




About the Presenter



Kayla Cox was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She is Koyukon Athabaskan, Tlingit and European. She has been working in the field for 3+ years and is passionate about helping others. She has an associates in Human Services and Bachelors in Counseling Psychology.

Today's Presentation

- Today's Presentation
- Values
- Cultural Norms
- Tribes and Regions
- Historical Trauma
- Historic Change
- Traditions Carried On
- Cultural Considerations
- Questions
- References

Cultural Values

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

Each person has a special gift

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE

Giving makes you richer

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

You are reflection of your family

ACCEPT WHAT LIFE BRINGS

You cannot control many things

HAVE PATIENCE

Some things cannot be rushed

LIVE CAREFULLY

What you do will come back to you

TAKE CARE OF OTHERS

You cannot live without them

HONOR YOUR ELDERS

They show you the way in life

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE

Many things are not known

SEE CONNECTIONS

All things are related



Cultural Norms



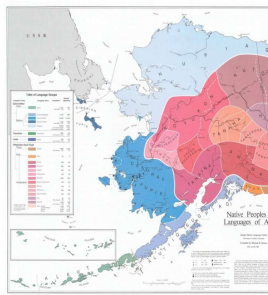
- Seasonal Villages
- Relational Sustainability
- Ceremonies
- Storytelling
- Avunculate Culture
- Shamans
- Trade



Tribes and Regions

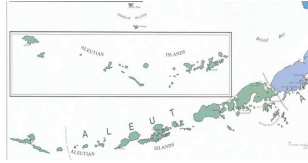
6 Main Groups

1. Unangan/Aleut, 1750 – 1780
2. Sugpiaq/Alutiiq, 1760 – 1790
3. Yupik, 1780 – 1840
4. Inupiaq, 1850 – 1870
5. Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Eyak 1780 – 1800
6. Athabascans, 1800 - 1870



Unangan/Aleut

- Food and Drink
- Whaling
- Technology
- Kinship Patterns
- Auntie/Uncle Culture



Interesting Facts:

- Did not speak unless something very important needed to be said
- Invented kayak
- Society allowed for retirement
- Despite emphasis on male hardiness, there was a recognized role in for the male transgender. They were often considered experts in healing. They were viewed as "Two Spirits" and permitted to choose the role they played.
- When near end of life, some men went out into their kayaks never to return



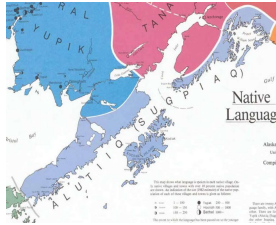
Today:

- Despite centuries of colonial influence from both Russia and the United States, and brief Japanese occupation during World War II, the Unangaꝯ today are a community dedicated to preserving their heritage.
- Their cultural identities are a combination of Unangan, Russian, and American.
- Most Aleut villages are made up of the Russian Orthodox faith and many have Russians names and surnames



Sugpiaq/Alutiiq

- Kinship Patterns
- Seasonal Villages
- Subsistence
- Auntie/Uncle Culture
- Housing
- Community House
- Whaling



Interesting Facts:

- Divorce uncommon but easy to accomplish
- Polygamy and polyandry uncommon choices but accepted
- Russians believed Alutiiq favored their daughters over their sons
- Had executive councils that made decisions for the group, people were chosen to serve based on experience, wisdom, respectability.
- Invented Ulu





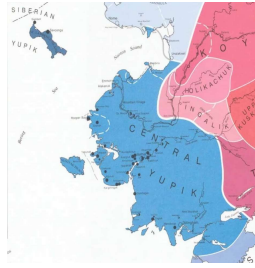
Today:

In the 21st century, the Alutiiq live in coastal fishing communities in more modern housing. They work in all aspects of the modern economy, while also maintaining the cultural value of subsistence.



Yup'ik

- Seasonal Villages
- Community Building
- Kinship Patterns



Interesting Facts:

- Children were named after recently passed on relatives and reincarnation was believed to happen. It was believed the child would get the spirit of the relative. After child was born, it was taken to the community gathering center where the parents would introduce the newly returned spirit
- Main belief among Yup'ik was that it takes a whole villages to raise a child



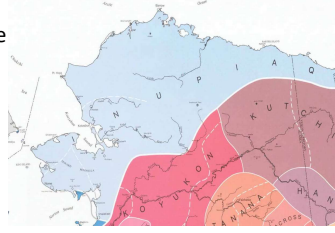
Today:



Yup'ik people have been able to maintain their culture, communities, and language to a much greater extent than other Alaska Natives groups.



