

Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest

Makah, Muckleshoot, Lummi,
Stillaguamish, Yakama



Makah

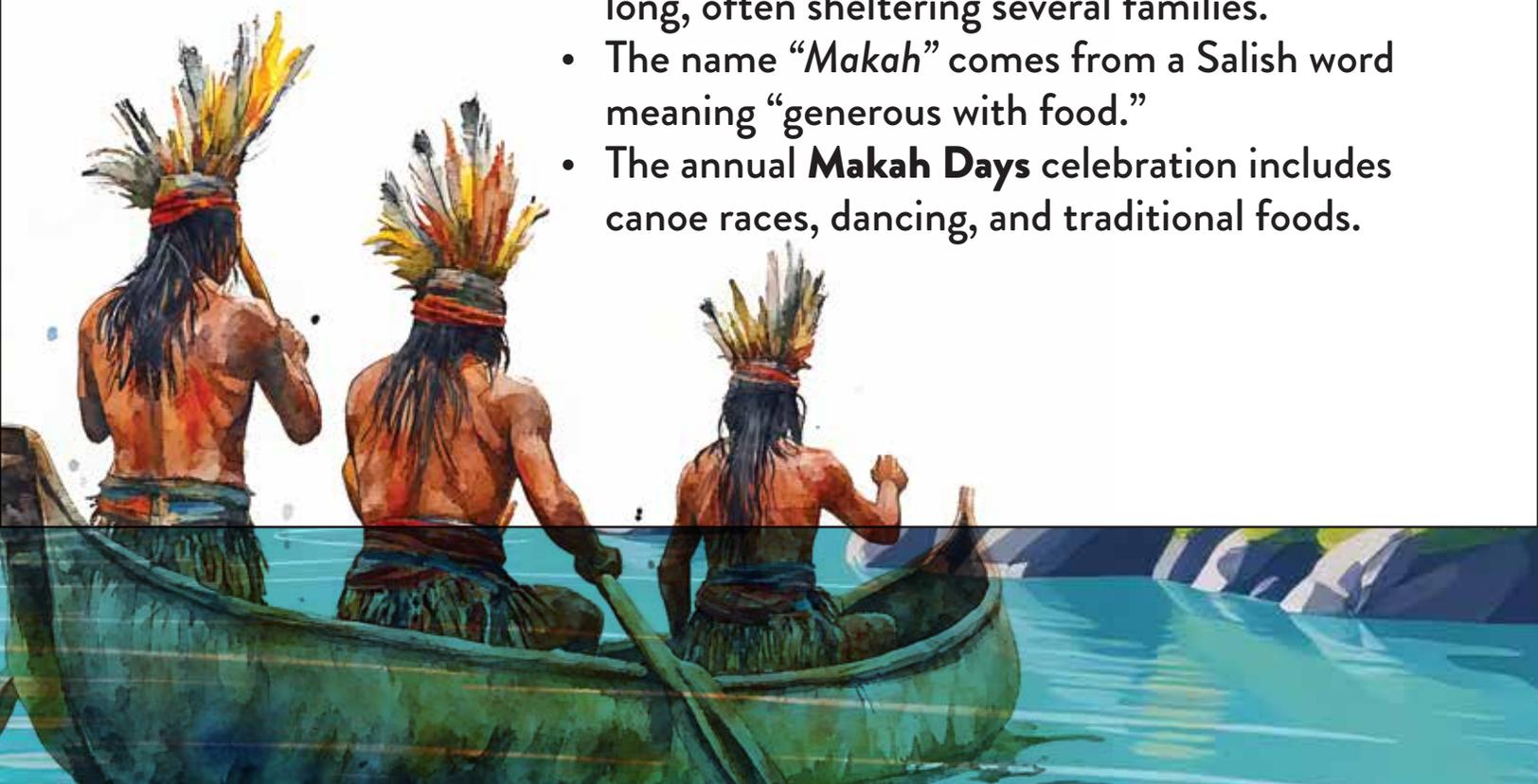
The Makah Tribe has lived for centuries at the northwestern tip of Washington's **Olympic Peninsula**, along the shores of the *Strait of Juan de Fuca*. Skilled mariners, they built large cedar-plank longhouses and relied heavily on whaling, sealing, and fishing. The 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay secured their right to hunt whales, which is a rare legal protection and a reflection of their deep relationship with the sea.

