- Bark could be used for its medicinal properties and to make small houses.
- The wood was very long-lasting, due to natural insecticide qualities.
- **Persons there became renowned for their wood carving abilities, including the creation of totem poles in the northern regions.**





## TYPES OF TOTEM POLES



▲ **HOUSE POSTS** Usually 8-10 feet tall & used in the interior of the home to support the roof



▲ **MORTUARY POLES** The rarest type of totem pole, they may be as tall as 50-60 feet and incorporate a grave box which holds the remains of the deceased



▲ **MEMORIAL POLES** These stand before a clan house after a person has died to honor him or her & identify a successor. They often display crests and figures of achievements of the deceased



▲ **WELCOME POLES** Used to welcome guests & to declare a place sacred. This totem was created by the Salish Lummi Nation as a gift to use at various pipeline protests, i.e., North Dakota's Standing Rock to protest the pipeline threatening clean water on their reservations



▲ **SHAME POLES** Used for public ridicule to embarrass a group or an individual for unpaid debts or a wrong they've committed

## PURPOSES OF TOTEM POLES

- A **house post** is already carved before a longhouse is built; they're part of the construction.
- A **mortuary or a Memorial pole** is a larger one, made in memory of someone special.

It's hollowed out so a box can slide into it that contains the remains of an upper status person, and some of their jewelry.

- **Ceremonial poles** are for special events such as marriages.
- **Ridicule or Shame poles** would have been commissioned by a chief, perhaps because someone owed him a debt.

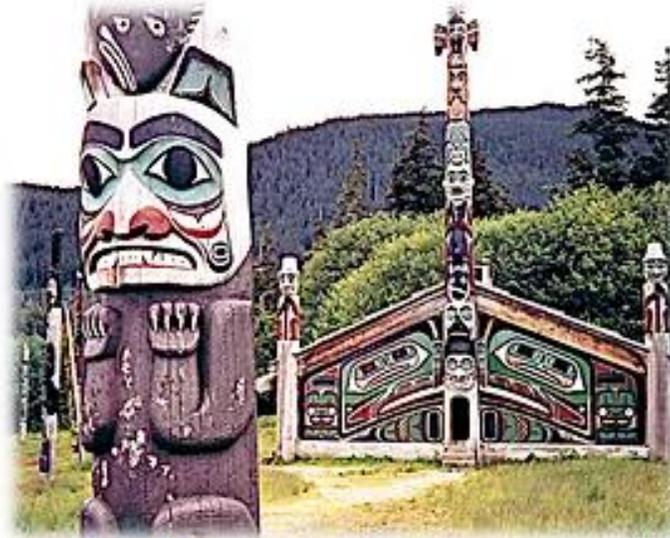
In those days there were no lawyers to pursue your lost money, furs or fish, so debt was serious.

If you caused the debt, you'd have to attend a ceremony to be shamed in front of everyone – people would come from miles around.

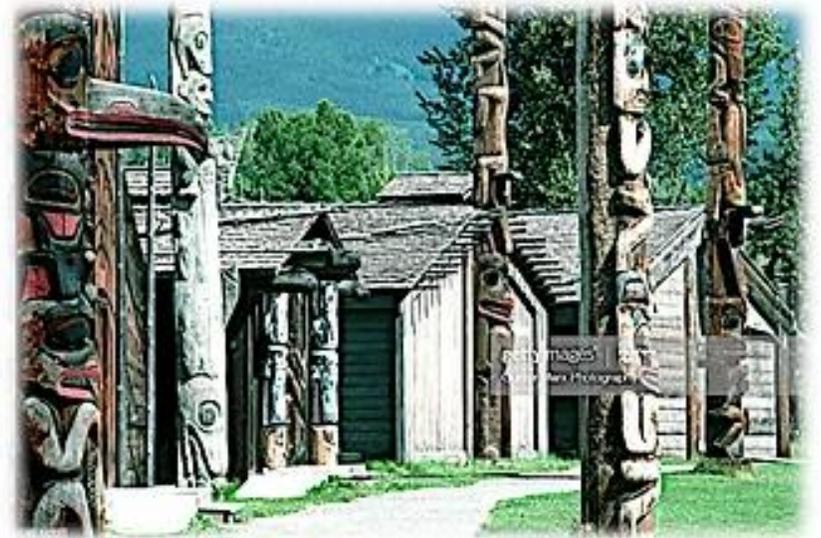
# TRIBAL ORIGINS OF TOTEM POLES



**HAIDA** (PACIFIC NORTHWEST)



**TLINGIT** (PACIFIC NORTHWEST)



**TSIMSHIAN** (SE ALASKA & BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**KWAKWAKA'WAKW**  
(SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**NUU-CHAH-NULTH**  
(SOUTH BRITISH COLUMBIA)



**COAST SALISH**  
(WASHINGTON & BRITISH COLUMBIA)

## THE WORLD LOVES TOTEMS



CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM



BONN, GERMANY



MORIOKA, JAPAN



GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND



JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



ROYAL ALBERT MUSEUM ENGLAND



STOCKHOLM MUSEUM OF ETHNOL.

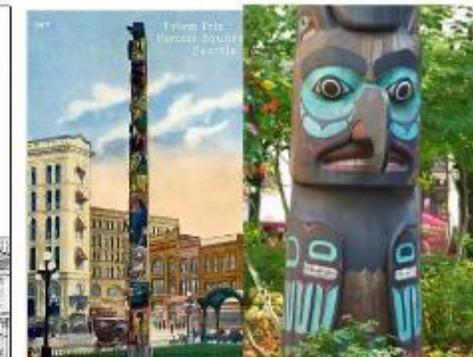


KONSO, ETHIOPIA AFRICA



SCOTTISH ROYAL MUSEUM

## STOLEN TOTEMS RESTORED



Seattle's famous 50-foot Pioneer Sq. Totem Pole was stolen from a Tlingit village in Alaska by Seattle businessmen. The original was made in 1790 honoring Tlingit Chief-of-All-Women. The Tlingit sued and was paid \$500 but the court would not return the totem. In 1938 the totem was burned by an arsonist. Seattle paid the Tlingit to carve a replica that was installed in 1940. Today, it is a National Historic Landmark.

In 2008, a huge orca totem Mark Trueman had spent 200 hours restoring was stolen from his Victoria home. The neglected totem had been one of his clients & was poised for disposal. He had completed the totem when it was stolen. Eleven years later, he found it on GOOGLE.



In 1931, actor John Barrymore stole a 40-ft. Tlingit totem in Alaska, chopping it in pieces and taking it to install in his Hollywood garden. It was of a killer whale, a raven, an eagle & a wolf. When he died, Vincent Price bought it for his garden, then later gifted it to the Honolulu Museum of Art. In 2015, it was returned rightfully back to the Tlingit. (Left) The wolf section cut up & Vincent Price posing with the entire totem in his garden.



