

### Aboriginal Occupations.

The Indians were fishermen, hunters, and gatherers; they had no agriculture or domesticated food animals. The abundance of their food resources varied by region and by season. Some widespread resources were used by all the tribes: vegetable foods (berries, roots, nuts, shoots, cambium), common land mammals (deer, black bear, etc.), and common birds (ducks, geese, etc.). Other food resources were localized: the teeming salmon runs in the creeks and rivers of the Pacific slope (the greatest single food resource of all); the sea mammals, saltwater fish, and shellfish of the coast; the caribou of the northern interior; and others. Regions rich in food resources, like the coast and major western rivers, supported relatively dense, semi-sedentary populations with elaborate cultures. Where food was scarce, as in the northern interior, small nomadic bands lived simpler lives.

On the map the territories of the tribes are coloured to show their dominant or most characteristic food gathering activities. They are grouped arbitrarily into five types, as follows:-

1. Seashore and creek-mouth tribes: using the rich resources of both the sea and the river-mouth; mainly: salmon runs, eulachon runs, saltwater fishes, herring spawn, sea mammals, shellfish, edible seaweeds, etc. Typically populous and semi-sedentary, with elaborate cultures.

- 1a. Strong offshore orientation: Same as 1, with a strong orientation toward the resources of the offshore waters: mainly halibut and sea mammals (including whales among the Nootka).

2. Coast-oriented river tribes: using the rich resources of the lower rivers (salmon runs, eulachon, trout, sturgeon,

etc.), and also having access by easy travel and trade routes to seashore resources. These tribes are often closely related in language and culture to neighbouring seashore tribes.

3. Upriver fishing tribes: tribes living upriver on the Fraser and Skeena systems, whose main single food resource was salmon, but to whom hunting (deer, bear, mountain goat, beaver, etc.) was also of great importance and dictated a semi-nomadic way of life.
4. River-oriented hunting tribes: seminomadic tribes that made important use of salmon runs in season, but to whom land hunting was the dominant economic activity. (Caribou, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, marmot, beaver, and others, in varying proportions).
5. Inland hunting tribes: More or less nomadic tribes, mostly living beyond the Pacific Drainage area, whose life was dominated by the pursuit of game. In the southeast the Upper Kootenay made trips across the Rockies to hunt bison; in the northeast caribou, elk, deer, moose, marmot and beaver were important staple foods.