SIGNIFICANCE OF ANIMALS IN INDIGENOUS CULTURE, LITERATURE, STORIES, AND TRADITIONS

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In the first nations culture, animals are respected and looked up to. They are known as very powerful and special creatures in which they all have their own unique meaning and symbols. In the eyes of an aboriginal person, animals were not only a food source, but they were also way closer to the peoples. They were like friends and even closer more like family.
WOLF

• represents loyalty, strong family ties, good communication, education, understanding, humility, and intelligence. Usually symbolize with the months February – March
HUMMINGBIRD

- represents happiness, joy, beauty, intelligence, peace and love. Is the joy of the returning of spring from the long winter, usually symbolize with the months March – April
BEAVER

- represents wealth, wisdom, productive, teamwork, creativity, creation, cooperation, persistence and harmony. Represent with the months of April – May
• Represents family, romance, longevity, harmony, travel, community and protection. Usually symbolize with the months June – July
SALMON

- symbolizes abundance, fertility, prosperity and renewal Rep. In Kwakiutl Culture it is believed that to have twins was a blessing from the Salmon people and only twins had the right to perform the Salmon dance. Resent with the months of July – August
BEAR

• represents courage, strength, family, and health. They also thoughtful and independent, with little need for fellowship. Represent with the months of August - September
RAVEN

- represents change, transformation, considered a trickster, usually symbolize with the first salmon run of the season, which is in between September – October
THUNDERBIRD

- represents power, protection, and strength. Often seen as the most powerful of all spirits and can also transform into human. Represent with November - December
EAGLE

- known as the “The master of skies”. Represents love, great significance to one another, balances, focus, strength, peace, and leadership. The eagle is the closest animal to the creator.
STORIES THAT FEATURE THE ANIMALS LISTED:

- The Thundermaker
- A Bear’s Life
- A Forest Habitat
- The Rabbits Race
- Hello Humpback!
- Wenjack
- Spirit Animals
- Beaver Steals Fire
- Tales of The North American Indians
- Indian Horse
- A salmon for Simon
- Raven brings the light
- Coyote tales
- The salmon twins
The 4 Sacred Aboriginal Colours With Meaning:

- Black: Represents the earth, marking the campfires of the dreamtime ancestors.
- Red: Represents fire, energy and blood 'Djang', a power found in places of importance to the Aboriginals.
- Yellow: Represents water, and the markings on the back of the great snake ancestor.
- White: Represents the sky and stars, which are filled with the Aboriginal ancestors who returned to the sky after creating the earth.
POPULAR ABORIGINAL SONGS:

- Took the Children Away
- Treaty
- Island Home
- Blue Moon, Black Sea
- Winds of Change
- Modern Rock
- Dreams of Ways
- Call of the Moose
- Silver River
- Royal Telephone
TRADITIONS

Indigenous Peoples were considerate of the natural lifecycles of the creatures they shared the Earth with. Efforts were made not to over-fish, over-hunt or over-harvest. They hunted, fished and collected only what was needed to support their families or tribes and nothing more. Every part of the animal was used, along with in most cultures there was additional celebrations and ceremonies of gratitude.

-Chakayla
Indigenous peoples made it a moral to use the entirety of the animal; furs were used as coats or clothing. Everything that hadn’t been consumed of the meat, was jarred or dried and saved for a later date. A remarkable range of materials for tools, clothing and shelter came from a simple Cariboo. The hides were used for shelter. The bones could be made into knives and blades. Cariboo bones had also been carved to create needles and fish hooks. No part of any animal did First Nations waste.
Sources:

https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/what-is-the-relationship-between-indigenous-peoples-and-animals


* https://spiritofthewestcoast.com/pages/native-american-symbols


PowerPoint created by Chakayla