**NORTHWEST  
TOTEM POLE**



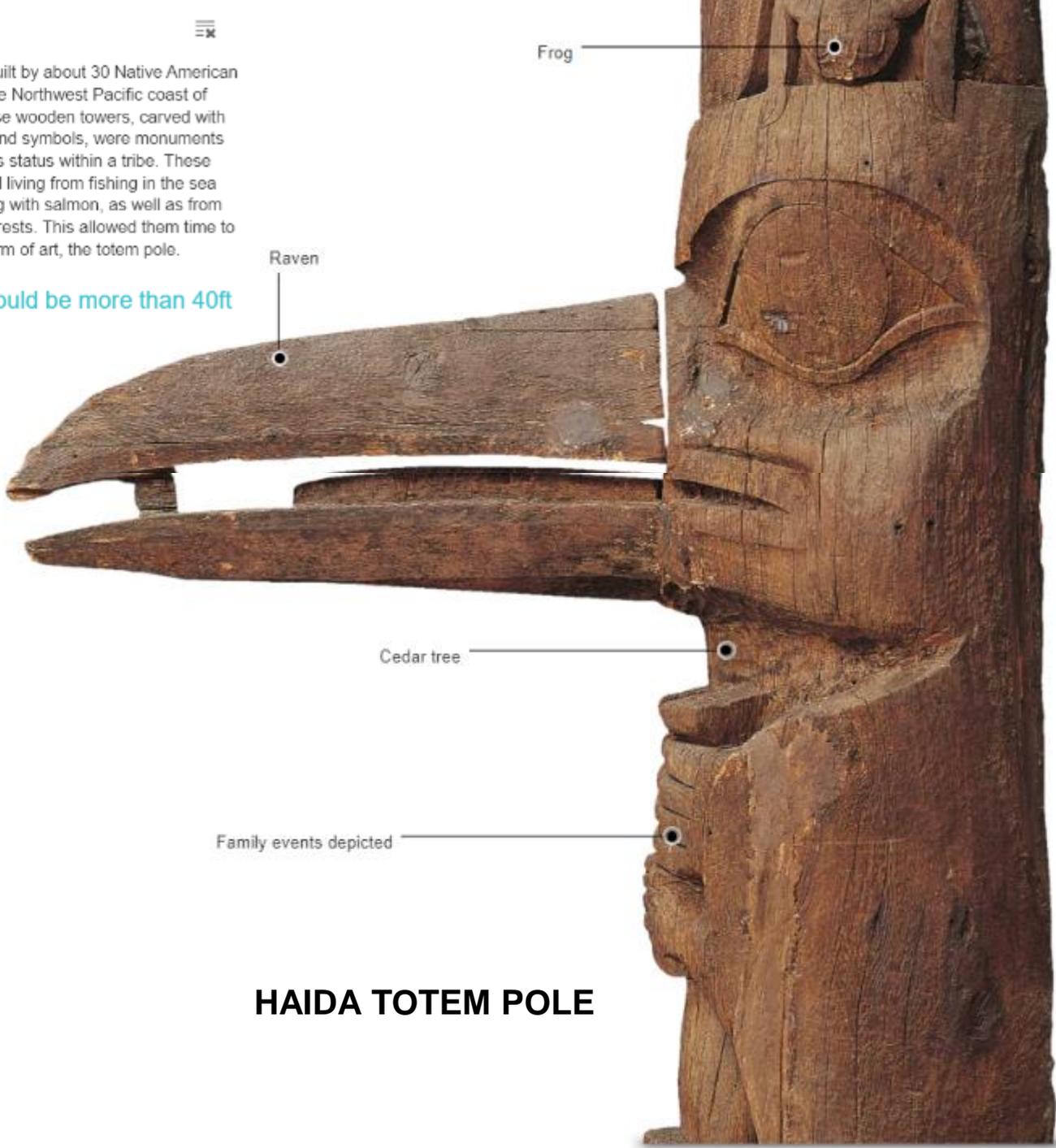


# HAIDA TRIBES

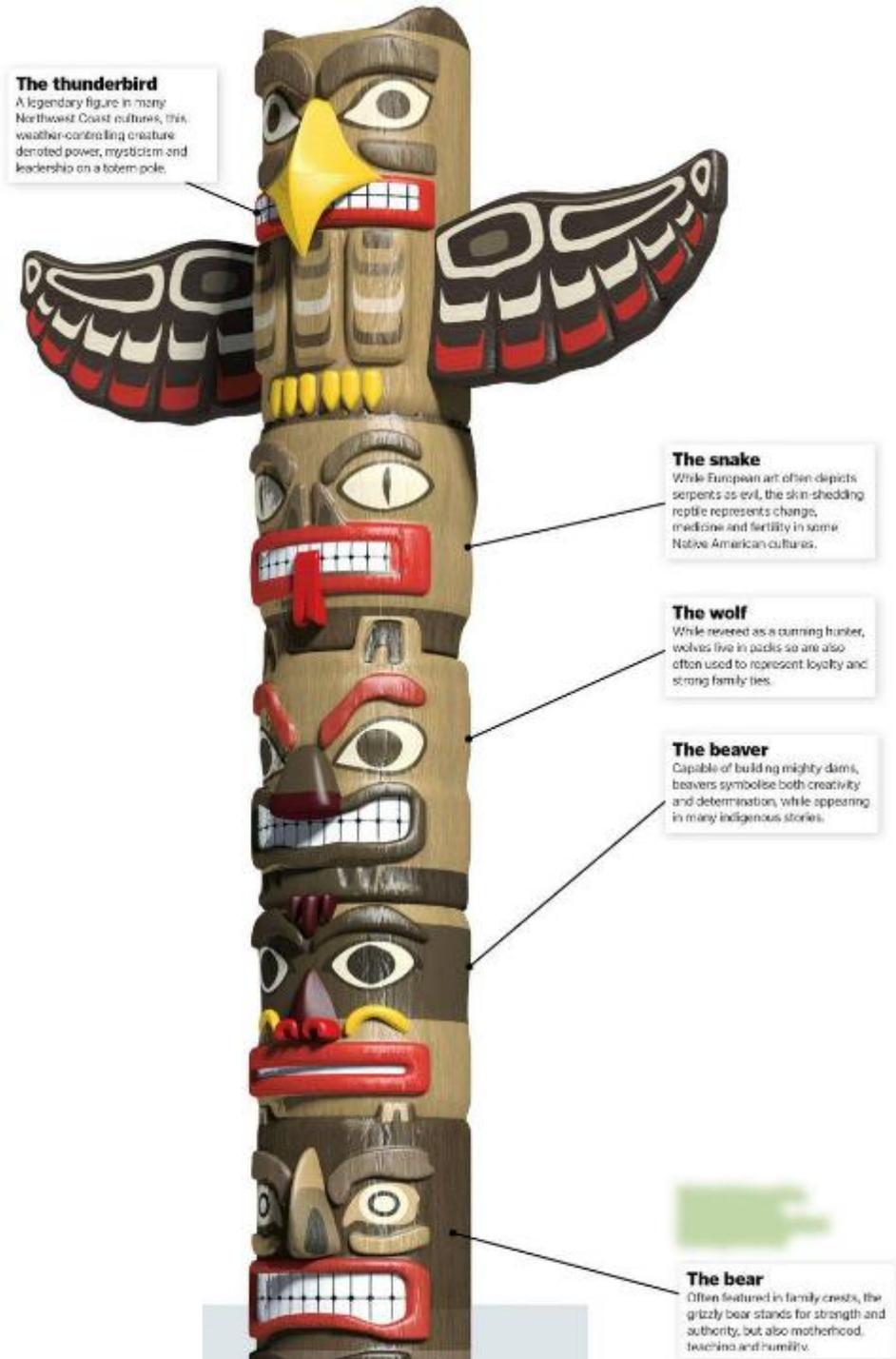
# Totem poles

Totem poles were built by about 30 Native American tribes living along the Northwest Pacific coast of North America. These wooden towers, carved with images of animals and symbols, were monuments expressing a family's status within a tribe. These people made a good living from fishing in the sea and in rivers teeming with salmon, as well as from hunting in nearby forests. This allowed them time to develop a unique form of art, the totem pole.

Totem poles could be more than 40ft (12m) high.



HAIDA TOTEM POLE



**The thunderbird**  
A legendary figure in many Northwest Coast cultures, this weather-controlling creature denoted power, mysticism and leadership on a totem pole.

**The snake**  
While European art often depicts serpents as evil, the skin-shedding reptile represents change, medicine and fertility in some Native American cultures.

**The wolf**  
While revered as a cunning hunter, wolves live in packs so are also often used to represent loyalty and strong family ties.

**The beaver**  
Capable of building mighty dams, beavers symbolise both creativity and determination, while appearing in many indigenous stories.

**The bear**  
Often featured in family crests, the grizzly bear stands for strength and authority, but also motherhood, teaching and humility.



## WORLD'S TWO TALLEST TOTEMS



(Left) World's Tallest Totem Pole, near Alert Bay on Cormorant Island, North Vancouver. It is 173 feet tall, made from two sections, one 163 feet tall & a ten-foot top section. Some totem purists hold that a totem should be made of only one tree. But even at 163 ft. it is the tallest. (Right) The other world's tallest totem is at the Port of Kalama, WA. But again totem purists disavow this totem as it was not carved by indigenous people.





## HAIDA THUNDERBIRD

A wooden thunderbird of the Haida tribe is an example of the fine woodworking done on the Northwest Coast of North America.

Courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum



## RAISING A TOTEM POLE

The Haida people raise a totem pole in honor of a deceased leader.

These carved and painted logs were among the most impressive examples of woodworking by the Northwest Coast peoples.

National Geographic Image Collection/  
Alamy



### **KWAKWAKA'WAKE. BALEEN WHALE MASK**

It was made in the 19th century and is known to have one of the most distinctive forms of northwest coast art.

Masks like this are owned by a particular person who has inherited the rights to make, wear, and perform with it during potlatch ceremonies, elaborate communal celebrations.



