Qik’rtarmiut Sug’ucirpet
Kodiak Alutiq People’s Ways of Being Human

nuna
place - physical sphere

nunapet
Ties to our Homeland “our land”

nunapet carlia’arluki
Stewardship of animals, land, sky & waters “taking care of our land”

unguwacirpet
A subsistence lifestyle respectful & sustained by the natural world “our way of being alive”

anernej
spirit - emotional sphere

agayumaukut
Faith and spiritual life from ancestral beliefs to the diverse beliefs of today “we are prayerful”

englarstaisngukut
Humor “we like to laugh”

suuget
people - social sphere

suupet
Our people; we are responsible for each other & ourselves “our people (community)”

cuqllipet
“Our Elders”

ilaapet
Our family and kinship of ancestors & living relatives “our family”

keneq
fire; process - cognitive sphere

Sugt’s stun
niuwacirpet
Our heritage language “our ways of speaking like a Sugt’s stun”

liicirpet
Learning by doing, observing & listening “our way of learning”

piciipet
uswituu’uq
Traditional arts, skills & ingenuity “our ways are wise”

1la
conscience - ethical sphere

ilakuisngukut
Sharing; we welcome everyone “we favor sharing”

sugtanartukut
Trust “we trust”

ling’aklluki
Respect for self, others & the environment is inherent in all values “we respect them”
Alutiiq Alphabet

Aa
Alagnaq
Bitter
Animal

Cc
Cuuteq
Ee
Emaa
Grandmother

Gg
Guinaruaq
Mask

Ff
FanaRuq
Laska

Igalluk
Fish
Especially salmon

Hh
Keghmamluku
To check it repeatedly

Hn
Alaska
Sea Otter

Jj
Sugkmmluku
To crawl on it

Kk
Keneq
Fire

Ll
Arhnaq
To kind of walk, walk for

Mm
Mingglluni
To sew

Nn
Nanwaq
Lake

Ng
Ngng
Ink,
platypus

Oo
Laagaq
Chick

Pp
Patuq
Litt/owner

Qq
Qik’raq
Island

Rr
Ruuwaq
Arrow

Uu
Ulukaq
Ush

Yy
Yaamat
Rocks/rocks
**Kodiak Island Alutiiq Numbers**

1. **Allrlinguq / allriluq**
   - nacaq - headdress
   - One girl is wearing a headdress.

2. **Mal’uk**
   - Tunngak - puffins
   - Two puffins are swimming in the ocean.

3. **Pingayun**
   - Tan’urat - boys
   - Three boys are playing on the road.

4. **Staaman**
   - Skiifat/skiiguat - skiffs
   - I see four skiffs.

5. **Talliman**
   - Giinaruangcut - maskettes
   - Who carved five maskettes?

6. **Arwilgen**
   - Sagit - halibut (pl)
   - Those boys are holding six halibut.

7. **Mallrungin**
   - Culut - feathers
   - Eight feathers are on the table.

8. **Inglulgen**
   - Qayat - kayaks
   - We made ten kayaks.

9. **Qulnguyan**
   - Qatayat - sea gulls
   - Nine gulls are perched on the dock.

10. **Qulen**
    - Manit - eggs
    - I found seven eggs.

*There is a dialectical variation for number one. The first variant given is for the Northern Kodiak sub-dialect (Karluk, Afognak, Larsen Bay, Ouzinkie, Port Lions), while the second is for the Southern Kodiak sub-dialect (Akhio, Kupgiv, Old Harbor).*
On Kodiak Island, Alutiiq people continue to harvest marine mammals for both food and raw materials. In ancestral times Kodiak’s sea mammals were very important to Alutiiq people because they provided a variety of resources. Seals, along with other sea mammals, produced meat and fat for food, oil for light and warmth, hides for boat coverings, and bone and sinew for sewing and tools. Below you will see many examples of how Alutiiq ancestors used each part of the seal, as well as information about present day uses of subsistence seal hunting for traditional and contemporary purposes.

1. Fur/Skin
Seals were hunted from kayaks or from the shore after using a decoy to bring them within range. Wooden seal helmets and inflated seal skins are examples of decoys.

Today seal fur is used in a variety of contemporary ways including clothing, regalia, jewelry, and as a method for indigenous people to celebrate heritage and culture. Currently seals can only be legally hunted by coastal dwelling Alaska Natives with 1/4 blood quantum, as governed by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

2. Fat/ Oil
Seal oil and fat were an essential part of Alutiiq diets in the past. Seals were blubbered using ceramic pots to produce oil or wax that was left to harden naturally in underground pits. Present day we don’t use seal fat or oil served at meals or with dried foods as frequently as in the past centuries; however, we see it on special occasions and in households who have access to the resources.

Seal oil was also used as fuel for stone lamps. A lamp filled with seal oil would provide light and heat for Alutiiq families. Today seal oil is still used to light oil lamps for ceremonies and events in Alutiiq communities. However, another oil may be substituted due to the strong smell of seal oil or it being not readily available.

Seal oil is known to be beneficial for skin, and can aid in the treatment of sunburns. When taken straight in small doses it has also been said to warm a chill and preserve body heat in cold temperatures.

3. Intestines/Stomach
Alutiiq people created waterproof jackets from gut skin. They sewed the seal intestines into flexible, lightweight garments using special waterproof stitches.

Food such as berries, shellfish, and dried meats were once commonly stored in oil inside containers made from dried seal stomach. One delicacy made with the intestines was blanched seal gut. This Native version of sausage was and is prepared using fresh seal intestines. One would start by blowing the long pink tubes of gut, done in saltwater making sure to thoroughly remove the contents. Often the gut was stuffed with heart, liver, and fat before boiling. Three or more strands would be braided as a time to create a leaf three to four feet long and about three inches thick. Once the braid was completed it would be fried, boiled, or boiled.

4. Meat
Seal meat is enjoyed in a variety of ways including dried, boiled, fried, baked, and slow cooked.

Seal meat has a very high nutritional value. It is rich in protein, good fats, vitamins and minerals. It also contains omega-3. This type of fat is thought to aid resistance to heart disease, helps defend against upper respiratory infections. The fat in the seal meat also improves blood circulation.

5. Whiskers & Claws
These were used for adornments and jewelry.

6. Esophagus
The esophagus was used in clothing. It was sewn and dyed as edging on garments.