Six Cedar Trees Animals
Kwak’wala and Sliammon Language

INSPIRED BY THE BOOK SIX CEDAR TREES BY MARGOT LANDAHL AND CELESTINE ALECK

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Animal Symbolism

- Different animals symbolize and represent human traits, values and characteristics.
- On many totem poles, animals often represent families crests or clans and are used to tell a story.
Two cultures are identified in the K’omoks First Nation community: Coast Salish (Island-Comox speaking peoples) and Kwakwaka’wakw (Kwak’wala speaking peoples).

Sliammon is one of the Coast Salish Languages.

Traditionally the K’omoks First Nation territory is Coast Salish Territory and the original language spoken in this area is Pentlatch. There are no fluent Pentlatch speakers in this territory, today. The most similar language spoken today is Sliammon from Powell River.

*Language information is as we understand it at this time. Please check in periodically to see if our understandings have changed or if you have information to help improve our understanding.
Using the philosophy of namwayut and the book *Six Cedar Trees* we see an example of combining worldviews and principles from the environment and land we live.

The core competencies guide teachers in the importance of social and emotional learning with our students and this connects directly to the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

Animal symbolism, in some form, and/or all connection to the land, guides how many Indigenous people have lived with this land for thousands of years in relationship to all living things.

The animals represented here are some of the northwest coast animals and are important to many of the people who live in this area. The descriptors are generalized and not specific to one culture. The meanings are important to an individual as well as families and groups.
First Peoples Principles of Learning

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.

Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Learning involves patience and time.

Learning requires exploration of one's identity.

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.
Beaver

Kwak’wala t’sawi

- Creative
- Artistic
- Determined

Sliammon qowut
• Beaver is a diligent collaborator.
• Beaver represents the ways of knowing our Socially Responsibility.
• Through Beaver, we can learn to care for our community and environment by valuing diversity, advocating for others and working together for a greater good.
Black Bear
Kwak’wala t̕ła’yi

- Strength
- Learned Humility
- Motherhood
- Teaching

Sliammon məx̓aɬ
• Bear is a great protector.
• Bear represents the ways of knowing our Personal Awareness and Responsibility.
• Through Bear, we can learn to nurture our own personal well-being by valuing ourselves and our accomplishments; understanding our feelings and making good choices that demonstrate respect for ourselves and others.
Orca
Kwak’wala
max’inux
- Traveller
- Guardian
- Symbol of Good
Sliammon
nəpəm
• Orca is our guardian and navigator of the sea.
• Orca represents the ways of learning our Positive Personal and Cultural Identity.
• Orca teaches us about who we are, where we come from, and to understand our own personal histories by learning the ways of our ancestors.
Raven
Kwak’wala

- Creation
- Knowledge
- Bringer of the Light
- Trickster

Sliammon

p’oho
• Raven is a creative thinker.
• Raven represents how we Think Creatively.
• Raven teaches us to be creative and playful in all that we do.
Salmon
Kwak’wala
kutala
• Dependability
• Renewal
• Provider
Sliammon
θəqay
Salmon

• Salmon is a Critical Thinker.
• Salmon represents how we Think Critically.

• Through Salmon, we learn to observe, analyze and critique information and experiences. Our inquiries, allow us opportunities to question and investigate as well as develop and design plans.
Wolf
Kwak’wala
at'la'nam

• Intelligence
• Leadership
• Strong Sense of Family

Sliammon
ƛaɬom
• Wolf is a great communicator.
• Wolf represents how we communicate.

  Communicate.

• Through Wolf, we can learn to connect and engage with others; gather and share information; and cooperate with others by listening to and respecting each other.
For more info...
See the following websites:

First Voices: (words from this slideshow were obtained from this sit.
  ◦ https://www.firstvoices.com/

K’omoks First Nation:
  ◦ http://www.komoks.ca/about-us

Tla’amin First Nation Language:
  ◦ http://www.tlaaminnation.com/language/

For Teaching resources and connections to the curricular competencies.
  ◦ https://deltalearns.ca/thesixcedars/