Lifestyle & Culture Today

The Makah Reservation covers more than 27,000 acres and includes the village of **Neah Bay**. While modern homes and businesses stand alongside historic sites, traditions such as cedar carving, weaving, and ceremonial feasts remain essential. The Makah Cultural and Research Center, through its efforts to preserve and share tribal history, highlights a rich heritage while honoring cultural practices.

Interesting Facts

- Makah longhouses could be more than 60 feet long, often sheltering several families.
- The name “*Makah*” comes from a Salish word meaning “generous with food.”
- The annual **Makah Days** celebration includes canoe races, dancing, and traditional foods.



Muckleshoot

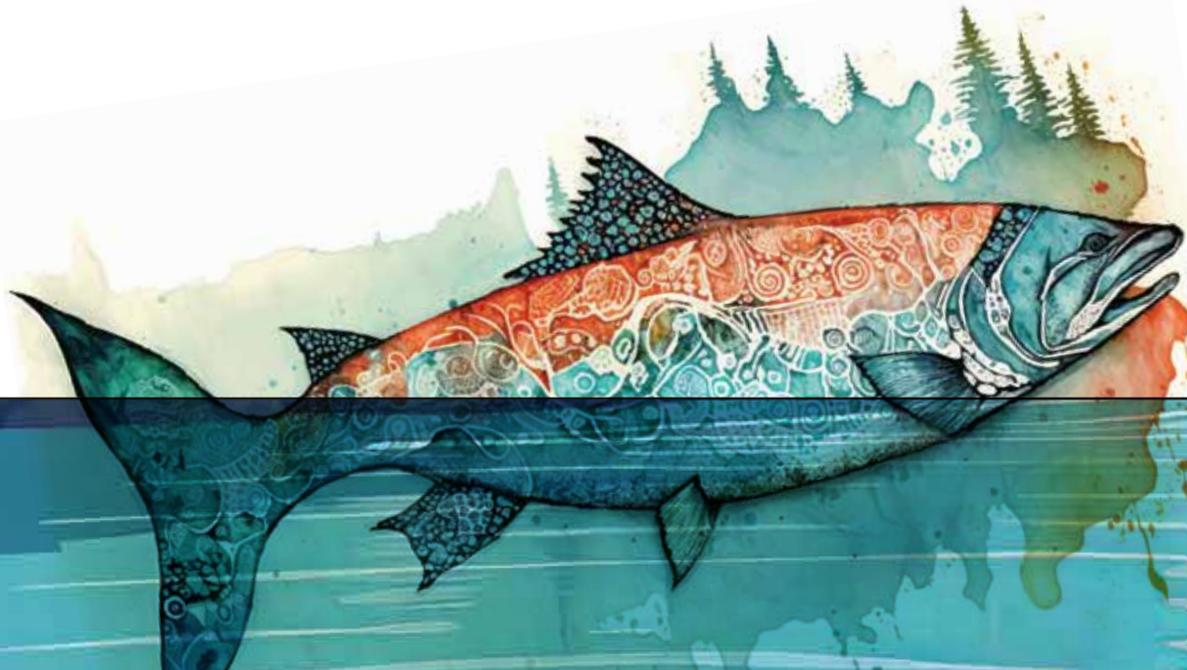
The Muckleshoot people traditionally lived between the White and Green Rivers in what is now southeast **King County**, Washington. Salmon fishing was central to their way of life, providing food as well as cultural and spiritual meaning. They also hunted game and gathered roots, berries, and medicinal plants, moving seasonally to follow natural resources.

Lifestyle & Culture Today

Today, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is recognized for environmental stewardship, especially in salmon recovery. Their reservation near **Auburn**, Washington, is a center for cultural preservation, education, and economic development. Programs pass on traditional fishing methods, language, and arts to younger generations.

Interesting Facts

- The Muckleshoot host an annual **Salmon Homecoming** to honor the species and teach conservation.
- Muckleshoot economic ventures — from gaming to tourism — fund housing, healthcare, and education.
- The name “*Muckleshoot*” refers to the prairie where the tribe’s main village once stood.



