

Discovering the Past



Product of the Cathlapotle Environmental and Heritage Education Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
About the artist: Charles Funk is a Chinook artist & art teacher who lives in Chehalis, WA.

Seasonal Calendar Coloring Activity

The way of life for the Chinook people followed the seasonal cycle of the plants and animals living in the waters, wetlands, forest, and mountains around the Columbia River. How many activities can you identify in this seasonal calendar?

1. As soon as the first salmon of the season was caught in the spring, the Chinook and other people of the Columbia River celebrated the First Salmon Ceremony. They gave thanks for the yearly return of the salmon from the sea.
2. The Chinook gathered all kinds of berries from early summer until fall. They ate the berries fresh or dried them to store for winter food.
3. From the time the salmon swam back to the river in the spring until the last run in the late fall, the Chinook caught and dried fish to eat, to store for winter, and to trade.
4. Fish was dried by cutting into strips and hanging near a fire.
5. The Chinook were traders. They paddled their canoes up and down the river and along the Pacific coast, exchanging goods with other tribes and Euro-American traders.
6. The Chinook People who lived near the ocean caught crabs and other seafood.
7. Throughout the year, men hunted deer and elk, not just for meat but for the antlers, bones, and hides also.
8. During the winter, many activities took place inside the cedar plank house. While men made and repaired tools, women made new baskets and rush mats. Children sat by the fire and listened as grandparents told stories.