

# WATERS OF CHANGE

Willapa Bay

# LEARN & REFLECT

Since time immemorial, the Chinookan people have called the region around the mouth of the Columbia River their homeland—a vast network of lands, waters, communities, and ecosystems.

The Chinookan people call the River's mouth "Kah'eese" and the river itself "Wimahl."

More than 10,000 years ago, Ice Age flood waters flowed through this area, causing sea waters to rise and shorelines to shift.

About 100 years ago, a jetty system was built to maintain large ship navigation through the river.

How do you think future changes might affect the rivers and landscape of this region?

Cape
Disappointment
State Park
jetties

Pacific Ocean Columbia River

ASTORIA

We are canoe people and we inherited sensibilities and traditions around that. Our people continue to be on the water every day, many of them today.

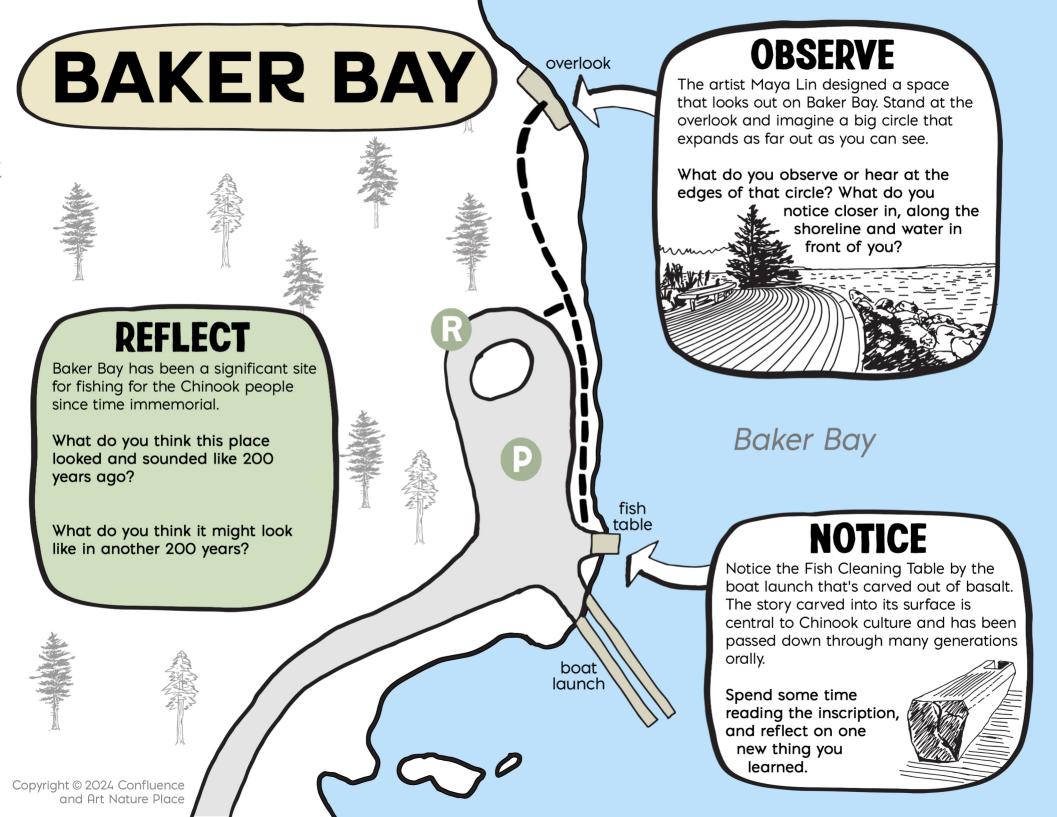
—Tony Johnson, Chinook Indian Nation

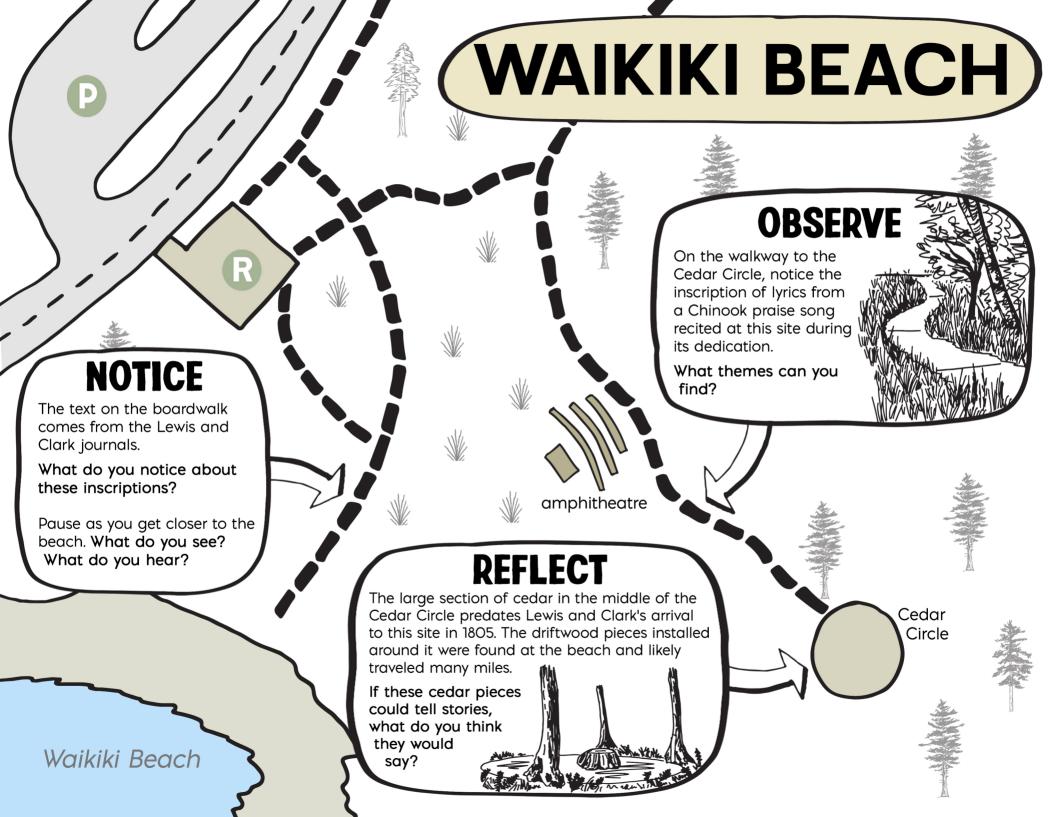
**PROTECT** 

For thousands of years, the Chinookan people have fished in this area. Salmon runs once numbered in the tens of millions of fish. Today, only about one million salmon pass through this spot every year.

What can we do to help these important fish recover to their previous population?

Copyright © 2024 Confluence and Art Nature Place





# The Chinookan people's relationship with salmon is central to their culture and traditions.

# GIVING BACK

What are some ways that human use is changing this place today?