Lummi

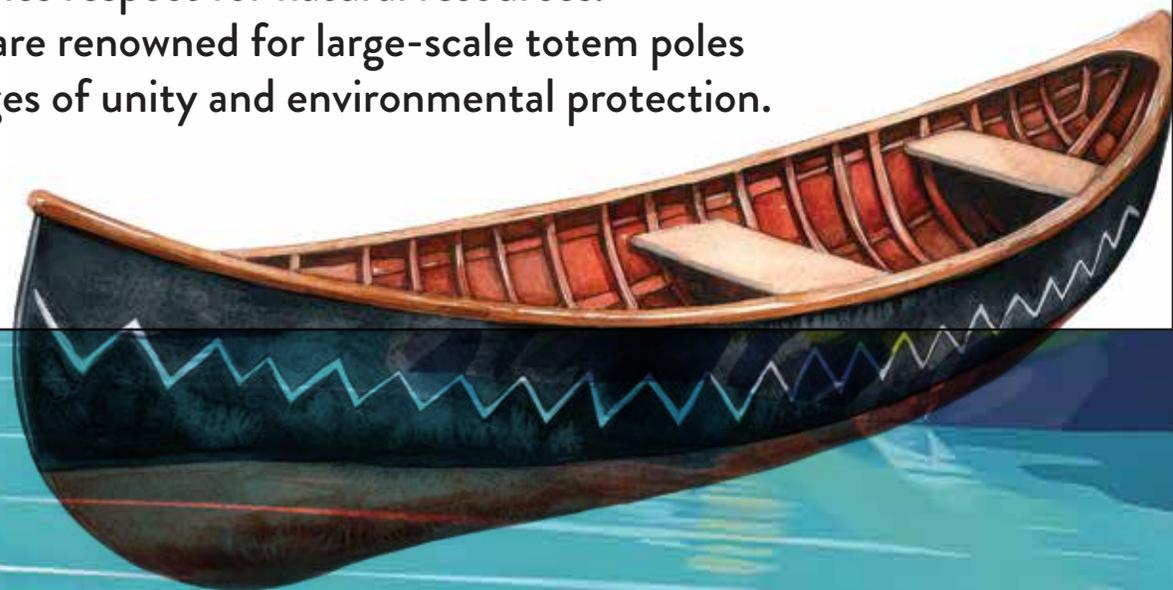
The Lummi Nation's traditional territory spans the northern **Puget Sound** and includes **Lummi Island**, southwest of **Bellingham**, Washington. They are Coast Salish people whose culture centers on fishing, reef netting, and gathering shellfish. For centuries, the Lummi navigated the region's waterways in cedar canoes, traveling for trade and to visit relatives in other coastal communities.

Lifestyle & Culture Today

The Lummi Nation is a leader in protecting the **Salish Sea**. Their advocacy for clean waters and healthy salmon runs reflects their strong environmental commitment. Cultural traditions like weaving, carving, and storytelling remain central to community life, and the *Lummi Nation School* incorporates language instruction and traditional knowledge alongside standard academics.

Interesting Facts

- Lummi reef net fishing is one of the oldest known fishing methods in North America.
- The **First Salmon Ceremony** gives thanks for the salmon's return and teaches respect for natural resources.
- Lummi carvers are renowned for large-scale totem poles carrying messages of unity and environmental protection.



