

# Cama'i-Hello

## Let's Lead

I was born into a wealthy family. My mother's brother was the village chief when I was young. He was kind, generous, and brave. When he got older, he appointed me to be the chief. My community was pleased with this choice, and I have been leading the village since.

As my family is well off, we have a responsibility to help others. We make sure everyone has a place to hunt and fish. If someone is unable to harvest, we share our catch. We built the community house, and we keep it in good shape for winter festivals. We also maintain an angyaq—large open boat for travel, trading, and leading war parties when we need to defend ourselves.

Chiefs often wear parkas made from rare furs, hats decorated with dentalium shells and amber, fancy jewelry, and tattoos to remind others of our position as a village leader.

## Social Roles

In my village there are wealthy people, commoners, and enslaved people. These positions are inherited. Some people also have special jobs. They train to be whalers, spiritual leaders, healers, or shamans.



## Safety

With help from Elders and advisors, I make sure our community is safe. If someone misbehaves, we discuss the problem and choose a punishment. Then we have a community meeting to share our decision. People who commit small crimes get a light punishment—like kneeling on a rock. People who commit larger crimes receive more serious punishments, even banishment. This teaches respect.

**TUYUQ**  
THE CHIEF



Puppet clothing by Susan Malutin from seal fur tassels, faux fur to resemble sea lion pelt, cotton tassels, yarn, 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.

