

# ṭhul̥xwumútcun

## January - time of shining ice

This cold time was for harvesting clams and hunting game such as deer, elk and bear.

Clams have been an important part of Snuneymuxw culture for thousands of years. Clams are harvested, roasted/dried and used to be traded for rare items like obsidian.

1  
nučá'

hul̥qumínum̥  
January - ṭhul̥xwumútcun  
Geoduck - puné'q  
Ice - spiw̥  
Frost - ṭxuṭúṭ  
Cold - ṭxayṭl̥  
Butter clam - s'aḥwa'  
Little neck clam - skwlheý'  
Cockle clam - stlulá'am  
Horse clam - swe:m  
To dig clams - shuyqwu



Extend your learning! Research Clam Gardens and the Clam Garden Restoration Project. Go clam digging or find clams being sold from a local, and dry them in the oven or cook them in clam chowder or clam patties (fritters).

I can name 3 types of clams.  
I can tell 2 ways clams are cooked.

# mimné' yuse'luqínun

## February - Little Child or Second Box of Food

This time of year is for harvesting herring/roe, duck hunting and making soups.

During the winter months, food was stored in boxes underground to keep it cool and fresh. This time of the year was when the second box of food was pulled up for use. Herring fish begin to spawn around Feb-March. They lay their eggs in kelp or branches along the coastline. Snuneymuxw place hemlock branches in the ocean and collect them once the spawn occurs. The herring roe is known as cumush, it can be dried, salted, or frozen and stored to be eaten year-round.

2  
yuse'lu

### hulqumínum

February - mimné'  
Second box - yuse'luqínun

Bentwood box - x̣thum

Herring - slhewuṭ

Herring Roe - c̣umush

Duck - ma'aqw

Soup - slháp̣



Extend your learning! Create a bentwood box using a paper template. Make a large batch of soup (fish or clam or seafood) and share/invite special guests. Find a local to bring in harvested herring roe.

I can say the two names of February.  
I can tell you what roe is.

# wulhǵus

## March - time of tree frogs

Tree frogs start croaking, it's time to stop winter dancing/ceremonies.

Traditional ceremonies and dancing were banned by the government but they were secretly continued during the winter months when the Indian Agent couldn't easily access the villages. Once the tree frogs started croaking, they knew it was time to stop winter dancing/ceremonies. Snakes also came out around this time and training for canoe racing started.

3  
lhixw

hulqumínum  
March - wulhǵus  
Frog - wuǵus  
Jump/leap - ctlum  
Snake - 'ulhqi'  
Canoe - snuxwulh  
Paddle - squmul



Extend your learning! Find and observe frogs. Study the life cycle of the frog. Play leap frog games. Contact a local canoe team to visit their club.

I can say frog and snake in hulqumínum  
I can say canoe and paddle in hulqumínum.

# li:mus

## April - month of the Sandhill Crane and geese flying north

Shearing the winter coats off sheep/mountain goat, spring salmon fishing and sports.

Geese flew north at this time which often signaled Spring salmon fishing. The raw wool from sheep and mountain goat was sheared, cleaned and used for making many various items and was also great for trading. Soccer and Lacrosse seasons begin and Earth day reminds everyone to always be stewards of the land.

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ǰu'áthun

### hulqumínum

April- li:mus

Sheep- lumutoó

Sheep wool - lumutóolqun

Mountain goat - sǰwitli'

Spring salmon - sǰhaqwi'

Stinging nettle - ǰthuǰthuǰ

Geese - 'eǰu

Earth Day - tumuxw skweyul



Extend your learning! Contact a local farm to shear a sheep (or for a demo). Bring in a local weaver for a wool weaving workshop. Research Canadian Geese, discuss Flying V formation. Play/Learn variations of soccer or lacrosse. Enjoy Earth day activities.

I can say sheep in hulqumínum.  
I can tell how I can take care of the Earth.

# punxwémun

## May - time of the camas

Harvesting Camas, Cedar and Ironwood

Camas blooms at this time and is ready for harvesting to eat. Camas can be boiled, baked or slow-roasted for the most flavour. It is a natural sweetener. Cedar is ready for harvesting as well, the sap is running which makes it easier to peel back. Ironwood branches are soft enough that they can bend but won't break. Sea urchin are plentiful and hearty at this time, they are high in iron and recommended to women during their cycle.

5

Ihqecus

hulqumínum

May - punxwémun

Camas - spe:nxw

Western Red Cedar- ǎpey

Sea urchin - ǎixwe



Extend your learning! Find a spot where camas are blooming, pick the bulbs and prepare them to eat. Harvest cedar with a local knowledge keeper or bring in a cedar weaver to make an item such as: bracelet, bookmark, or rose.

I can name camas, cedar and sea urchin in hulqumínum.  
I can harvest camas and/or cedar.

# q̓wílus

## June - month of ripening

All types of berries are harvested and then prepared for winter

Berries can be eaten fresh, frozen, dried or preserved. Halibut season has begun and the low tides of the summer months are favourable for clam digging. Canoe races are in full swing and the warm weather is good for dyeing sheep's wool. National Indigenous Peoples Day is on June 21st.