Stillaguamish

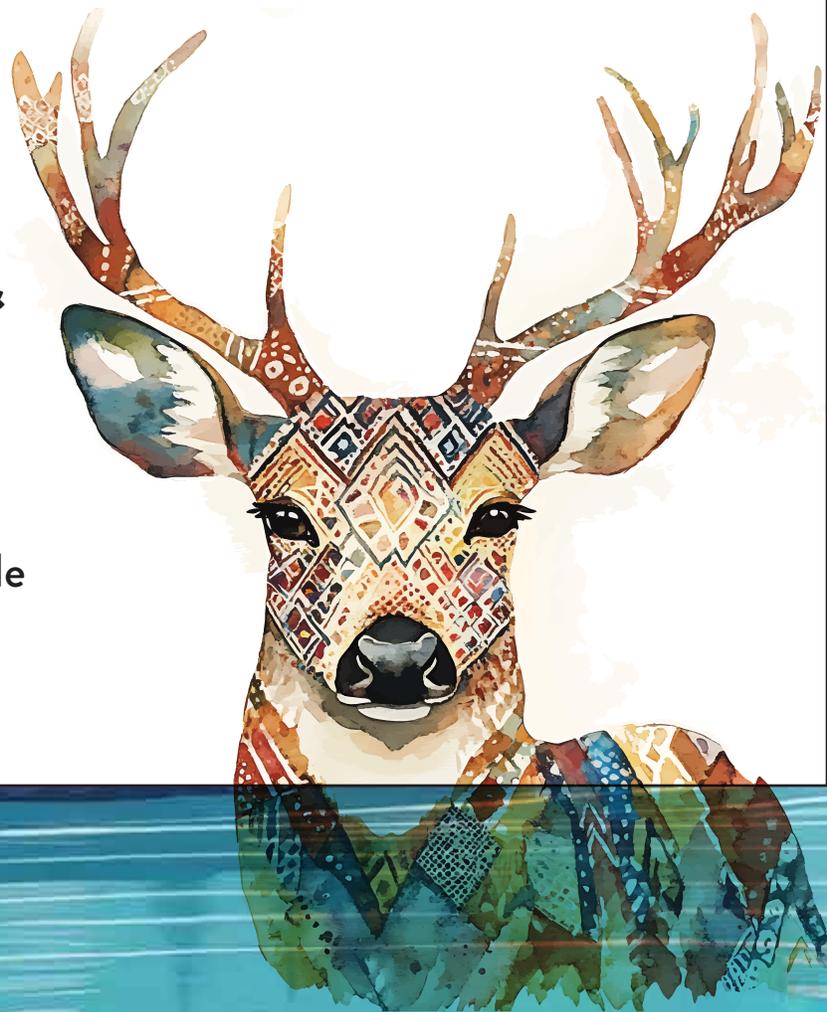
The Stillaguamish people have lived for thousands of years along the **Stillaguamish River** in what is now northwest Washington. Salmon fishing, hunting deer and elk, and gathering wild plants were essential to daily life. They built cedar-plank longhouses and seasonal camps, and like other Coast Salish peoples, traveled rivers and coastal waters in dugout canoes.

Lifestyle & Culture Today

Today, the Stillaguamish Tribe works tirelessly to restore salmon habitat and protect the river ecosystem. Tribal programs focus on environmental stewardship, health services, and cultural education. The community is active in reviving traditional practices like cedar weaving and canoe carving.

Interesting Facts

- Stillaguamish people once raised small, white woolly dogs for their soft fur, used in weaving blankets.
- The annual **Festival of the River & Pow Wow** features music, storytelling, and environmental awareness.
- “*Stillaguamish*” comes from a Lushootseed term meaning “people of the river.”



Yakama

The Yakama people traditionally followed a seasonal round, moving between winter villages in the **Yakima Valley** and summer fishing camps along the **Columbia River**. Skilled fishers, hunters, and gatherers, they relied on salmon, deer, roots, and berries. The Yakama Nation's ancestral territory once covered over 10 million acres in central Washington.

