

# Cama'i-Hello

## Let's Pick Berries

I am going to pick berries. I collect many different kinds—salmonberries, crowberries, alpine blueberries, and low-bush cranberries are my favorite. I pick from midsummer through the fall. Did you know that a frost will make fall berries sweeter? I serve berries fresh, freeze them for winter, or make them into jams and jellies. You can boil berries with sugar to make a hot drink or mix in some cornstarch to make a pudding.

My family enjoys fishing, hunting, and collecting wild foods—like shellfish, greens, and eggs. We have deep connections to the land. Harvesting is part of who we are. It is more than food. It ties us to our ancestors, fills our spirits, and feeds our families.

Sharing food is important. I enjoy giving food to friends and family members, feeding guests, and going to potlucks. My ancestors held big winter festivals where guests visited, feasted, danced, and gave thanks for the harvest. Preparations included making gifts preparing lots food, and decorating.

## Eating Berries

One of my favorite ways to eat berries is in ciitaaq. I mash all kinds of berries, and then stir in some milk. In Alutiiq, my language, ciitaaq means “something mashed.”



## Atkut—Clothes

I am wearing a qaspeq—kuspuk, a shirt traditionally worn by Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Iñupiaq peoples in northern and western Alaska. This garment shows the sharing of cultures. Today Native people across Alaska wear kuspuks. On my head I have a nacaruag—bandana.



# ALAGNARSURTA

## THE BERRY PICKER



Puppet clothing by Susan Malutin from cotton fabric, rickrack, buttons, and glass beads.

# 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.