### **A KWAKWAKA'WAKW TRANSFORMATION MASK**

**MADE OF WOOD, HORSEHAIR AND SHELLS.**

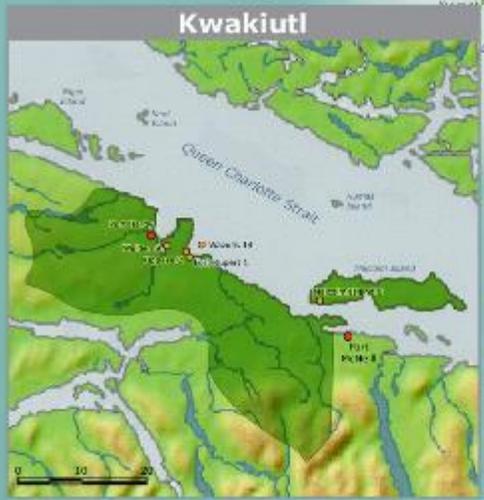
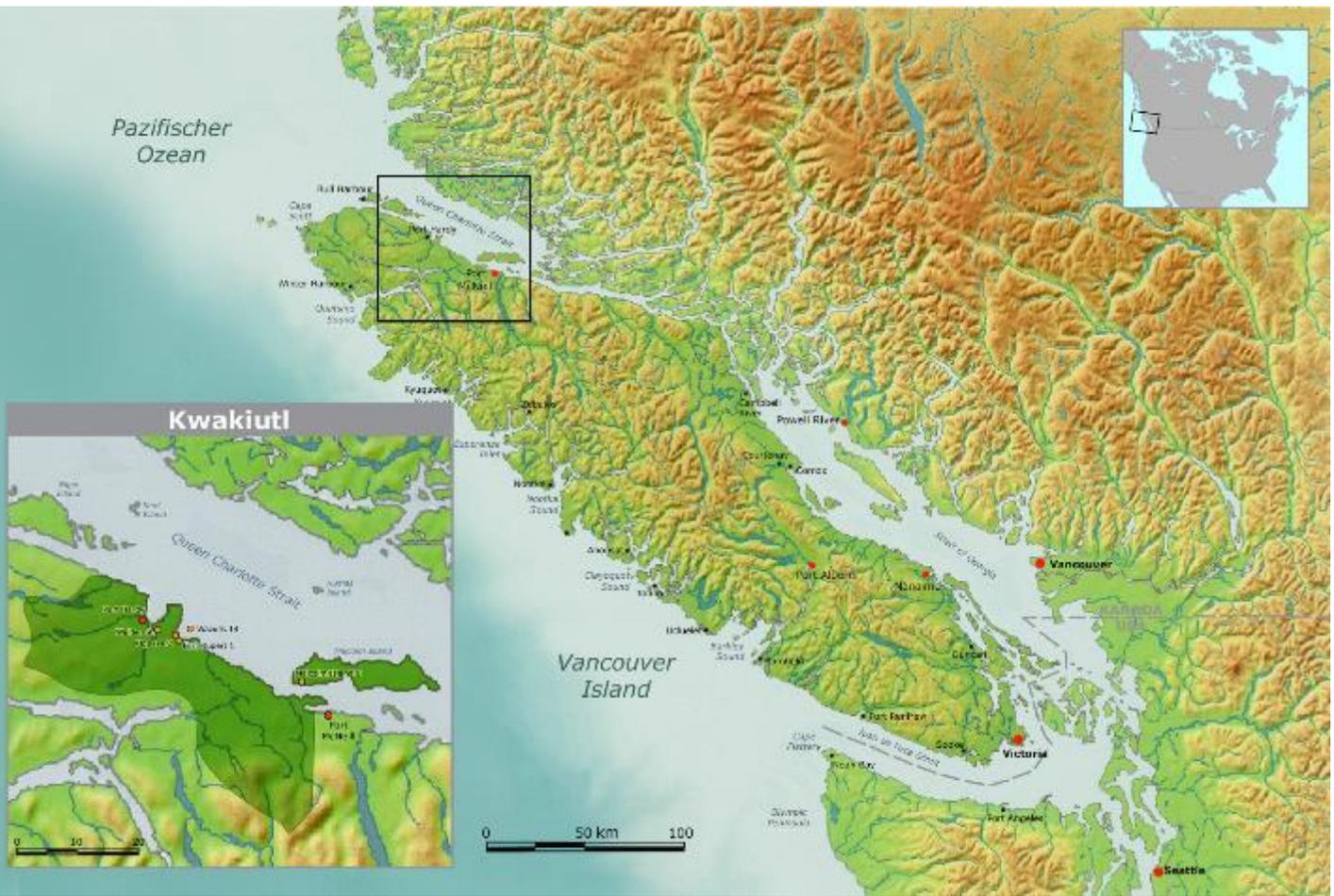
## **KWAKIUTL**

They are also called Kwakwaka'wakw.

They traditionally lived in what is now British Columbia, Canada, along the shores of the waterways between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Their name for themselves means "those who speak Kwakwala."

Although the name Kwakiutl is often applied to all the peoples of that group, it is the name of only one band of Kwakwaka'wakw.



## MAP OF KWAKIUTL TRADITIONAL TRIBAL TERRITORY ABOUT 1850

Source Own work, background map courtesy of Demis, [www.demis.nl](http://www.demis.nl)  
 Date: April, 2011



## QAGYUHL WEDDING PARTY

Two canoes carry a wedding party of the Qagyuhl people, a division of the Kwakiutl tribe.

In the canoe in the foreground, the bride and groom stand on the “bride's seat” in the back while a relative of the bride dances on a platform in the front.

Edward S. Curtis Collection/Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (neg. no. LC-USZ62-51435)





## **CHILKAT LEADERS IN CEREMONIAL DRESS**

Three leaders of the Chilkat, a Tlingit group, wear ceremonial dress for a potlatch.

They hold ceremonial rattles, and two wear Chilkat blankets, which were woven of cedar bark and decorated with clan crests.

MPI/Archive Photos/Getty Images

## TRANSFORMATION MASKS

According to Kwakiutl creation stories, there once was a time when the only difference between birds, fish, animals and humans was their skin covering, and they all could transform themselves into other forms at will.

Animals could become human and humans could become animals. These ideas still guide Kwakiutl religious traditions and make up the meaning of the Transformation mask.

As part of a dance, the mask is opened and closed, showing the transition between humans and animals.

Their society was stratified by rank, which was determined primarily by the inheritance of names and privileges;

This could include the right and honor, to sing certain songs, use certain crests, and wear particular ceremonial masks.



**Nakoaktok men in ceremonial dress, with long beaks, crouching on their haunches.**

Photographs of Kwakwaka'wakw ceremonial dress and masks captured by Edward Curtis, 1914-1915





## **KWAKIUTL TRANSFORMATION MASK**

Source: Aldona Jonaitis 1991: pp. 42, 43.

Kwakwaka'wakw artist, Eagle Mask closed, late 19th century., from Alert Bay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, cedar wood, feathers, sinew, cord, bird skin, hide, plant fibers, cotton, iron, pigments, (American Museum of Natural History)