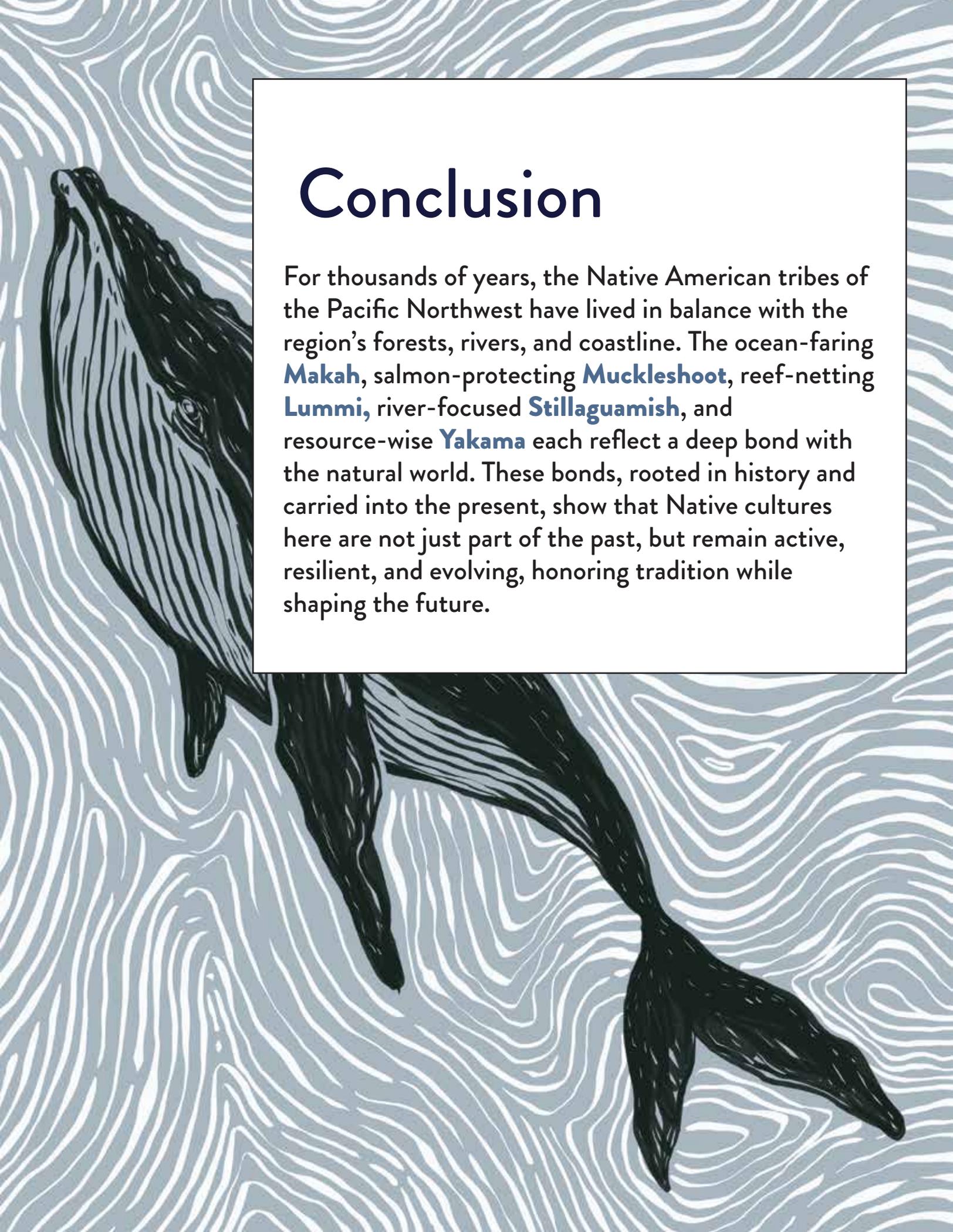
Lifestyle & Culture Today

Today, the Yakama Nation is one of the largest tribes in the Pacific Northwest, with a reservation covering over a million acres. They are active in natural resource management, from forestry to fisheries, and maintain cultural traditions such as root digging, drumming, and dancing.

Interesting Facts

- **Yakama Nation Treaty Days** commemorate the signing of the 1855 treaty and celebrate tribal culture.
- Yakama horsemen are highly skilled riders, a tradition passed down for generations.
- The Yakama are known for intricate beadwork and basketry, blending traditional patterns with modern designs.



