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Northwest Coastal People

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Arrival	The Northwest Coastal People came here over 10,000 years ago.	
Location	West Coast of British Columbia	
Languages	Each main group had their own language, although some groups had a language which was similar to others. The main groups were divided due to having the same language family.	
	<p>The Northwest Coast people have the most diverse languages of any First Peoples group in Canada. It is estimated that there are nineteen distinct languages spoken by the people. However, if the comparable languages are grouped together then the languages spoken in the area can be divided into five main language groups (for convenience sake), and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haida • Tlingit • Tsimshian - Nishga (Nisga'a) and Gitksan • Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka) - Haisla, Heiltsuk, and Kwakwakw'wakw (Kwakiutl) • Salishan (Nuxalk and Coast Salish) 	
Nations	The Northwest Coast can be divided up into several main groups, although some estimates actually put the number of distinct First Peoples groups in British Columbia at 70. The main groups are the Haida, the Tlingit, the Tsimshian, the Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka), and the Salishan.	



Map Source - [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

Haida		
Name	The Haida called the islands on which they lived "Haida Gwaii".	
Location	Queen Charlotte Islands	

		
<p>Language</p>	<p>Haida language - no relation to other language groups</p>	

Haida man in a headdress

Tlingit

<p>Name</p>	<p>Their name comes from what they call themselves - "Lingit", meaning "people".</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>Northwest part of BC, southwest part of the Yukon.</p>	
<p>Language</p>	<p>Tlingit language - no relation to other language groups</p>	

Two Tlingit men in traditional dress

Tsimshian

<p>Name</p>	<p>Their name means "People inside the Skeena River".</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>Along the Nass and Skeena Rivers</p>	

		
<p>Language</p>	<p>The Tsimshian language family can be broken down further into Nishga (Nisga'a) and Gitksan.</p>	

Tsimshian Shaman with drum

Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka)

<p>Name</p>	<p>"Nootka" means "come around" in their native language. When James Cook first encountered them, they told him to "come around" with his ship to the harbour in their language, which he mistakened for their name. "Nuu-chah-nulth" means "all along the mountains", describing the habitat of their people.</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>West Coast of Vancouver Island</p>	
<p>Language</p>	<p>The Nuu-chah-nulth language family can be broken down further into Haisla (Kitamaat), Heiltsuk (Bella Bella), and Kwakwak'wakw (Kwakiutl)</p>	

Nuu-chah-nulth woman

Salishan

<p>Name</p>	<p>"Salishan" refers to the language family. There are numerous groups with numerous languages and dialects within the Salishan language family.</p>	
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Location	Southwest coast of BC, beside Vancouver Island	 <p><i>Coast Salish woman</i></p>
Language	The Salishian language family can be broken down further into Nuxalk (Bella Coola) and Coast Salish.	
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