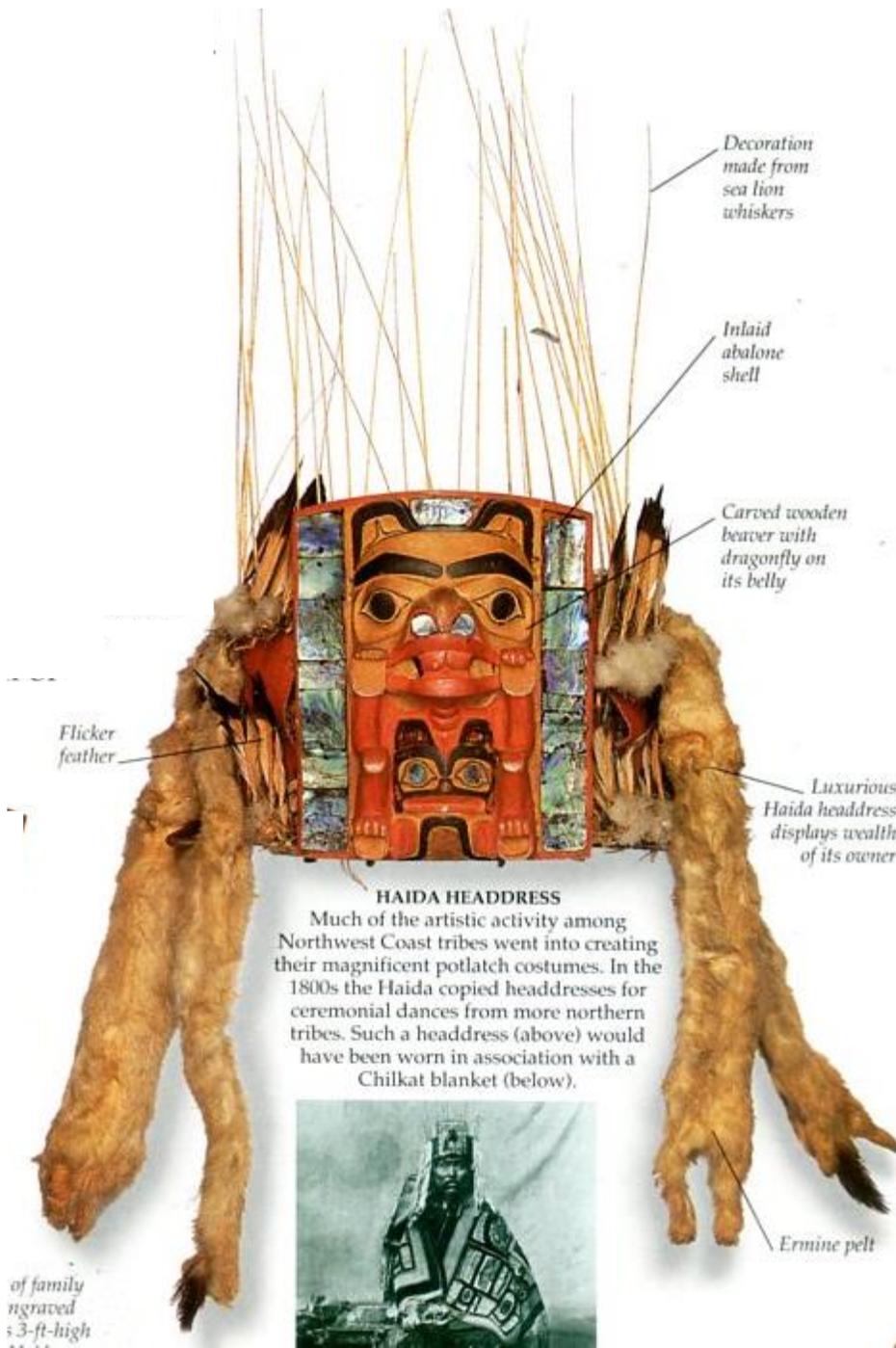


# THE POTLATCH



Image: crest is on this (1-m) copper

A large plate of Copper to be given away as a gift at a Potlatch



Decoration made from sea lion whiskers

Inlaid abalone shell

Carved wooden beaver with dragonfly on its belly

Luxurious Haida headdress displays wealth of its owner

Ermine pelt

Flicker feather

## HAIDA HEADDRESS

Much of the artistic activity among Northwest Coast tribes went into creating their magnificent potlatch costumes. In the 1800s the Haida copied headdresses for ceremonial dances from more northern tribes. Such a headdress (above) would have been worn in association with a Chilkat blanket (below).



of family engraved; 3-ft-high

It is the center of traditional indigenous life throughout the Northwest Coast, and can be understood as an event whereby a noble family invites guests to celebrate a particular event and witness a display of the host lineage's wealth and status

These events can range from the transfer of marriage privileges and naming ceremonies for children, to the acquisition of new rank and the initiation of a dancer into a dancing society.

During a potlatch, the head of a lineage will distribute an array of gifts (such as blankets, copper pieces, cedar bark, money, even cars and canoes) to friends, family, and neighboring clans in a display of wealth that creates bonds of social obligations between the attendants and the wealthy chief.



#### A CEREMONIAL HAT

Potlatches were held to celebrate the marriage of a chief, to inaugurate a new clan house, or to mark the death of an old chief. The chief of a household was responsible for managing its harvest from sea and forest (from which he took a share) and for managing relations with other households. At potlatches a host, wearing ceremonial hat (left) and costume, had help from a speaker, who made the formal announcements, and from a master of ceremonies, who also invited the many guests.

*Ermine  
pelt  
decoration*

A ceremonial hat worn at a Potlatch by the person who is giving out the gifts.

*Thin strands of spruce  
roots used in making  
this Tlingit basketry hat*

*Painting of  
crow depicts  
a family crest*

*Hat would have been made  
in rainy weather to prevent  
materials from drying out*



## **THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT**

It extends roughly 750 miles, through California and its motion is horizontal.

It forms the tectonic boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate.

The fault divides into 3 segments, each with different characteristics and a different degree of earthquake risk.

The slip rate along the fault ranges from 0.79 to 1.38 inches, per year.





AERIAL PHOTO OF SAN ANDREAS FAULT, LOOKING NORTHWEST ONTO THE CARRIZO PLAIN WITH SODA LAKE VISIBLE AT THE UPPER LEFT.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tluk2blBzHs>



ARROWS SHOW RELATIVE MOTION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PLATE (SOUTHEASTWARD) AND THE PACIFIC PLATE (NORTHWESTWARD)



This is Slot Canyon in the California Palm Desert.

It is one of the few places to see 2 tectonic plates so close together.

On the left is the **North American plate**

On the right is the **Pacific plate**.



## **THE TECTONIC PLATE BOUNDARY OF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT !**

The San Andreas Fault near Gorman, California, showing rocks of the Pacific Plate (gray rocks on the left side of the fault) and the North American Plate (tan rocks on the right side of the fault). There are very few places on Earth where you can see two plates in contact like this.

Photograph copyright by David Lynch.



**KLAMATH TRIBAL ELDERS BLESS A C'WAAM (LOST RIVER SUCKER) FISH, TO BE RELEASED DURING THE ANNUAL SPRING C'WAAM CEREMONY HELD BY THE KLAMATH TRIBES.**

## THE 4 FOUNDING FATHERS

In the picture, you have 4 important figures of our history, from left to right: Chief Joseph, Sitting Bull, Geronimo and Red Cloud who resisted U S government (foreign) policies.

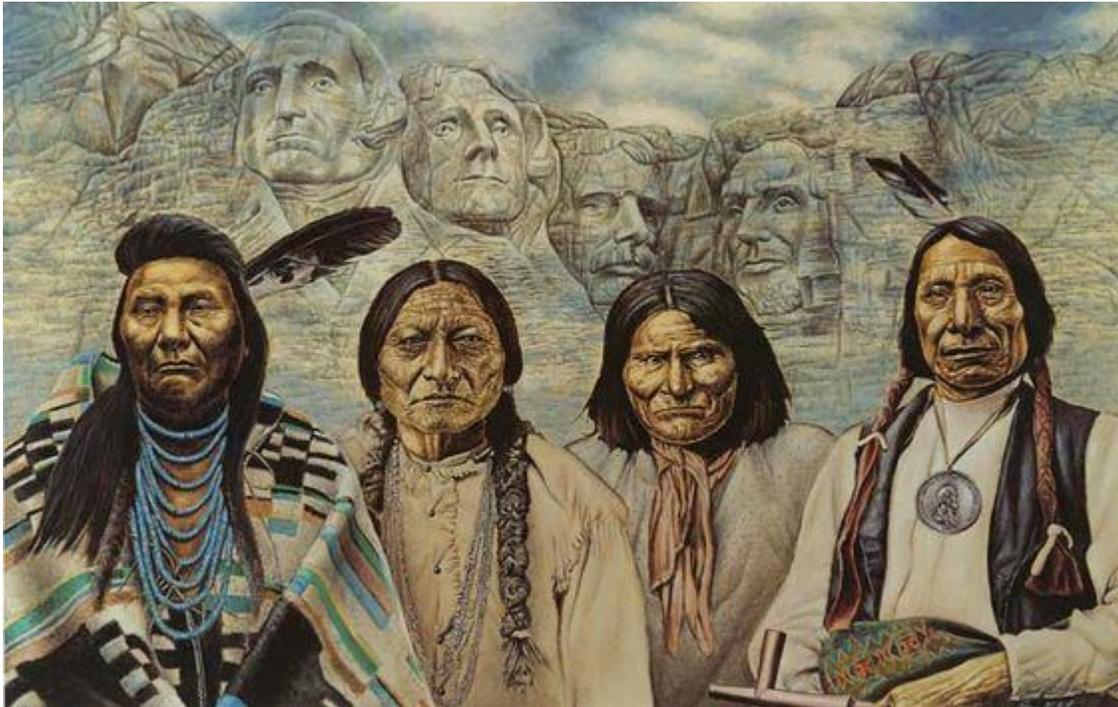
**Chief Joseph** was the leader of the Wallowa band of Nez Perce, a Native American indigenous tribe to in northeastern region that is known today as Oregon.

**Sitting Bull** was Hunkpapa Lakota who led his people as a tribal chief during years of resistance to United States government policies.

**Geronimo** was a leader of the Apache who fought against Spain and Texas for their expansion into Apache tribal lands for several decades during the Apache Wars

**Red Cloud**, a war leader and a chief of the Oglala Lakota.

These are the men that resisted foreign diplomacy, who protected their beloved land from foreigners, from the what we now refer to as “aliens” or “immigrants.”



## EDWARD SHERIFF CURTIS – GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Born in Wisconsin in 1868, Edward Sheriff Curtis took to photography at an early age.

In 1895 he photographed Princess Angeline, the daughter of the Duwamish Chief Seattle, for whom the city was named.

That encounter sparked Curtis' lifelong fascination with the cultures and lives of Native American tribes. He soon joined expeditions to visit tribes in Alaska and Montana.

In 1906, Curtis was approached by wealthy financier J.P. Morgan, who was interested in funding a documentary project on the indigenous people of the continent. They conceived a 20-volume series, called *The North American Indian*.





Zuni Girl with Jar, - 1903.

Head-and-shoulders portrait of a Zuni girl with a pottery jar on her head.

## **EDWARD SHERRIFF CURTIS**

(February 19, 1868 – October 19, 1952)

He was an American photographer and ethnologist whose work focused on the American West and on Native American people.

Sometimes referred to as the "Shadow Catcher", Curtis traveled the United States to document and record the dwindling ways of life of various native tribes through photographs and audio recordings.