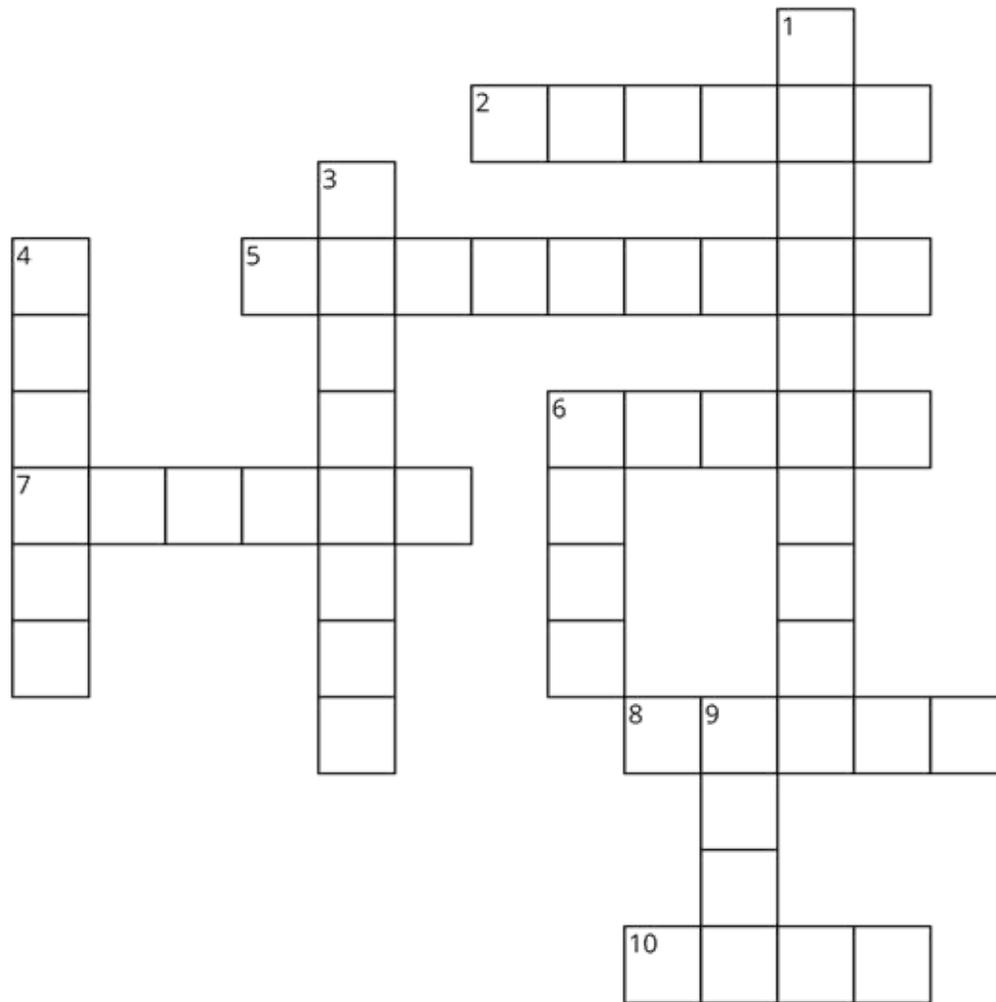
The background of the entire page is a light blue-grey color with a pattern of white, wavy, concentric lines that resemble ripples in water. On the left side, there is a stylized illustration of a whale's head, shown in profile facing left. The whale's body and tail are also visible, extending downwards and to the right. The illustration uses dark blue and black ink with fine lines to create texture and shading.

Conclusion

For thousands of years, the Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest have lived in balance with the region's forests, rivers, and coastline. The ocean-faring **Makah**, salmon-protecting **Muckleshoot**, reef-netting **Lummi**, river-focused **Stillaguamish**, and resource-wise **Yakama** each reflect a deep bond with the natural world. These bonds, rooted in history and carried into the present, show that Native cultures here are not just part of the past, but remain active, resilient, and evolving, honoring tradition while shaping the future.

Mini Crossword

Solve the following puzzle based on the clues given!



Across

- [2]** Spiritual healer and guide
- [5]** Area where land meets ocean
- [6]** Small boat for transportation
- [7]** Ceremonial actions with meaning
- [8]** Symbolic representation of ancestors
- [10]** Artistic face covering

Down

- [1]** Dense, wet forest ecosystem
- [3]** Ceremony involving gift-giving rituals
- [4]** Supernatural force or essence
- [6]** Extended family group or lineage
- [9]** Killer whale

