



Ts'msyen
Seasonal
Rounds



Ts'msyen

January

Ha'lisuwiliinsk

Hat-lee-soo-will-een-sk

The Time for Trapping

mooks (m-awe-ks)

snow

lak (luhk)

fire

suwiliinsk (soo-will-een-sk)

hunt/trap

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Ts'msyen

February

Ha'liwilgisiyaask

Hat-lee-will-ghis-ee-ask

The Time of the North Wind

baask (bask)

wind

adaawx (a-dow-hk)

story

'nagyetk (na-ghie-etk)

family

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Ts'msyen

March

Ha'lilaxsi'wāh

Hat-lee-lack-si.wruh

The Time for Getting Oolichans

'wāh (wruh)

oolichan

t'iibn (tea-bin)

sealion

k'ala'aks (kuh-luh-acks)

river

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Ts'msyen

April

Ha'lilaxsixs'waanx

Hat-lee-lack-sis-wah-nuhk

The Time for Herring Roe

xs'waanx (h-swah-nuhk)

herring eggs

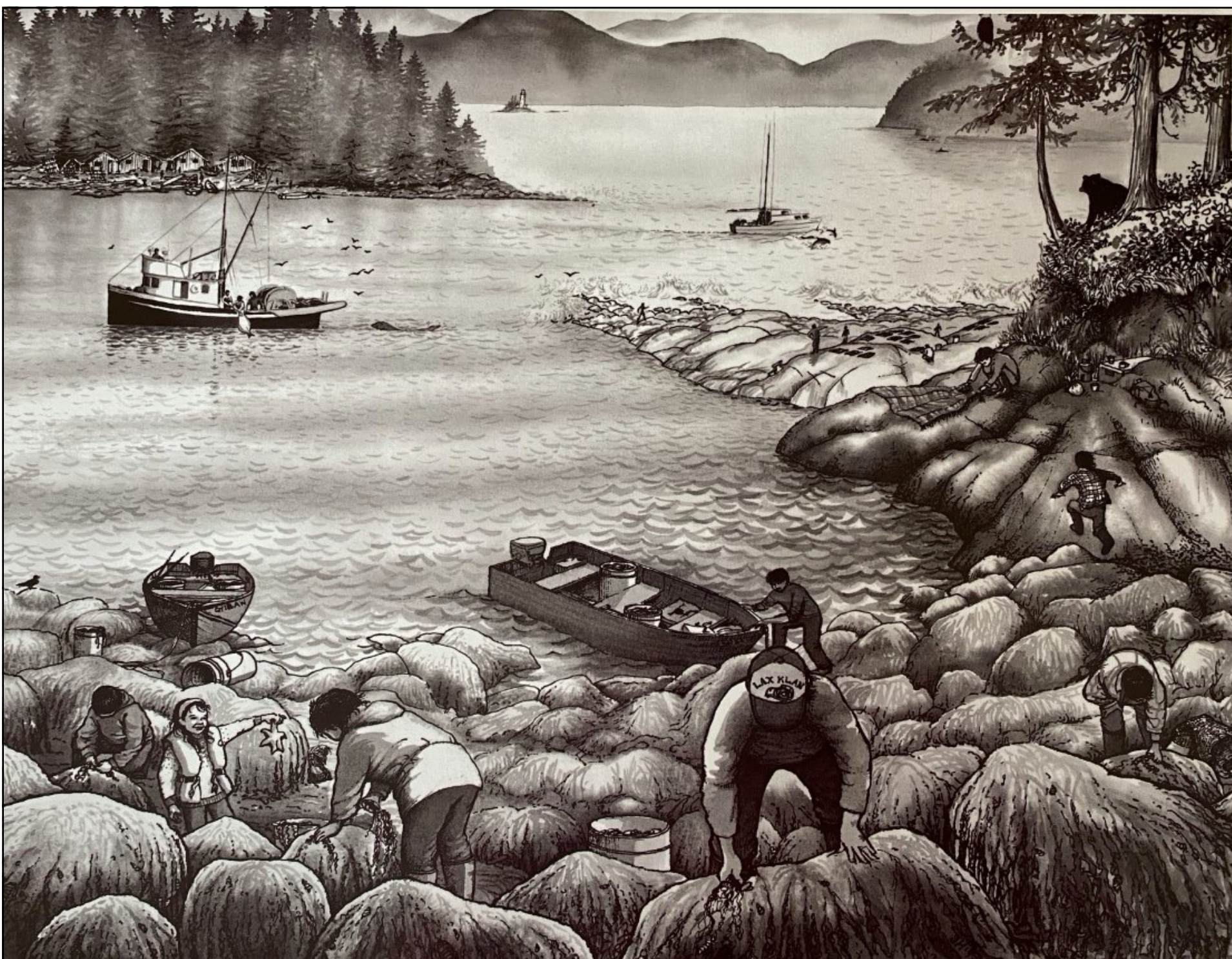
waas (wass)

