**INFORMATION CARDS**

**BC First Nations**

**The Subarctic – (Northeast) Hunters**

- lived in the northern forests, a land made up of rocks, rivers, lakes, and

coniferous forests

- soil is thin (not good for farming)

- winters are long and cold, summers are short

- food, clothing, shelter, and tools are obtained through the use of small

and large game animals, fish (freshwater), and birds

- generally lived in families or small groups

- gathered in larger groups for seasonal hunting

One group…Tahltan

Tahltan social organization is founded on MATRIARCHY and intermarriage between two main clan designations. The two main clans of Tahltan people are Tses' Kiya (pronounced Tses-kee-ya) (CROW) and CheYonne *(*pronounced Chee-oanah) (WOLF) These two clans are further subdivided into four parties:

1. **Kartchottee (Raven)** - This family originated in the Interior toward the headwaters of the Taku River. This is the most numerous family of the tribe, also represented by the frog.
2. **Nanyiee (Wolf)** - Also represented by the brown bear, the killer whale and the shark. This family originated near the headwaters of the Taku River, moved towards the ocean and settling among the Stitkine Tlingit; and then ascended the Stikine River and became a family of the Tahltan.
3. **Talarkoteen (Wolf)** - Originating near Peace River in the Interior, these peoples followed Liard River to Dease Lake and then crossed to the Tuya.
4. **Tuckclarwaydee (Wolf)** - Also represented by the brown bear, the killer whale and the eagle. This family is credited as being the founders of the Tahltan tribe, originating in the interior near the headwaters of Nags river.

As early as 10,000 years ago, the Tahltan people used obsidian from Mount Edziza to make tools and weapons, and as an important trading material.

**INFORMATION CARDS**

**BC First Nations**

**Pacific Coast - The Fishers**

- lived on the Northwest Coast, a land made up of mountains, oceans,

and rainforests (mild climate)

- oceans are the main source of food providing fish, sea mammals,

shellfish, birds

- birds, deer, and other game were found on the coast

- berries and plants were used for food and medicine

- cedar trees provided the material for lodging and sea-going canoes

- canoes used for travel and trade

- lived in villages

One group was the Haida…

The Haida were known for their craftsmanship, trading skills, and seamanship, particularly in their large red-cedar canoes (some carried as many as 60 paddlers). They were thought to be warlike and to use slaves. They have been compared to Vikings by some anthropologists.

There is some debate about how people arrived on the Islands but what is certain is that possibly as far back as 13,000 years ago a group of people inhabited these Islands and developed a culture made rich by the abundance of the land and sea.

The Haida, a linguistically distinct group with a complex class and rank system, occupied more than 100 villages throughout the Islands, with established trade links with their neighboring First Nations on the mainland and farther north and south. Traditionally, each village was an independent political unit and, to a great extent, each family in a village was an independent entity. All Haida, however, belonged to one of two social groups — the Eagle or the Raven, sometimes referred to as moieties or clans. Haida always married a member of the opposite group. Clan membership was matrilineal, and each group contained more than 20 lineages. Individuals publicly proclaimed clan membership through an elaborate display of inherited family crests, carved on totem poles erected in front of houses and carved or painted on canoes, cedar boxes, masks, and utilitarian and decorative objects.

**INFORMATION CARDS**

**BC First Nations**

**The Plateau – (North and South Interior) Gatherers and Hunters**

- lived in the interior of what is now British Columbia, a land made up of

mountains, valleys, and many rivers and small streams

- most food was gathered from the environment (nuts, berries, and plant

roots) but they also hunted

- freshwater fish (especially salmon), game animals, and birds were

available

- summers were hot and dry in valleys but cooler on mountain slopes

- heavy snow in winter

One group is the Secwepemc First Nation…

Interior Salish comprise Lillooet, Shuswap (now Secwepemc), Thompson (now Nlaka'pamux) and Okanagan are the four First Nation groups in the interior of British Columbia (although Okanagan territory extends into Washington state) who speak languages belonging to the Interior Salish division of the Salishan language family.

The Secwepemc People, known by non natives as the **Shuswap**, are a Nation of 17 bands occupying the south central part of the Province of British Columbia, Canada. The ancestors of the Secwepemc people have lived in the interior of BC for at least 10,000 years. Formerly their territory was vast, extending from the Rocky Mountains in the east to the Fraser River in the west, and ranging from Williams Lake in the north to Armstrong in the south.

During the winter months Interior Salish lived in villages consisting of clustered semi-underground dwellings known as pit houses. Here they existed on the provisions they had prepared and preserved at other times of the year. These pit houses were constructed in circular or squarish holes dug about 2 m deep and about 8 m in diameter. The rafters forming the conical roof of each pit house were thickly insulated with earth and grass to protect the people inside from the cold. Sometimes rectangular or conical tule-mat lodges were used as winter homes by the Interior Salish, but such dwellings were most often used during warmer months.