Inupiaq


- Kinship
- Auntie/Uncle Culture
- Umailik









Interesting Facts:

- Inupiaq means "the real people"
- Believed all men were created equal







Interesting Facts:

- Tools were brilliant and during the late 19th century they saved a lot of Yankee whalers whose ships were stuck in the ice
- Song Duels settled disputes

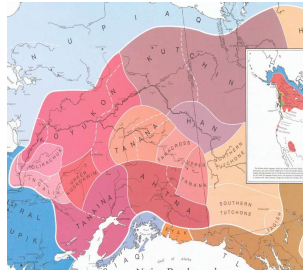
Today:

- Umailik and whaling is still an important part of Inupiaq culture.
- Great number of special behaviors were given to various animals
- Nalakutaq is still carried on today with the blanket toss after a successful whale hunt.



Athabascan

- Leadership
- Status
- Trade
- Storytelling
- Ceremony



Athabascan


Interesting Facts:

- During the potlach, hosts were expected to give the best of what they had and were often times left nearly destitute afterwards.
- Gift giving was extremely competitive




Interesting Fact:

- The only Athabascan group to live by the ocean was the Dena'ina who resided in along the shores of Cook Inlet where they still reside today.
- Some stories and ceremonies that existed pre-contact, such as the Stick Dance and the story of the Nahani, still exist today.



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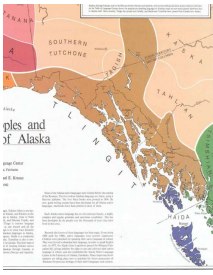
Today:

- Athabascans still reside on their traditional lands in the interior and have the largest land base of any other Alaska Native Group
- They are efficient hunters of moose and caribou. There are 11 different languages spoken by Athabascan peoples
- In the summer, many Athabascans spend at fish camps on major rivers in the interior

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Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian & Eyak


- Matrilineal
- Clans
- Houses



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Interesting Facts:

- The Totem pole is cultural symbol only found among the Tlingit & Haida
- Tlingit & Haida made elaborate tools to harvest salmon, including stone traps that took advantage of tides and trapped fish inside as the tide went out



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Interesting Facts:

- Halibut hooks were carved with pictures of powerful spirits which fishermen called upon for help
- The Haida were considered the fiercest raiders of the coast

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Today

- Tlingit tribes are also called Kwaans
- Tlingit and Haida arts are strong and remain a central part of life today. Many artists have devoted their lives to the arts such as totem pole carving, weaving, metal work, basketry, paper, fabric, and glass work
- Subsistence remains a central part of modern Tlingit and Haida life, and many rely on the land for commercial fishing

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Historical Trauma

Historical Trauma: The concept of historic trauma explains the unending cycle of trauma and despair in indigenous communities.

- Western Contact
- Clergy
- Alcohol
- WWII: Unangan forcibly relocated and treated as wards of the government



Historical Trauma

- Boarding Schools: Alaska Native children taken from their homes and villages and placed in boarding schools where sexual, physical, verbal, emotional, cultural abuse was rampant.
- Churches: churches shamed Alaska Natives for speaking their languages, singing their songs. Missionaries beat children for speaking. Sexual abuse in villages through clergy was rampant. One village, an entire generation was sexually abuse
- High Rates of: alcohol and substance abuse, domestic and sexual violence, sexual abuse, suicide, disproportionate rates of incarceration, poverty and high unemployment rates



Historical Changes

- Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) 1912
- Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) 1915
- Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) 1966
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 1971
- Tribes 1994



Traditions Carried on Today

- Subsistence
- Relational Sustainability
- Song & Dance
- Ceremonies: storytelling, song & dance, steam bath, potlatch, being given native names
- Auntie/Uncle Cultures
- Elders
- Traditional medicines and healing



Cultural Considerations

- Eye Contact
- Showing up Empty Handed
- Wasting
- Elders
- Relational
- Over speaking
- Boasting
- Generalizations
- Village Alaska
- Language barriers
- Potlatch vs. Potluck



Questions?

References:
The Native People of Alaska: Traditional Living in a Northern Land, Steve J. Langdon
Alaska Natives Tribes, ANCSA Corporations, and other Organizations, Lydia Hayes



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