rain

maaxii (mah-hee)

rainbow

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Ts'msyen

May

Ha'lilaxsita'ask

Hat-lee-lack-si-thl-uh-uhsk

The Time for Picking Seaweed

ta'ask (thl-uh-uhsk)

seaweed

loop (law-p)

rock

gamaats (guh-mats)

starfish

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Ts'msyen

June

Ha'lilaxsimak'oox

Hat-lee-lack-si-ma-caulk

The Time for Picking Salmonberries

hoon (h-awe-n)

fish

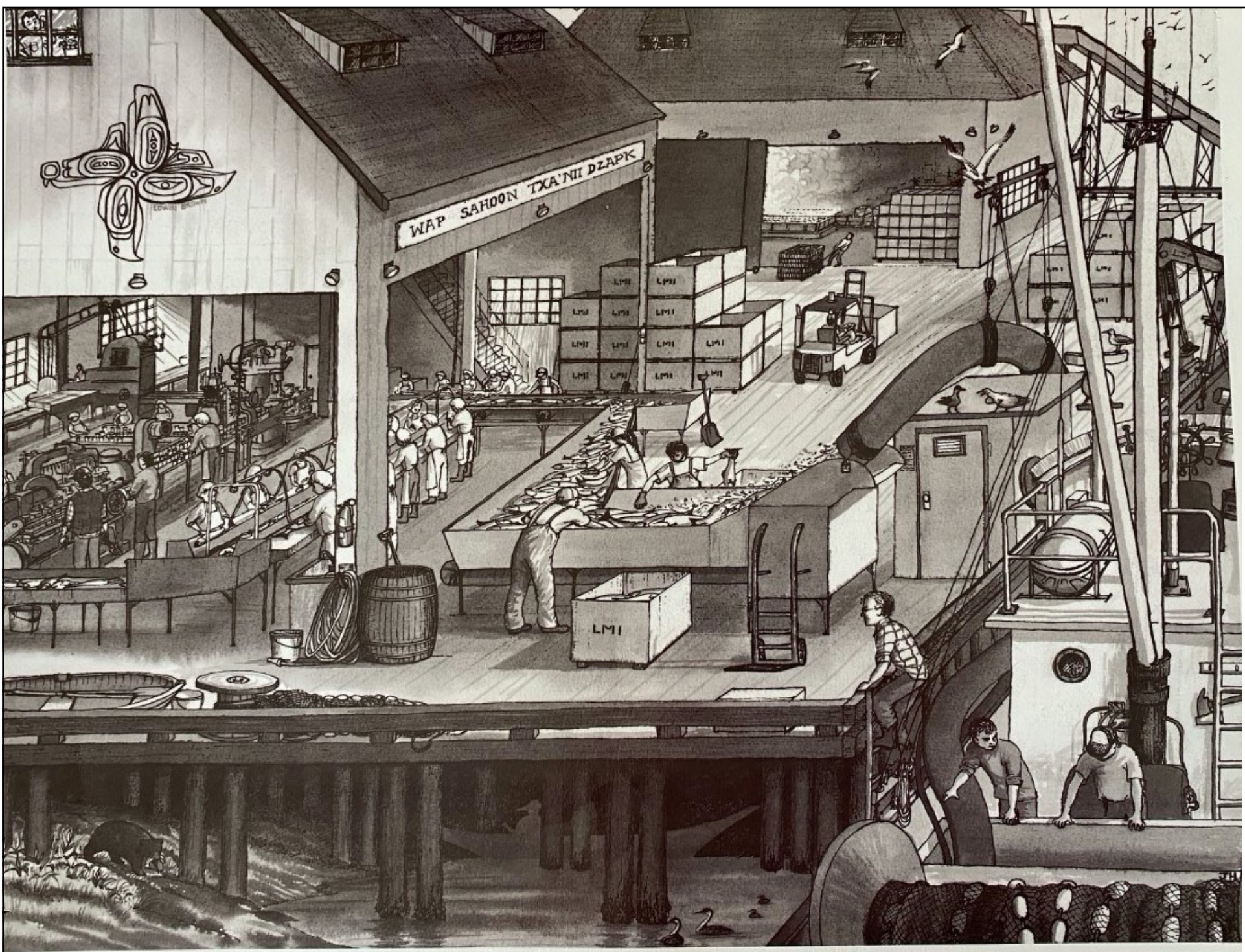
mak'ooxs (muck-awe-hks)

