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The Northwest Coastal People lived on the west coast of Canada, occupying the western shore and the islands of British Columbia, and reaching up into the Yukon.

Tribal Relations



Chilkat blanket, trade 'currency'

- The groups of the Northwest Coast had been trading with each other for 10,000 years, long before the arrival of Europeans.
- Before making a deal, a trade meeting between clans was set up, where they would negotiate a price.
- The value of the trade goods was always measured in terms of 'blankets'.
- Eulachon oil was a major trade item for the Northwest Coast people.

War



Northwest Coast Warrior

- There were often disagreements between neighbouring groups, which could escalate into a full-fledged war.
- The most common cause of war was to acquire property (including land, chilkat blankets, copper, and slaves).
- However, full wars were often avoided, because in Northwest culture, most 'wrongs' could be righted by giving gifts.



Tsimshian war dagger



Haida war canoe



Haida warrior mask



Haida copper shield

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