

Cama'i-Hello

Let's Go Hunting

I am ready to go hunting. Harvesting animals is a big job, and it helps me care for my family. Animals provide us with food and materials. This includes skins for clothing and boat coverings, gut for waterproof rain coats and containers, bone and antler for tools, and whiskers, claws, teeth, and hair for decoration. I will take my bow, a quiver of arrows, and a killing lance. I will watch carefully for tracks and animal trails.

I learned to hunt as a boy. I watched my dad and my uncles. I played with hunting toys and practiced skills like throwing. Dad taught me where to find animals, how animals behaved, and how to judge the weather. Elders taught me to show respect for animals by dressing cleanly, taking good care of my weapons, and never bragging about my success.

I will teach my children to hunt, sharing what I have learned so that they can care for their families one day.



Hunting Luck

I wear a pouch around my neck that holds some dirt from my village. This is one of my nakernat-talismans. It provides luck and protection while I travel and harvest. The bear is also for protection. I made and decorated it myself. I carry sewing tools when I travel. Sometimes I need to repair a hole in my boat or my clothing. Knowing how to sew is important.

Large Animals

Bears are the only large land animals available on Kodiak. We use their large hides for blankets and clothing. To harvest other large land mammals, like caribou and mountain goats, we travel to the mainland.



TAQUKA'ARSURTA

THE BEAR HUNTER



Puppet clothing by Susan Malutin from seal fur, sheared and plucked beaver, and deer hide.

ALAS'KAAQ

ALASKA



CAMA'I

Cama'i is our greeting. It's a friendly, welcoming word that means hello. Say cama'i when you meet a friend or enter a room full of people.



QIK'RTAQ KODIAK

Our people came to Kodiak from Aluuwiq—the Alaska Peninsula to the northwest. Here, there was a chief named Atlivatu whose daughter vanished. Another chief named lakunak helped him search for her. They looked in many places for a long time. From the southern coast of the Alaska Peninsula, they sighted land across the water and called it Qik'rtaq—Island. This is where Kodiak gets its name. Atlivatu and lakunak were curious about Qik'rtaq and investigated. They found many good things and persuaded their families to settle here.