salmonberries

aat (at)

net

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Ts'msyen

July

Ha'lilaxsimisoo

Hat-lee-lack-si-ma-saw

The Time for Catching Sockeye

misoo (miss-awe)
salmon

gagoom (guh-gawe-m)
seagull

hatels (ha-thl-els)
work

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Ts'msyen

August

Ha'lilaxsistm'oon

Hat-lee-lack-sis-tim-awn

The Time for Catching Pink Salmon

smxsoo (sim-hk-saw)

canoe

waap sip'iyaansk (wap sip-ee-yansk)

smokehouse

sti'moon (sti-m-awe-n)

pink salmon

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Ts'msyen

September

Ha'lilaxsmaay

Hat-lee-lack-sim-eye

The Time for Picking Berries

ol (all)

bear

haas (has)

fireweed

maay (my)

berries

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Ts'msyen

October

Ha'lilaxsigaboox

Hat-lee-lack-ciga-bawk

The Time for Getting Cockles

biyaals (bee-als)

stars

gaboox (guh-bawhk)

cockles

galm'aks (gull-em-acks)

bucket

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Ts'msyen

November

Ha'lilaxsits'a'ax

Hat-lee-lack-sits-uh-uhk

The Time for Getting Clams

gangan (gun-gun)

trees

aks (acks)

water

ts'a'ax (tsuh-uhk)

clams

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Ts'msyen

December

Ha'lilikluulgit

Hat-lee-lick-lool-git

The Time for Feasting

wineeya (win-ā-uh)

food

'noot (en-awe-thl)

drum

liimi (lee-me)

sing

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Ts'msyen Seasonal Rounds Poster Series

Please note that the spelling of Ts'msyen as Tsimshian is incorrect. At the time of this publication that was the spelling that was used.



drawings by Judy Hilgemann
based on
designs developed in collaboration
with the Sm'algyax Committee of
School District 52 (Prince Rupert, BC)

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Prince Rupert School District

Ts'msyen Seasonal Rounds Poster Series

ABOUT THE SERIES

These thirteen drawings were commissioned by the First Nations Education Council, then designed and produced by First Nations Education Services, School District 52, Prince Rupert BC for use in the Sm'algyax Language Program. The drawings also appear in the 1998 Sa'awnskmgymk, or calendar, designed to support the renewal of Sm'algyax (sm-AL-yukh), the Tsimshian language.

The drawings were produced through a nine-month collaborative process undertaken by the Sm'algyax Committee along with graphic artist Judy Hilgemann. The resulting drawings combine line drawing with ink wash.

ABOUT SEASONAL ROUNDS

The cycle of life on the Northcoast is governed by the turning of the seasons, which brings to the Tsimshian people a series of opportunities to gather food from the land and sea. Traditional foods gathered in Tsimshian territory include oolichan grease, seaweed, herring roe, halibut and salmon. These are favourite foods for the people living in the coastal communities.

The thirteen drawings in this series show these traditional foods being gathered seasonally in contemporary settings. Within these drawings you will also find figures and images that represent the presence of the past. In the Sa'awnskmgymk (calendar) each month is named for the traditional activity that dominates that time.

Certain design elements are included in every month. A bear appears, in some form, in each of the drawings, as do the four animals represented in the four clan crests of the Tsimshian people: eagle, raven, wolf and blackfish.

ABOUT THE DRAWINGS

Cover Illustration - the first drawing, used for the cover of our calendar, brings together various elements of life in the isolated settlements of the coast. The village, nestled in a cove, with the steep, wooded mountainside behind it, the misty weather, the rainbow arching overhead and the float plane that carries people and freight to and from each village, are familiar elements of life here. Also shown are the richness of undersea life. In the foreground, a person is pulling a fishing net into a herring skiff.