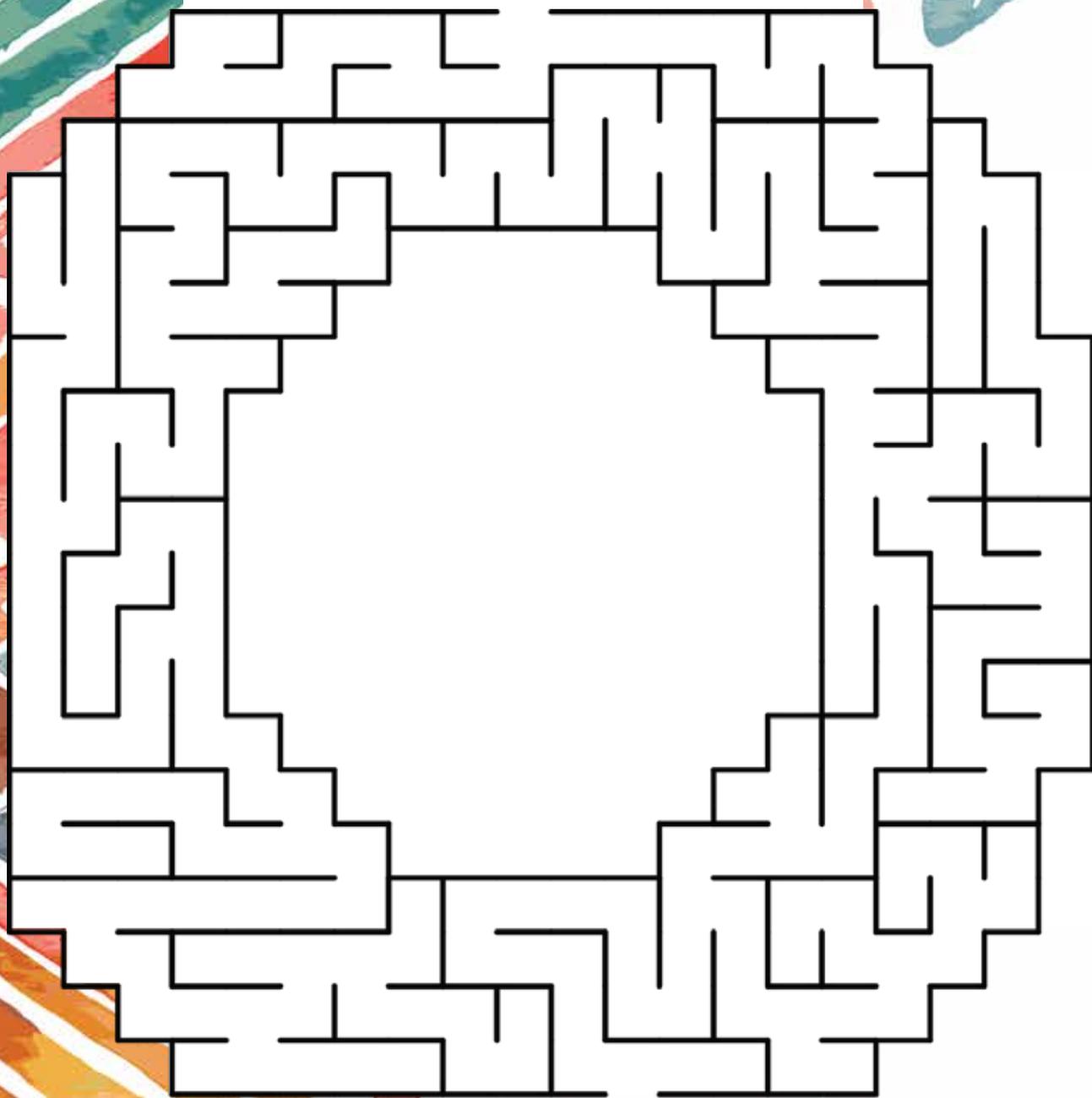
Word Search

M A T C R M I U H M S H C S O C P E
I U R C T T U K S M A A H T I M S A
H O I E T R I O A L L K H U E M M C
P T M S T M A A E H T S A I A N C A
N E E S T I M U C K L E S H O O T N
T R P Y A I F M E I S T L M H M A O
L P S A C S L L A M H K L T S F L E
E O S K C W T L S W W A S T H I G S
H M I A T I A T A L S Y H H S F S
C O M M H M F H E G U E I E M H A C
H M A A H A N I O N U M S I I I N O
N N C Y R O M L C A G A M I K N I A
G I O U A I A S H O E C M I I G H S
L K K S E I N S S M N R C I E H T T
O L O A C T R E A H T T I M S A L A
K L I T I C W O R K S N E A G H W L
F L H F S L W S N S C T C F N S H S
S C N O R T H W E S T U A O T K M M

Words List

Yakama	Pacific	Muckleshoot
Lummi	Makah	Stillaguamish
Northwest	Mariners	Canoes
Salmon	Coastal	Fishing

Maze



Word Scramble

Unscramble the following list of shuffled words to meaningful words!