**Curtis made over 10,000 wax cylinder recordings of Native American language and music.**

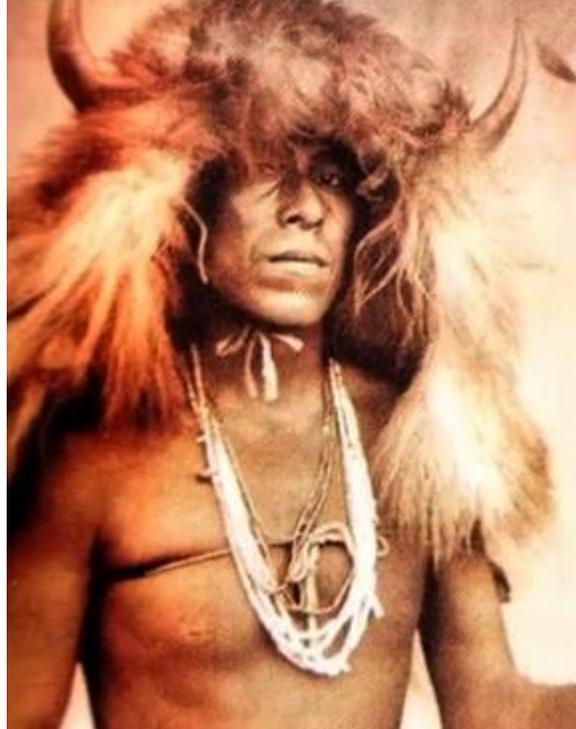
**He took over 40,000 photographic images of members of over 80 tribes.**

He recorded tribal lore and history, and he described traditional foods, housing, garments, recreation, ceremonies, and funeral customs.

He wrote biographical sketches of tribal leaders. His material, in most cases, is the only written recorded history.





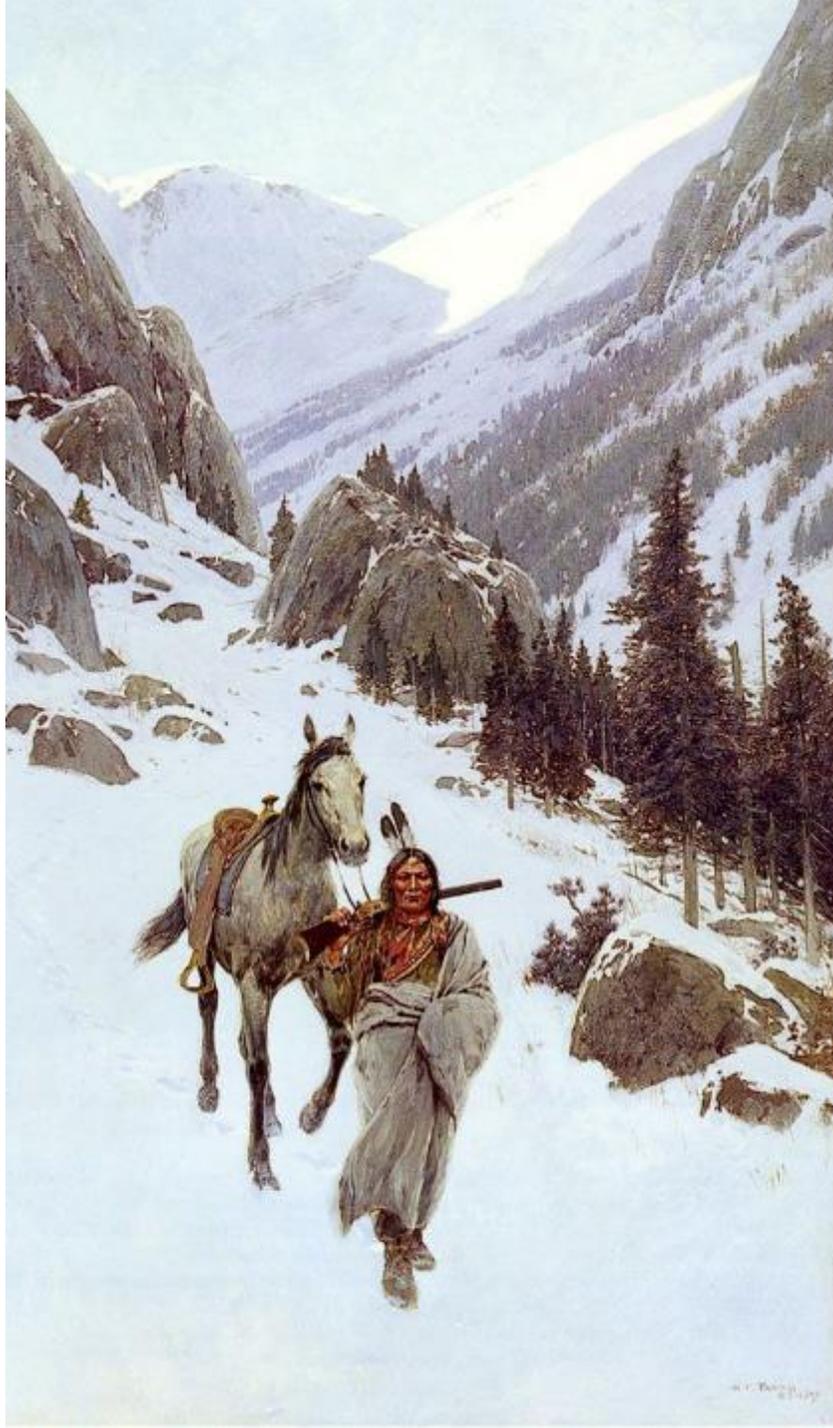




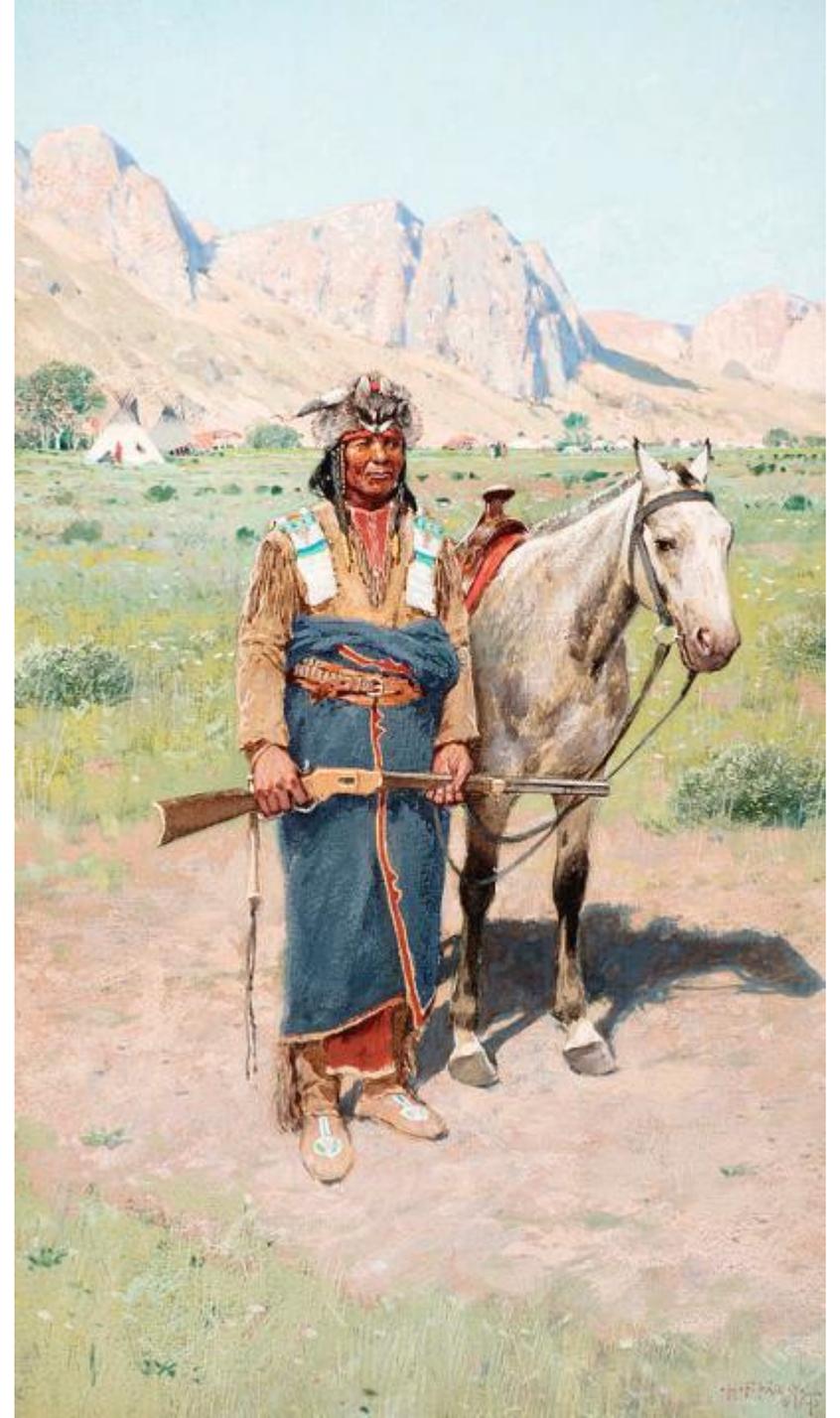
“INDIAN CAMP”

