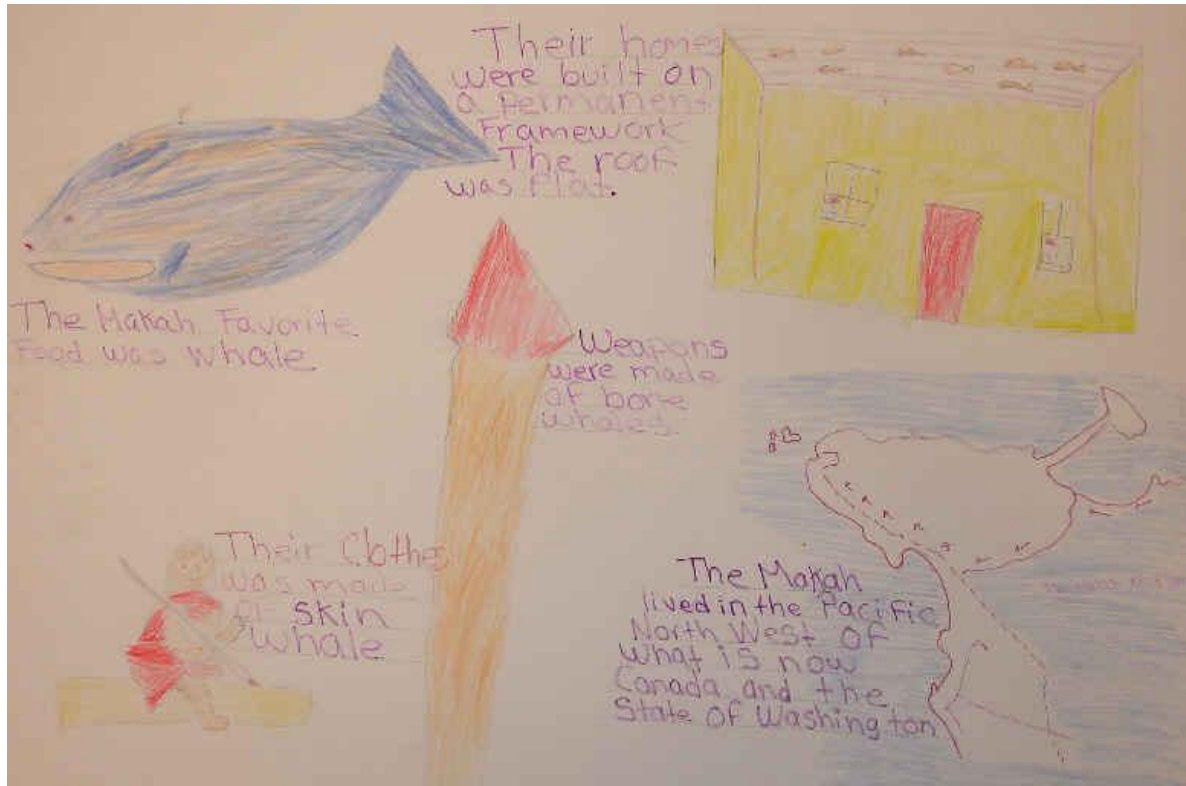


MAKAH

by Isaac



Food:

The Makah Indians are a tribe located in the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula located in Washington . The land and waters around the Makah territory contained many land and sea animals, mostly sea foods like whales, fish, crabs, mussels, and more. People really enjoy eating whale. The Makahs liked whale the best, Makahs would generally hunt a Gray whale and use much of its meat for oil. The whale was killed by stabbing it with a harpoon that was attached to inflated seal skins to prevent it from diving. When they went hunting, they hunted for elk and deer mostly. Then, they gathered seagull eggs and hunted seal that are added on to the list. Then, Men did all of the hunting and women did all of the gathering the Makahs are very well and determined hunters and gatherers. Makahs used parts of whales for food, oil, ropes, and bags.

Dwellings:

The Makah houses were built on a permanent framework, which implies they were a very stable community. The houses usually had dimensions of 60 feet long by 30 feet wide by 15 feet tall The roofs were flat ~d were made up 'of planks that could be moved around for ventilation or could be removed completely and put on a different house. The flat roof was also used as a platform to lay fish out to dry. Each house usually consisted of many families, which were kept separate by walls. These walls were easily removed when there was dancing, gambling, and feasting between the families. The houses also often contained a wide plank with carved designs.

Religion:

As there are people who sacrifice their lives for others, there are also the creatures of the earth and sea that too give of themselves. The creator provided them with all the foods and healing plants here on mother earth so they may live and learn to love and to teach. They are not to judge others actions or spirits. They are not to look down upon others that have not learned life lessons as we have; they are to help them see. The tradition of the Makah people is to go on this great whale hunt, not for pleasure but to honor spirit. These people are not out every day hunting whales. It's only a few times a year and every part of the whale is used to feed their people. It is not a victory to kill a whale. The victory comes in honoring spirit and providing foods for their people.

Clothing:

The Makahs would use whales to make clothes and shoes. They would use the whales bones to make weapons. They also use different animals to make clothing and sometimes shoes.

Shelter:

The Makah used the wood of the forests to build their houses and special canoes called kayaks that allowed them to fish and hunt whales off of the coast. Since the Makaha were not nomads and did not follow the whale herds most of the year, they would slept in long wooden houses

Weapons

One of the most interesting things the Makahs was how they hunt. They would use the whale bones to make spears. They would tie big rocks to a spear so when they hit the whale it could not go back down. They would also use the whale bones to make shelter. They would also spend months gathering the food and the spears for the whale hunt.

Culture and Beliefs

The Makahs believed in the spirits of nature. They depended upon the gods and whales and that was a large part of their belief system. Much of their art shows symbols of that belief system. They also use totem poles to show their beliefs and family history.