6  
t̓x̓um



hul̓q̓umín̓um̓

June - q̓wílus

Huckleberries - s̓q̓wuq̓weus

Strawberries - stiluk̓w

Raspberries - culq̓áma'

Blackberries - s̓q̓wilmuxw

Salmonberries - lila'

Sheep wool- lumutóolqun

Halibut - sca't̓x̓



Extend your learning! Do some berry identification and picking.

Plan activities for National Indigenous Peoples Day

I can tell why we have National Indigenous Peoples Day.

I can name 3 types of berries.

# tuṁkwéłus July - hot time

The hot summer months were spent outside fishing, berry picking and canoe racing.

The Snuneymuxw people would pack up and move camp to the Fraser River flats to sqwǎwamush (Squamish/Vancouver) for sockeye salmon fishing and berry picking. Tribal canoe journeys currently occur at this time every year, where teams/families come from all along the Pacific West Coast and travel to a host nation.

7  
ṭha'kwás

hulqumínum  
July - tuṁkwéłus  
Fraser River - sqwǎwamush  
Sockeye - sthuqi'  
Canoe - snuxwulh



Extend your learning! Learn how to clean a fish, jar fish and smoke fish.  
Connect with a local canoe journey team, learn about the boats, how to paddle, and traditional songs.

I can say canoe in hulqumínum.  
I can tell what sockeye is and what it's used for.

# tuṁqwé'unxw

## August - time of mosquitoes

Once food and berries were harvested, it was time for drying food for the winter.

While the Snuneymuxw people were at their summer camp they also traded camas for mountain goat wool, fished for flounder in Canoe Pass, hunted for seal and they sundried clams, berries, and fish for winter supply. The mosquitoes were plentiful at this time which is where the month got its name from.

8  
te'cus

### hulqumínum

August - tuṁqwé'unxw

Mosquito - qwe'en

Camas - spe:nxw

Mountain goat - s'xwitli'

Seal - ésxw

Butter clams - s'a'xwa'

Berries - (s'thihóo:m)

s'thumum

Sockeye - sthuqi'



Extend your learning! Study the mosquito life cycle. Examine different types of dried fruit or try drying your own berries, clams or fish.

I can say mosquito in hulqumínum.  
I can tell how to prepare food for the winter.

# puqulénuxw

## September - changing colours

When the leaves change colour, it's time to move back to winter camp.

With the changing colours of the leaves, the Snuneymuxw People moved back to their winter camps. The last berry to harvest was Salal starting now through October. It can be eaten fresh but was often dried like raisins and made into fruit leather for the winter months. Canada's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30th.

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too:xw

hulqumínum

September - puqulénuxw

Salal - teqe'

Leaf - scalha'

Colours - shta:lus

Green - cqway

Red - ckwim

Yellow - luluć

Orange - kwoolálus

Brown - tumulhálus



Extend your learning! Visit the forest at the beginning of the school year and again near the end of September to observe and record changes. Learn the colours in hulqumínum and discuss where they would've got their colours for painting (berries, earth etc.) Participate in learning about Truth and Reconciliation.

I can name 3 colours and say salal in hulqumínum.  
I can explain what Reconciliation means and name at least 1 call to action.

Info credit: Janice Wilson

# xwusulénuxw

## October - falling leaves

Snuneymuxw People harvested bulrush at this time for weaving items like baskets and mats.

Much like cedar bark is used for weaving, Bulrush was also used for weaving items like baskets and mats. It was sometimes used in combination with cedar. Baskets could be used to collect many things such as berries, medicines and fish, especially Dog Salmon at this time.

10  
'apun

hulqumínum  
October - xwusulénuxw  
Bulrush - s'thequn  
Basket - situn  
Weave - lhuñ  
Dog salmon - k'waluxw  
Colours - shta'alus  
Orange - kwululu'alus



**Extend your learning!** Find and harvest some bulrush to do some weaving with it.  
Study the salmon life-cycle and focus on the dog salmon/chum.

I can identify bulrush.  
I can identify dog salmon/chum.

# tuḡkwáluxw

## November- time of dog salmon

The dog salmon were fished at this time and then dried or smoked for the winter.

Dog salmon/chum salmon was dried and smoked for the winter. Hunting for deer, elk and bear started around this time too. All parts of the animal were used for food, clothing, medicine and spiritual ceremonies. Traditional winter dances and ceremonies also started.

||  
'apun 'i'  
kw nuća'

### hulqumínum

November - tuḡkwáluxw

Dog salmon/Chum - kwáluxw

Hunt - 'umush

Deer- ha'put

Elk - kwewe'uc

Black bear - spe'eth

Drum - quwut



Extend your learning! Learn how to make smoked salmon. Make drums using deer or elk hide. Track different animal footprints.

I can say dog salmon/chum, deer, elk, and bear in hulqumínum.

**tuḡxúy̓tl**

## December - time of cold weather

During the winter, time was spent preparing for harvesting in the spring and summer.

During the coldest time of the year, time was spent indoors preparing for the harvesting season, such as mending nets, weaving baskets, spinning wool, and making tools. Winter ceremony/dances also continued during this time.

12  
'apun 'i'  
kw yusélu

hulqumínum

December - tuḡxúy̓tl

Net - swultun

Weave - lhuñ

Spin wool - qeluc

Tool - shya:yus



Extend your learning! Do some wood spinning and weaving with a local artist.  
Make cardboard weaving looms for an art project.

I can say December in hulqumínum.  
I can tell 3 activities that were done in the winter.