AINMERR I

OMETT

RIREV I

EOCNA

EMCYOREN Y

EUTRNA

HSISAL I

NRIRVASETEPO I

OLNEGOSHU

WHAIGNL I

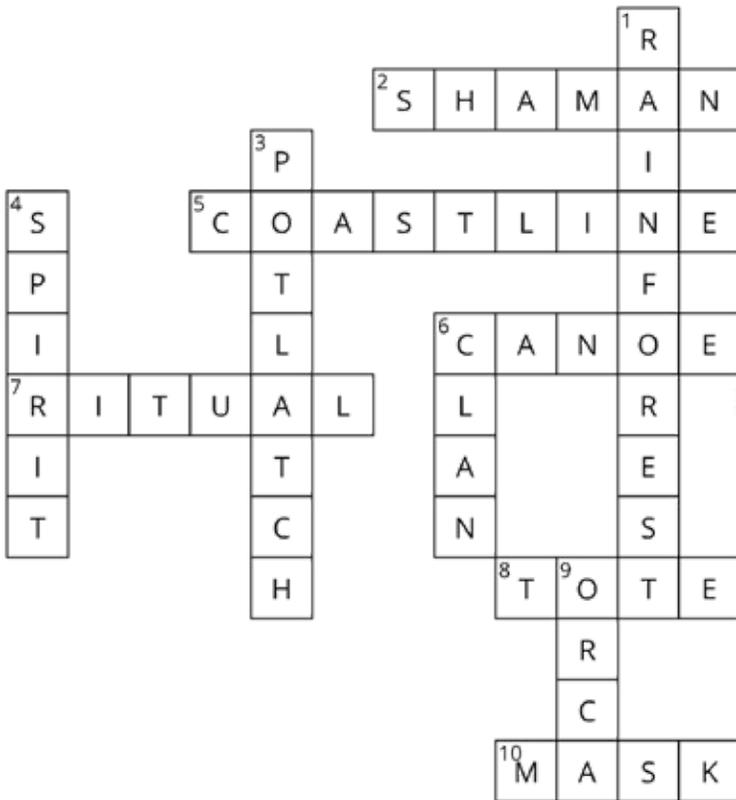
UURNAB

LCMYOIP Y I

HAEN



Solutions



- AINMERR M A R I N E R
- OMETT T O T E M
- RIREV R I V E R
- EOCNA O C E A N
- EMCYOREN C E R E M O N Y
- EUTRNA N A T U R E
- HSISAL S A L I S H
- NRIRVASETEPO P R E S E R V A T I O N
- OLNEGOSHU L O N G H O U S E
- WHAIGNL W H A L I N G
- URNAB A U B U R N
- LCMYOIP O L Y M P I C
- HAEN N E A H

M	A	T	C	R	M	I	U	H	M	S	H	C	S	O	C	P	E
I	U	R	C	T	T	U	K	S	M	A	A	H	T	I	M	S	A
H	O	I	E	T	R	I	O	A	L	L	K	H	U	E	M	M	C
P	T	M	S	T	M	A	A	E	H	T	S	A	I	A	N	C	A
N	E	E	S	T	I	M	U	C	K	L	E	S	H	O	O	T	N
T	R	P	Y	A	I	F	M	E	I	S	T	L	M	H	M	A	O
L	P	S	A	C	S	L	L	A	M	H	K	L	T	S	F	L	E
E	O	S	K	C	W	T	L	S	W	W	A	S	T	H	I	G	S
H	M	I	A	T	I	A	T	A	L	S	Y	H	H	S	F	S	
C	O	M	M	H	M	F	H	E	G	U	E	I	E	M	H	A	C
H	M	A	A	H	A	N	I	O	N	U	M	S	I	I	N	O	
N	N	C	Y	R	O	M	L	C	A	G	A	M	I	K	N	I	A
G	I	O	U	A	I	A	S	H	O	E	C	M	I	G	H	S	
L	K	K	S	E	I	N	S	S	M	N	R	C	I	E	H	T	T
O	L	O	A	C	T	R	E	A	H	T	T	I	M	S	A	L	A
K	L	I	T	I	C	W	O	R	K	S	N	E	A	G	H	W	L
F	L	H	F	S	L	W	S	N	S	C	T	C	F	N	S	H	S
S	C	N	O	R	T	H	W	E	S	T	U	A	O	T	K	M	M