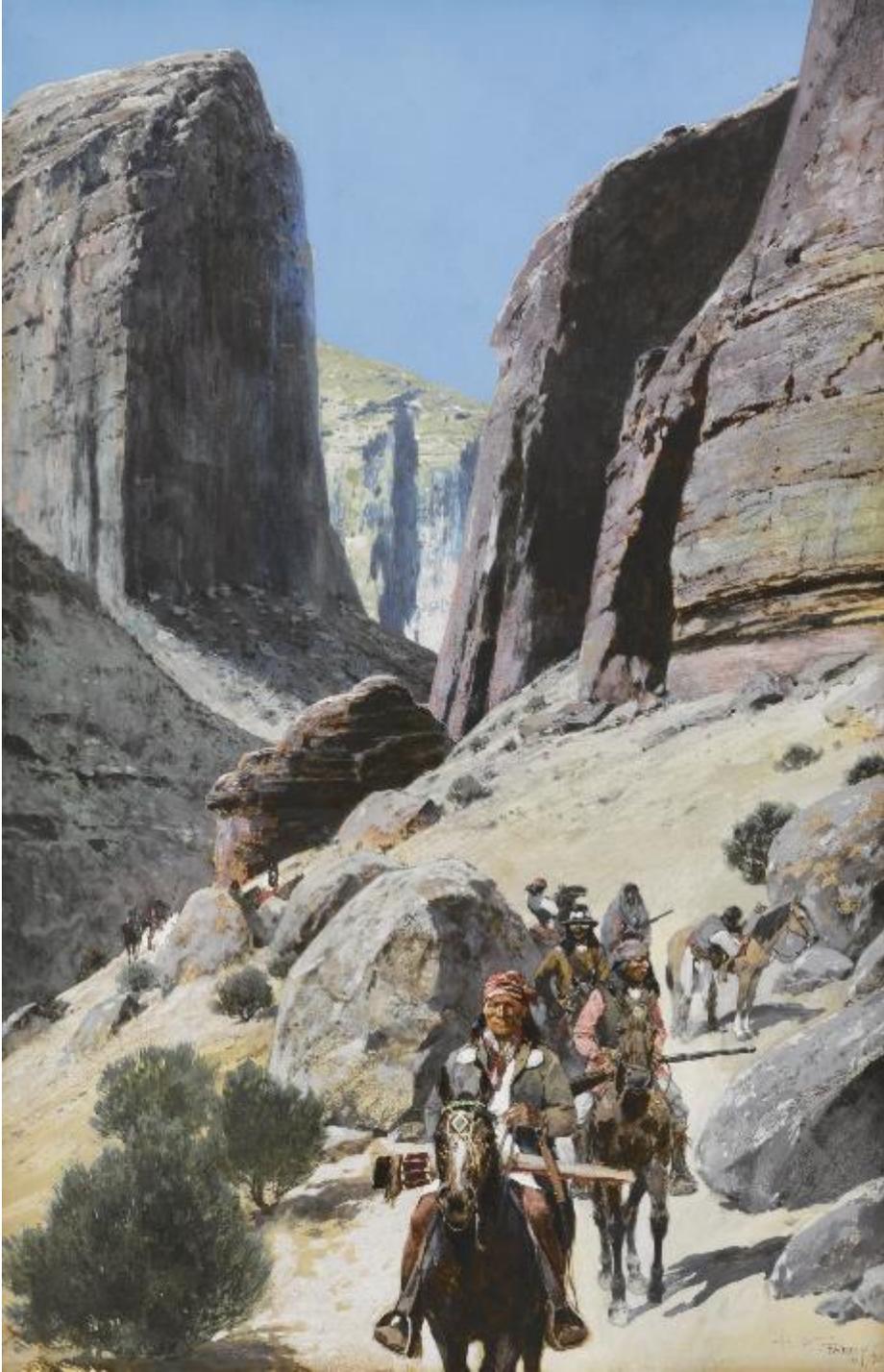
BY HENRY  
FARNY

CINCINNATI  
ART MUSEUM

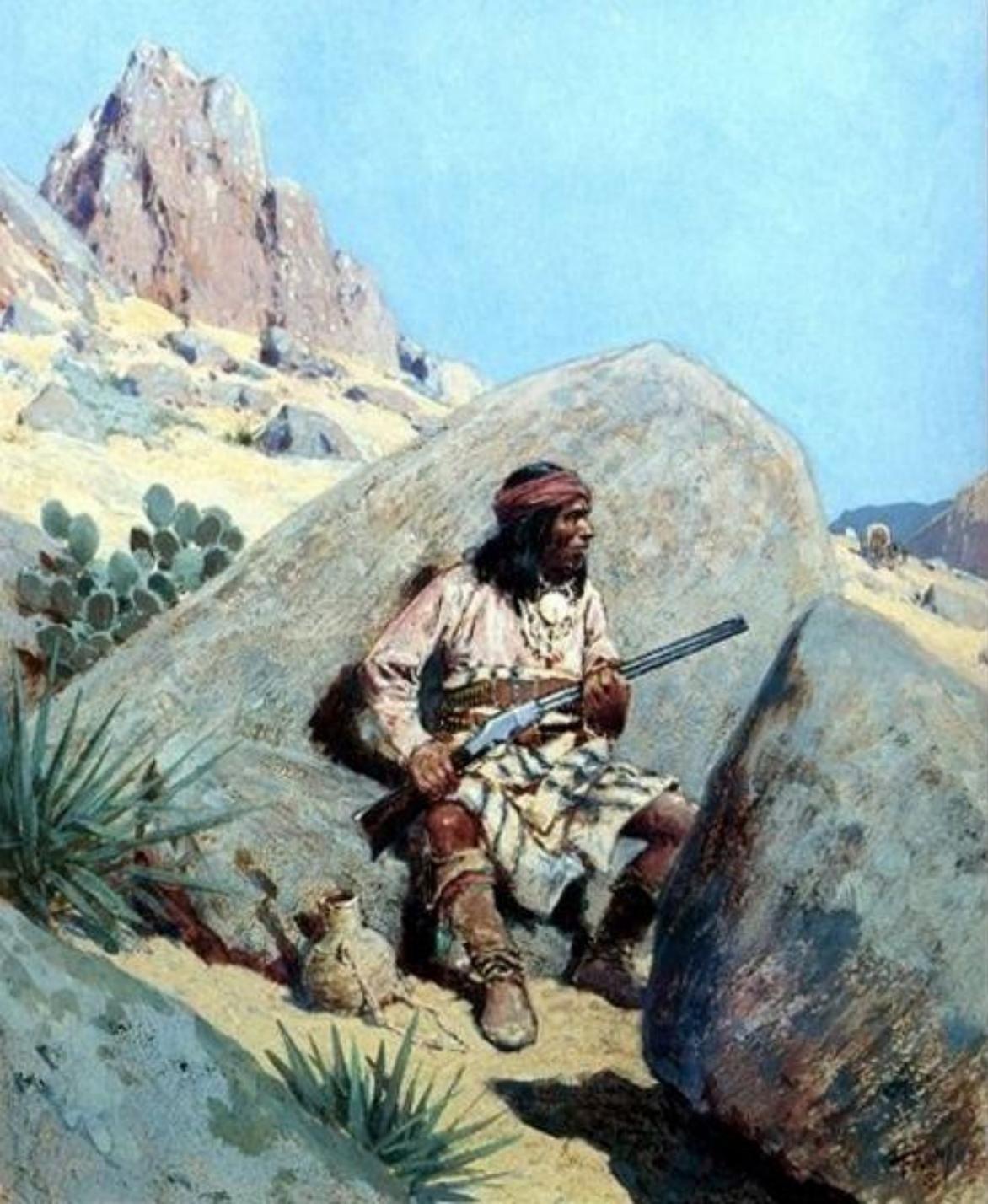


