

Cama'i-Hello

Let's Go Kayaking

I am ready to travel in my qayaq-kayak. My boat is made of driftwood and animal skins, and I will hunt for sea mammals and birds. I have gear to help. On the deck are harpoons, lances, arrows, and a stunning club. Inside there is a container of fresh water, food, a sewing kit, and amulets for luck, all in an atmak—back pack.

My caguyaq—hunting hat is bent from a single piece of wood. It protects my face and has magical powers that help me kill sea mammals. Hunters decorate their hats with painted designs and sometimes they attach decorations of carvings, beads, feathers, and sea lion whiskers. Some of these designs show great hunts, others show helpful bird and animal spirits. The decorations on my hat reflect my personality, achievements, and role in my community.



My Jacket

My light weight kanaglluk—jacket is made of seal intestine with special stitches. It is waterproof and protects me from rain and sea spray. I can tie the bottom around the opening of my kayak to keep water out and warm air in. My people have been making these coats for over 7,000 years.

Nose Ring

My nose ring is made of dentalium shells. These curved white shells come from southeast Alaska and they are valuable. A pair of dentalium shells can be traded for an entire parka.



PISURTA

THE HUNTER



Puppet clothing by Susan Malutin from seal gut, deer hide, cotton tassels, glass beads, dentalium shells, wooden beads, and craft foam.

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.

