

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Tlingit (pronounced Klingit) and translates to “people. The Tlingit speak their native Tlingit language, though most today speak English (1)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): TLI (6)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Latitude: 58-45'28" N Longitude: 136-10'48" W

1.4 Brief history: “It is speculated that human occupation of southeast Alaska occurred 11,000 years ago by Tlingit people. Haida people, with whom the Tlingit have frequent interaction, have only been in the area about 200 years, and the Tsimpsian migrated only recently from the Canadian interior mainland. Tlingit legends speak of migrations into the area from several possible directions, either from the north as a possible result of the Bering Sea land bridge, or from the southwest, after a maritime journey from the Polynesian islands across the Pacific. Oral traditions hold that the Tlingit came from the head of the rivers. As one story goes, Nass-aa-geyeil' (Raven from the head of the Nass River) brought light and stars and moon to the world.” (2)

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Yes (2)

1.6 Ecology: Alaska and Canada



1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Unknown

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): seaweed, berries, and roots (1)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Fish, sea mammals, deer, mountain goats, birds, caribou, moose and shellfish (1)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bows, arrows, harpoons, bone fishhooks, wooden fish traps, spears, snares, nets and wooden clubs

2.4 Food storage: Yes (2)

2.5 Sexual division of production: Women gather, cook and take care of the children while men hunt (1)

2.6 Land tenure: Yes (2)

2.7 Ceramics: Yes, though they are most notable for their detailed totem poles (1)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos: Unknown

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: Yes (1)

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): Unknown

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): Unknown

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): Unknown

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): Unknown

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): Unknown

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): Unknown

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Unknown

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: Unknown

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Unknown

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Dowry (5)

4.9 Inheritance patterns: Matrilineal (2)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Very interactive throughout entirety of life (2)

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: Unknown

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Unknown

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?: A paternal link to the child (2)

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows"): to house the fetus (2)

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time?): Unknown

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: Unknown

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): Patrilineal cross-cousin (2)

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Unknown

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: Yes (2)

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? The aunts and uncles of the children (2)

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: Unknown

4.22 Evidence for couvades: Unknown

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): Unknown

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: Respect (2)

4.24 Joking relationships? Yes (2)

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Very matrilineal (2)

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Unknown

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: Yes (4)

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: Marriage, by switching Kwans (2)

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) Within (2)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? No (2)

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Unknown

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: Unknown

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Unknown

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Unknown

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): Usually peaceful, though have had a brief history of violence (1)

4.18 Cannibalism?: Unknown

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: Unknown

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Unknown

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Wealth (2)

5.4 Post marital residence: Unknown

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Unknown

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Yes (1)

5.8 Village and house organization: "Tlingit people are grouped and divided into units called *kwan*. Some anthropological accounts estimate that 15 to 20 *kwan* existed at the time of European contact. A *kwan* was a group of people who lived in a mutual area, shared residence, intermarried, and lived in peace. Communities containing a Tlingit population may be called the *Sitkakwan*, the *Taku-kwan*, or the *Heenya-kwan*, depending on their social ties and/or location." (2)

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): See below (1)

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?: Rectangular cedar-plank houses with bark roofs which usually held multiple families and up to 50 people (1)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Kwan (2)

5.12 Trade: Yes (1)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Yes (2)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR: Unknown

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Shamans (4)

6.2 Stimulants: Yes (4)

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): See 6.10

6.4 Other rituals: Potlaches (2)

6.5 Myths (Creation): Raven story (<http://www.indigenouspeople.net/creatlingit.htm>) (3)

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Art and music (2)

6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Unknown

6.8 Missionary effect: Yes (2)

6.9 RCR revival: Unknown

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: "A person's death requires a three-stage potlatch process to properly attend to the deceased person's transfer to the spirit world or future life. The first potlatch includes the mourning and burial of the deceased, lasting from one to four days. George Emmons reports in his book *The Tlingit Indians* that this process traditionally took four to eight days. During this time, the body is prepared for cremation or burial (which is more common today). Attendees sing songs of grief; sometimes the family fasts. Feasts are prepared for guests of the opposite clan; afterward the person is buried. During the second stage, a party is held for the deceased person's clan. The third stage, or memorial potlatch, which can take place at any time, usually occurs about a year later. The memorial potlatch is a ritual process of letting go emotionally of the deceased. It marks the final release of the deceased to their future life as well as the final mourning, speeches, and deceased person's clan's payments to the opposite clan. The conclusion of the potlatch is a celebration of life and happy stories and song." (2)

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?: No (2)

6.12 Is there teknonymy? Yes (2)

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Every possible thing has the same worth as another. Everyone and everything in this world is equal to one another (2)

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: Yes (1)

7.2 Piercings: Yes (2)

7.3 Haircut: Long and usually braided (1)

7.4 Scarification: No (1)

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): beads, feathers, animal skins (1)

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: "The Tlingits didn't wear long headdresses like the Sioux. Instead, both men and women sometimes wore basketry hats made of finely woven spruce root. The designs and patterns of these hats often displayed a person's status and family connections. The Tlingits painted their faces with different colors and designs for different occasions, and often wore tribal tattoos. Tlingit women often wore their hair in two long braids, while men usually left theirs long and loose. Like other Northwestern Indians, Tlingit men often wore mustaches and beards" (2)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: See above

7.8 Missionary effect: Yes (2)

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: Ceremonial garb still worn today (1)

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: Unknown

8.2 Sororate, levirate: Unknown

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): Unknown

Numbered references

1. http://www.bigorin.org/tlingit_kids.htm
2. <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Sr-Z/Tlingit.html#b>
3. <http://www.indigenouspeople.net/creatlingit.htm>
4. <http://arcticwebsite.com/TlingitCustoms.html>
5. http://books.google.com/books?id=pZW6nwbyW5kC&pg=PA177&lpg=PA177&dq=tlingit+dowry&source=bl&ots=MGQhViRvVK&sig=INPbh3pv1jXC07xMWjBaTQ-WvL0&hl=en&ei=1eHeTuzkOYH0sOKm8-isBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCAQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=tlingit%20dowry&f=false
6. http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=tli