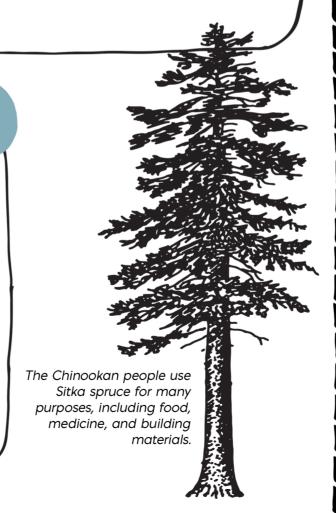
What are some ways that you can protect this place and restore the relationship between the river and the land?

# GRATITUDE

We offer thanks to the many Indigenous Tribes and Bands who have traveled, traded, fished, and lived along the Columbia River system.

These include people whose descendants are now members of the Chinook Indian Nation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

We encourage you to offer gratitude and learn more about the unique living cultures, customs, and people from the Indigenous Nations who have called this land home since time immemorial.



## LEARN MORE

Connect with additional resources, videos, and information about the history, culture,

and ecology at Cape Disappointment State Park by visiting Confluence's website.

Scan this QR code or visit the website:

confluenceproject.org/capedresources

### GET INVOLVED

Confluence volunteers take care of our River Sites through work parties, outreach events, and many other ways. Learn more at:

confluenceproject.org

### CREDITS

This guide was created as part of Confluence's education programs connecting students with the history, culture, and ecology at Cape Disappointement State Park.

Project Team: Tony Johnson (Chinook), Aaron Webster, Heather Shá xat k'ei Gurko (Tlingit and Dutch), Courtney Yilk, and Colin Fogarty.

Designed and illustrated by Mike Murawski & Bryna Campbell with Art Nature Place.



