

1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Beaver-Sekani, Athapaskan, Athapaskan-Eyak
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): bea, sek
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Peace river, British Columbia. 56.43, -123.16
- 1.4 Brief history: The Beaver and Sekani people are considered one in the same. They most likely started as one big group but gradually split up later in their history. They were first contacted by Alexander Mackenzie in 1793. Their name stands for people of the rocks or mountains. They were effected when the North West Company established a few trading posts and began to trade with them. They rapidly began to see a decline in their population from disease and alcoholism. They then experienced the Omenica gold rush which lead to even more people invading their lands and caused their numbers to dwindle even more due to lack of resources.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Their most trusted neighbors were the Slavey, Tahltan, and the Carrier. They Didn't seem to have been effected largely by missionaries. They governments that allowed traders and miners to invade their territory effected them greatly since it caused their numbers to decline rapidly.
- 1.6 Ecology: The Sekani/Beaver lived in a heavily wooded area and lived very much like Native Americans that lived the forests.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: As of 1991 the Sekani/Beaver population was calculated to be around 630. When discovered they lived in village sizes around 30 people. They lived relatively close to other tribes. They were as close to they nearest tribe as the closest split in the peace river.

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): the only thing I found was that the main staple other than meat was berries
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: this was the largest portion of their diet. It consisted of moose, caribou, mountain sheep, and bear. They also ate small game like beaver and porcupine. They also fished and would eat trout and other white fish species.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: The main weapon used by these tribes were the bow and arrow, they would commonly put what was essentially a bayonet on the edge of their bow to use at close range. They also used clubs and spears.
- 2.4 Food storage: any surplus food was either stored in bark or actually in trees.
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: There was a very typical division of labor with the men hunting and the females gathering supplies and taking care of children
- 2.6 Land tenure: n/a
- 2.7 Ceramics: None found
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: n/a
- 2.9 Food taboos: there are only a few taboos found. Most had to do when a girl had first menarche they had to eat certain foods and when men reached a certain age they had to fast as a way to reach a higher plane.
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? They used some canoes for transportation but typically they walked where they needed to go.

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): not found
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): not found

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): roughly around 11
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):n/a
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): not found
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):not found
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):not found
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: not found
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: marriages were commonly poygynous. Males typically married the sisters of their wife. Though marriges were polygynous with their wives sisters they also would marry outside of their wives families.
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Men would work for the family of the bride for about a year but would live separately from them
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: typically the first child usually the male would inherit everything.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:the whole family would help to raise the children.
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: men would sometimes have homosexual patterns when their wives were menstruating
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): mostly endogamy was practiced, however in certain social situations they would adopt exogamy like when hunting.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? Since their societies were patrilineal and polygynous there was almost no question who the father was so males were seen as an important part of conception.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")n/a
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?not available

- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: not found but probable since other behaviors like murder and infanticide were common.
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): usually cross cousin.
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Not really. They were kept under wraps until they got married
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring? Very few found
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? The extended family would help to raise until the male re-married, however if the male had multiple wives the other wife would help to raise the child.
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: usually 30% males, 20% females, and 50% children.
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: no
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) none found
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? n/a
- 4.24 Joking relationships? None found
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: all types of descent not important so they had none
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules? : yes, incest was strictly forbidden. Typically watched over by adults
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? None found
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?not found
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?): preferred to be within the community
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages arranged by parents. They looked for a male who was a good worker. For females they looked for a women who was strong and could provide will for the family
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: none really found

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: not found but likely very high. They lived in a stressful environment and murder was very common.
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: very common occurrence of both in and out group killing. They had lots of conflict between both and this lead to lots of fighting between ingroup and outgroup
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: usually over resources but also lots of revenge killings.
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): usually lots of good relationships with neighbors like Slavey, Tahltan, and the Carrier; but also lots of fighting between all groups.
- 4.18 Cannibalism? No true cannibalism found but some evidence from missionaries.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: usually around 30 people
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): stayed in the same place but also would travel distances to trade
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): they had a headman who had very little actual authority, he really just provided guidance.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: couples would build their own houses once the service period had ended.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): they were very territorial and it wasn't uncommon for people to be murdered for crossing into their territory.
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): there were only divisions in age in terms of first menarche and when a boy hit puberty. Also women had to be divided into a separate area when they were menstruating.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: none
- 5.8 Village and house organization: not found
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): only a house for the women to go to when they are menstruating.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? They slept on mats called tule mats
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: no real forms of social organization
- 5.12 Trade: traded with neighbors and local trading agencies.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? No real social hierarchies.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: none found
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): they had shamans but they could only be men, they could only do this once they passed certain rituals.
- 6.2 Stimulants: no stimulants but they would fast and meditate to reach a higher state.
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): the only ritual I could find was when a person of importance died they would put their body in a log or tree and mourn them for up to a year.
- 6.4 Other rituals: when a boy was to become a shaman they would send him on what was essentially a vision quest.
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): couldn't find anything on creation but they were very animist.
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): all very evident
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: only men could be shamans but females could be healers.
- 6.8 Missionary effect: some came under effect of almost cult like missionaries.
- 6.9 RCR revival: none found

- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: only leaders were buried and they believe they enter a afterlife
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? none
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? Not found
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) animistic religion.

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: common for both men and women
- 7.2 Piercings: none found
- 7.3 Haircut: nothing specific
- 7.4 Scarification: none found
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): bear claws worn by men, also wore bone and horn bracelets.
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: shamans would wear special clothing all the time
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: women clothing would be shorter in the skirt and longer shirts
- 7.8 Missionary effect: non found
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: none found

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: not important in their society
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: n/a
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): kinship not important.

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

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