**MORE PAINTINGS BY  
HENRY FARNY**

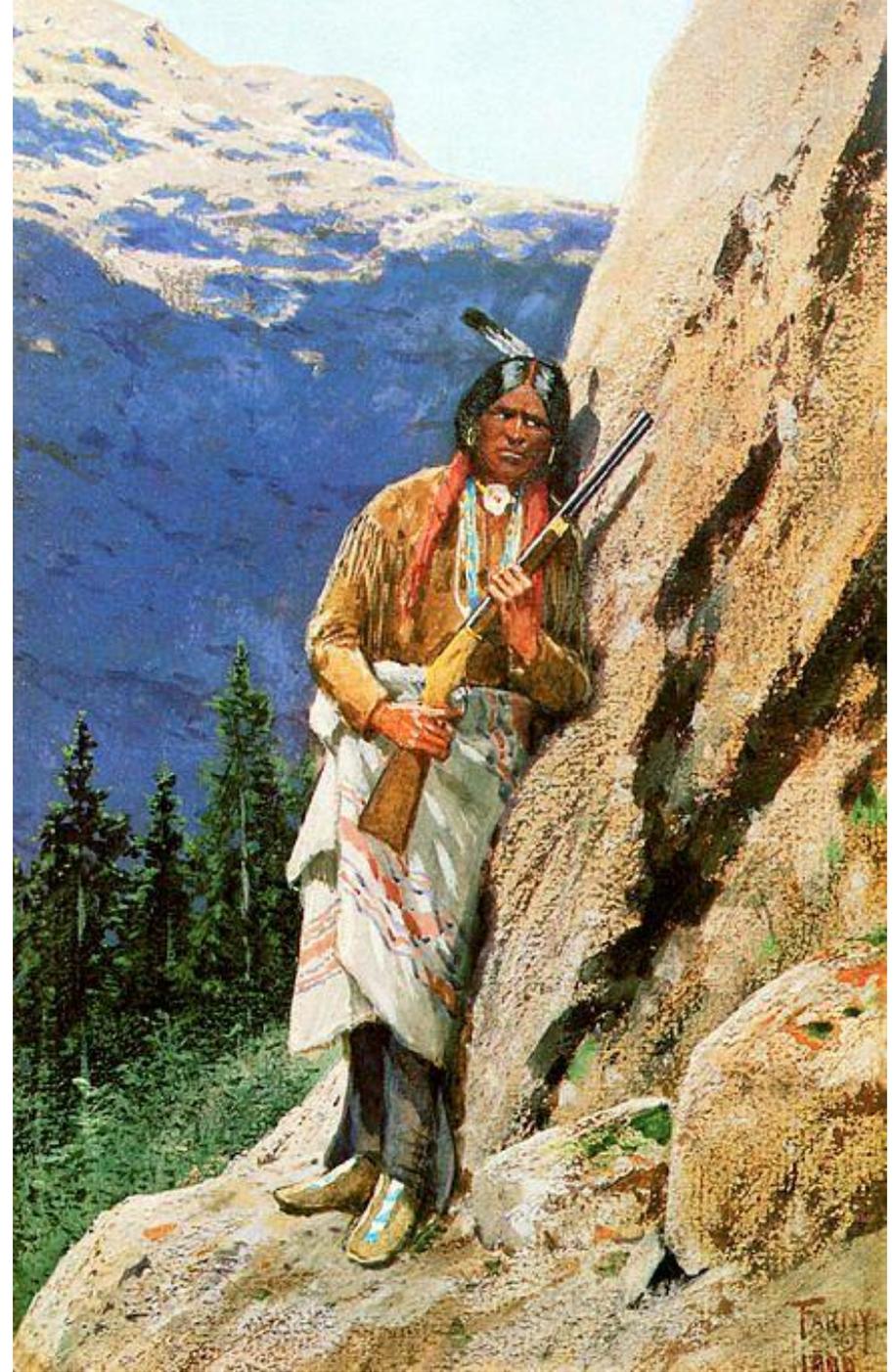
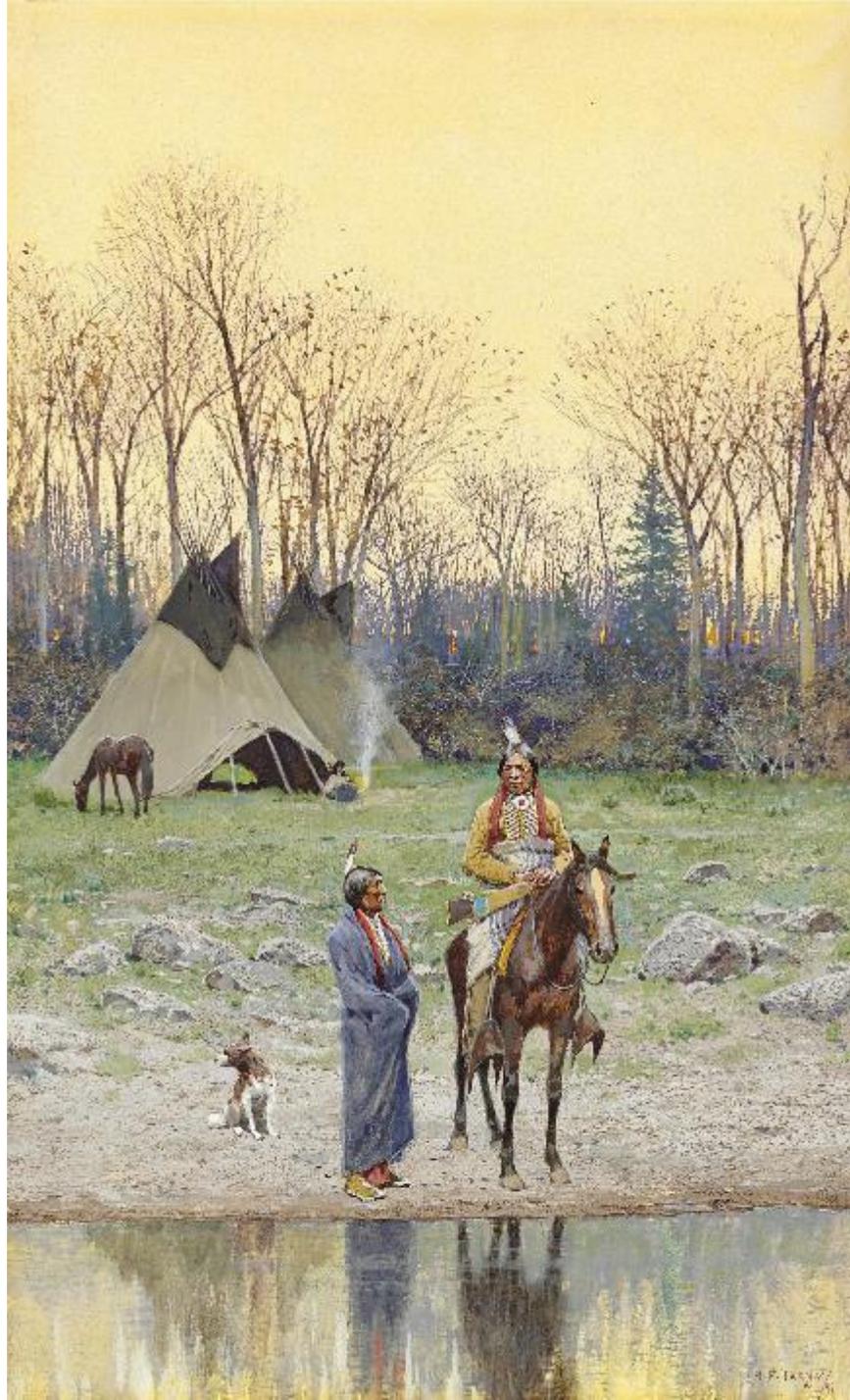