January - Ha'lisuwiliinsk is the month of hunting. This drawing shows a hunting camp high in the mountains above the sea. Trapping animals, scraping hides and preparing food over the open fire are important parts of life in the hunting camp. Mountain goats and wolves live higher up the slopes, while closer to camp are beaver and bluejay, and we see the bear hibernating in her cave, and the family dog, watching the hunters, who are returning to camp. All four crests are represented, but you may need to search carefully to find the image of the killer whale or blackfish hidden in this drawing.

February - *Ha'liwilgisi'yaask* is the month of winter winds, when the snow piles deep on the north side of the trees, and people stay indoors to consume the food that has been saved up through the warmer months. This is also a time for stories, including the *adawx*, the traditional narratives that make up the oral history of the Tsimshian Nation. One such story is the tale of the two friends Beaver and Porcupine, being told by the grandfather. This story is available in book form from First Nations Education Services.

March - *Ha'lix'wah* is the month of gathering oolichans, the rich oily fish whose return to the Nass River marks the time of rebirth. Seals and seagulls also gather to harvest the little fish. At the traditional fishing camp at Fishery Bay, near the mouth of the river the Tsimshian call *Klusms*, everyone pitches in to net the fish and stoke the fires that will render the oolichan oil. Some are dried in the sun. Smoked oolichans are also a favorite food. To prepare for this, the fish are strung on cords, to be hung in the smokehouse for processing.

April - *Ha'lix'waanax* is the month of gathering herring roe. Even before the modern roe fishery brought wealth in exchange for this highly prized food, the Tsimshian people gathered the spawn of these shoals of silver fish. The eggs are laid on kelp or gathered on branches suspended in the water. A wealth of other seafoods also become available once the weather begins to warm up. April is the time to start a garden and to be outside, even on days when some rain may fall.

May - *Ha'lix'ask* is seaweed month. Families move to seaweed camp to gather and dry the thin flat seaweed that grows on the rocks where the big swells pound and swirl. Seaweed gathering is hard work, and sometimes dangerous. It provides a staple of great importance to the Tsimshian people: dried seaweed to be fried in oil or cooked in soups, or eaten separately.

June - *Ha'lixmak'ooxs* is salmonberry month. It is also a time for catching spring salmon and the early sockeye. People begin preparing their nets and fishboats for the summer fishing season. A warm and friendly wind blows, the west wind, which the Tsimshian people call *güülka*. Children are leaving school to spend their summer with friends and family.

July - *Ha'lixmisoo* is sockeye month, when runs of these highly prized salmon return to the coast to spawn. Tsimshian people were involved in the commercial fishery and also worked in the canneries of the coast, along with people from many other nations and cultures. The noise and heat of the canneries in which thousands of fish were processed in a day has been a vital part of summer employment on the Northcoast.

August - *Ha'lilaxstmhoon* is pink salmon month. This drawing illustrates home canning, and also shows family members relaxing and enjoying the warm summer weather. Salmon may be preserved in a variety of ways, by smoking, drying, by canning in cans or jars, or by freezing. Before smoking, fish is filleted or sliced, soaked in brine, then put into the smokehouse. Everyone shares in this plentiful supply of food, even the cat.

September - *Ha'lilaxsimaay* is blueberry month, and also the time when children return to school. Fall weather arrives and mother bear, whose cubs are now on their own, is growing fat on the fall runs of salmon, preparing for the long winter's hibernation.

October - *Ha'lilaxgaboos* is the month for digging cockles. These bivalves may be dried, canned or smoked. Later they will be served cold or cooked in a variety of ways. The lowest tides, which are best for gathering cockles, come at night. People head out with their buckets and rakes and kerosene lamps, to gather cockles, watched over by moon and stars as well as the spirits of the old ones who have known these traditions for centuries.

November - *Ha'lilaxsats'ax* is clam month. As the weather turns cold and stormy, groups travel by boat to reach traditional clam beds in bays and inlets of this convoluted coast. Old Woman who Pulls the Tides gives them only a certain amount of time to gather sacks of clams. The wolf and the moksgm ol, the white black bear, are hidden in the trees.

December - *Ha'lilulgit* is feasting month, during which the various clans invite the whole community to celebrate and witness traditional names being given. Regalia displaying the crests are worn, and drumming and dancing honour the continuity of Tsimshian traditions. The feast is a place where old and young, modern and ancient traditions meet, where traditional and contemporary foods contribute to the living reality of the culture.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This poster series is custom printed on 80 pound acid-free paper.

A teacher's guide for the series and/or additional copies may be ordered from:

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