

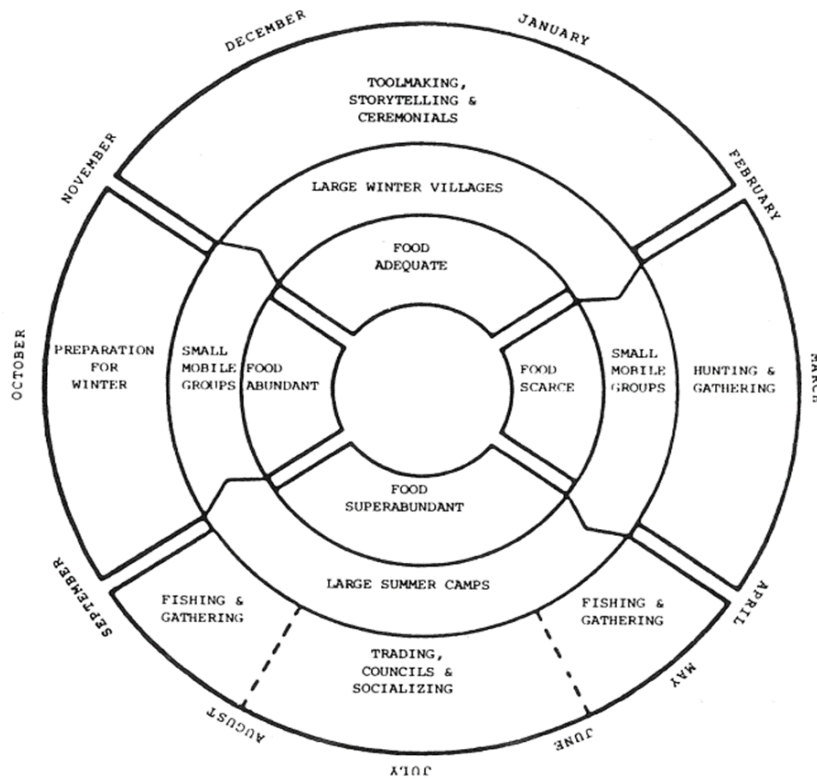
Seasonal Round

Colville Confederated Tribes and the Plateau Culture Region
Educational Resources

Seasonal Round

A seasonal round is the annual cycle relating to tribal activities and food resources available at a given time of year. The seasonal round activities vary from region to region relating to weather patterns and natural resources. Abiding within the seasons, tribes were directly connected to the land in navigating their lives throughout the year.

Plateau Tribes Seasonal Round - Indians of WA State Curriculum [\(Link\)](#)



Seasonal Cycle of Plateau Tribes - Basic Template (p. 7)

“The times on the chart are approximate. In any given year at any given locale, transition times depended on when the seasons actually changed, when plants matured, when fish ran, when cold weather arrived etc.” p. 8)

“The seasonal cycle, or the changing seasons, greatly influenced life for the Indian People of Washington State. Food resources changed with the four seasons, clothing needs reflected seasonal needs, and stories and myths reflected these different periods. Indian ceremonies were often linked to seasonal changes. Large gatherings were held during times of plenty and small groups dispersed during times of scarcity. The activities of both men and women also changed with the seasons, creating a yearly cycle of social events.” (p. 6)

Seasonal Descriptive Names and Measuring Time

Within the Plateau Culture Region there were many different tribes represented, different language groups and even subdivisions of groups from various tribes. Therefore variations of tribal villages were scattered all throughout the region. Yet, all of the tribes in the Plateau Culture Region were influenced by the regions' shared seasonal round characteristics. The seasonal round then became the way to indicate transitions of time. Variations in names were then given to describe the seasonal activities relating to one's village or tribe.

The book Coyote and the Colville outlines some of the ways that the seasonal transitions were described in some areas ([Link](#)):

“ It was reasonable, then, that the measure of time was by food that was in season. Some divided the year into periods which they named by seasons in which the foods were gathered.

The season we know as November was the time when leaves yellowed and died and people began moving to their winter homes. Snowfall began in December, January was the blizzard season and February was the time of the white snow. March was buttercup time, a period which extended into our month of April which also was known as leaf budding and leaf unfolding time. May was high water time and bitterroot time, and sunflower time, which extended into June. July was serviceberry time when there were

flowers on the ground (at higher elevations). Wild cherry and chokecherry time came in August, while berry picking and salmon spawning time were September. The major Salmon run came up the Columbia during what we know as October, and gave that period its name.” (p. 31)

Seasonal Activities

Winter: Time of storytelling, making new items from material gathered throughout the year, ceremonial winter dances/prayers/songs/offerings for loved ones, relief from gathering season with indoor games.

Spring: End of long winter, life beginning anew with fresh food available, transitioning out of winter homes, First Foods Celebrations, root gathering, social pastimes, naming ceremonies and memorials.

Summer: Food gathering continued with roots/berries/fishing, First Berry Feast, summer fishing for sturgeon/trout/salmon. Summer salmon run fishing initiated by a Salmon Ceremony. Summer games and pastimes.

Fall: Fall hunting and processing roots/fish/game for winter storage. Fall salmon run. Preparing for winter homes, preparing other materials for winter.

Resources: Coyote and the Colville pg. 28, 31-34 ([Link](#)), The Sanpoil and Nespelem pg. 27-28 ([Link](#)), Colville Tribal History Workbook pg 15-17 ([Link](#))

Basic Target Points

- The seasonal cycle varies within different geographical areas, WA State’s main geographical areas include: Coastal, Puget Sound and Plateau
- The weather of the Plateau Culture Region changes significantly with winter, spring, summer and fall.
- The seasonal cycle greatly influences and shapes the way of life for the WA Tribes, examples include: food resources, clothing, shelter and the landscape of the indigenous stories.
- Tribes in the Plateau Culture Region shared the same seasonal round influence, but the different language groups and villages described the seasonal names with slight variation.

Resources - Indians of WA State pg 1-8 [\(Link\)](#)

Learning Activity Ideas and Visual Aids

- Okanagan Language Alliance [\(Link\)](#)
 - Resource Calendar [\(Link\)](#)
- Nez Perce Seasonal Round [\(Link\)](#)
- Coast Salish Seasonal Round [\(Link\)](#)
- Swinomish Tribe's 13 Moons, Pg 24 [\(Link\)](#)
 - 13 Moons Curriculum [\(Link\)](#)
- Five Oaks Museum - Seasonal Round Activity [\(Link\)](#)