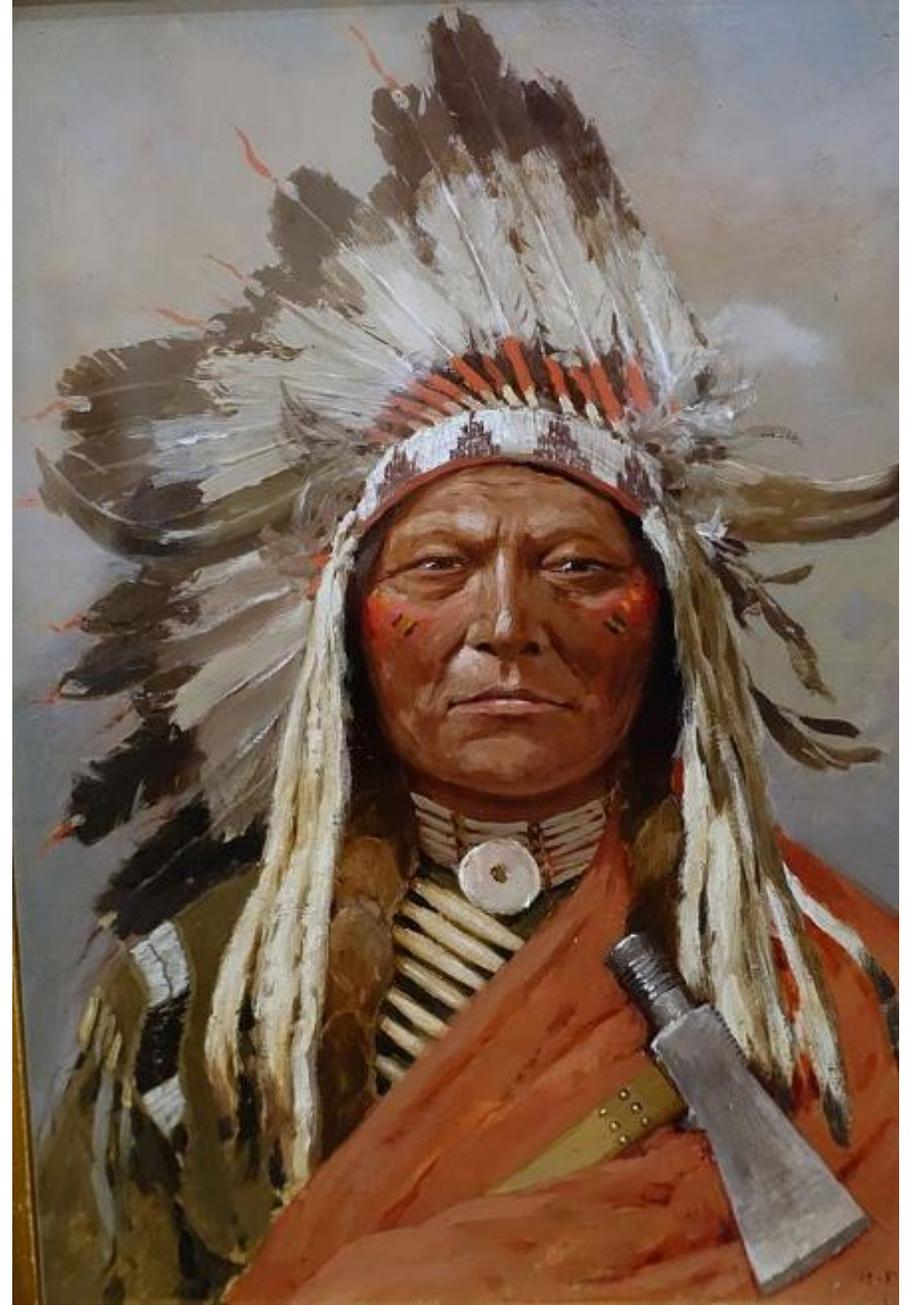












**SITTING BULL**



**PAINTINGS BY ROBERT DUNCAN**

























# MUSIC ENTERTAINERS WHO ARE NATIVE AMERICANS

## ROBBIE ROBERTSON

MAIN GUITARIST WITH THE ROCK N' ROLL  
GROUP  
**THE BAND**

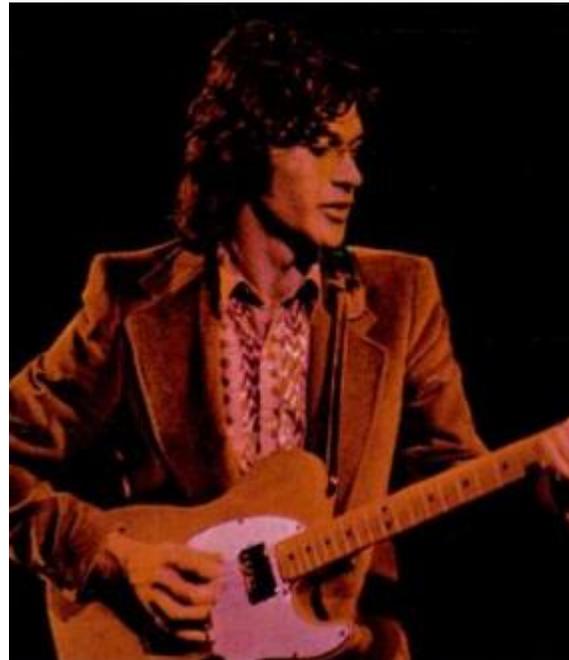
He was born Jaime Royal Robertson on July 5, 1943 and an only child.

His mother was Rosemarie Dolly Chrysler, who was Cayuga and Mohawk, raised on the Six Nations Reserve southwest of Toronto, Ontario.

He often travelled with his mother to the Reserve, to visit her family.

It was here that Robertson was mentored in playing guitar by family members, in particular his older cousin Herb Myke.

He became a fan of rock 'n' roll and R&B through the radio.



ROBBIE PLAYING LIVE  
WITH THE GROUP  
"THE BAND"



## MILDRED BAILEY



Mildred Bailey was a jazz singer hailing from Tekoa, Washington.

**Her mother was a Coeur d'Alene, and Bailey grew up on the tribe's reservation in Idaho.**

Bailey enjoyed considerable success during the 1930s, leading to her being acclaimed as the **"Queen of Swing"** among many other nicknames.

**Her most successful hits included "Please Be Kind," "Says My Heart," and "Darn That Dream."**

During the height of her career, Bailey refused to hide her identity and credited the songs of her upbringing with influencing her involvement in the jazz genre.

## **BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE**

Buffy Sainte-Marie is a Canadian-American indigenous musician with a career spanning an incredible six decades.

**She was born in Saskatchewan and abandoned when she was an infant.**

**She was soon adopted by parents of Mi'kmaq descent in Massachusetts.**

During her career, she has released 17 albums, the latest being Medicine Songs.

**In the 1970s, Sainte-Marie was blacklisted from American radio stations for her involvement in the Red Power movement.**





**THE GRANDMOTHER OF MUSICIAN JIMI HENDRIX WAS A CHEROKEE NATIVE AMERICAN**

## "RUMBLE"

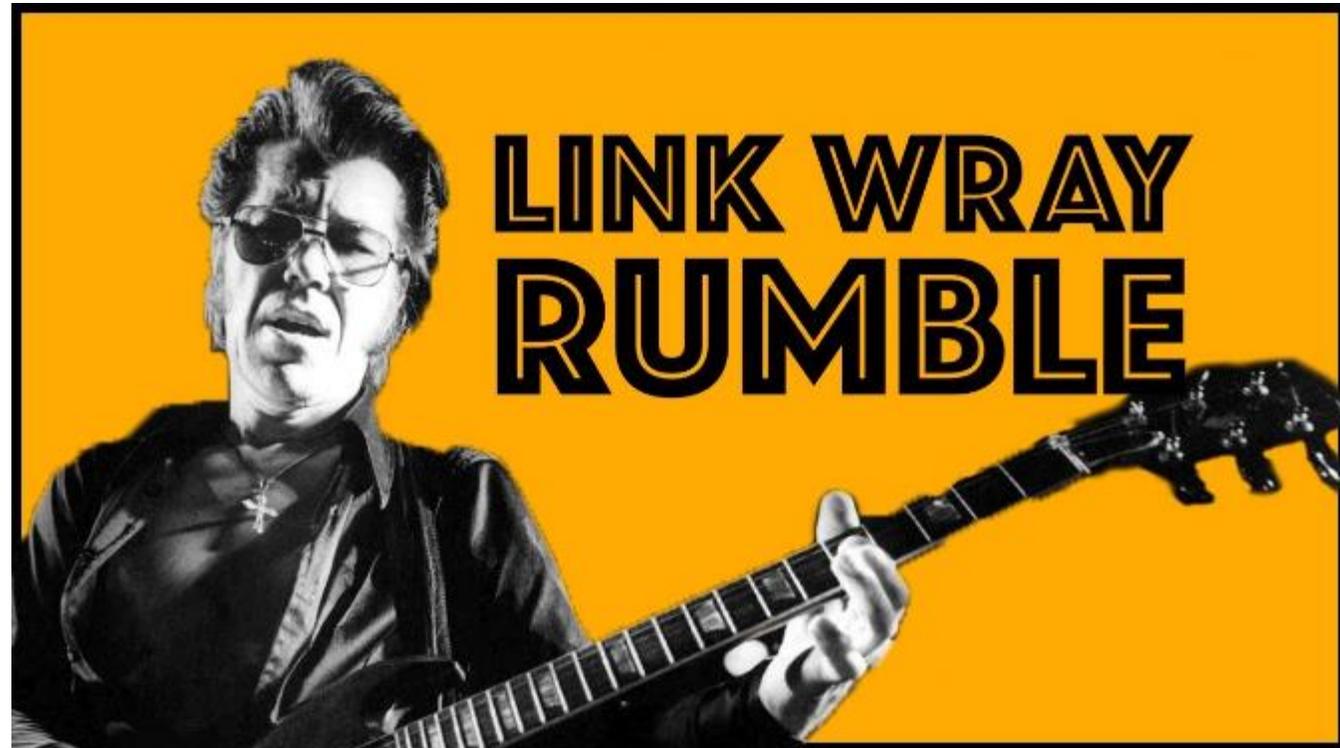
It is an instrumental by American group Link Wray & His Ray Men.

Released in the United States on March 31, 1958, as a single, "Rumble" used the techniques of distortion and tremolo, then largely unexplored in rock and roll.

In 2018, the song was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in a new category for singles.



**LINK WRAY – THE NATIVE AMERICAN GUITARIST, WHO STARTED ROCK N’ ROLL !**





**MADMAN**



**THE END**

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/tending-the-wild/untold-history-the-survival-of-californias-indians>

<https://www.powwows.com/facts-about-california-native-american-tribes/>

<https://factcards.califa.org/cai/caimenu.html>

<https://native-american-indian-facts.com/California-American-Indian-Facts/California-American-Indian-Facts.shtml>

<https://www.california.com/californian-tribes-regional-guide-golden-state-indigenous-peoples/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous\\_peoples\\_of\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_California)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_in\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_indigenous_peoples_in_California)

<https://www.phototraces.com/b/california-landscapes-photography/>