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# Cedar: Tree Of Life To The Northwest Coast Indians



## Synopsis

From the giant cedar of the rainforest came a wealth of raw materials vital to the way of life, art and culture of the early First Nations people of the Northwest Coast. All parts of the cedar tree had many uses. From the wood, skilled men made ocean-going canoes, massive post-and-beam houses, monumental carved poles that declared history, rights and lineage, and powerful dance masks. Women dextrously wove the inner bark into mats and baskets, plied it into cordage and netting or processed it into soft, warm, water-repellent clothing. They also made the strong withes into heavy-duty rope and wove the roots into watertight baskets. Hilary Stewart explains, through her vivid descriptions, 550 detailed drawings and 50 photographs, the tools and techniques used, as well as the superbly crafted objects and their uses--all in the context of daily and ceremonial life. Anecdotes, oral history and the accounts of early explorers, traders, missionaries and native elders highlight the text.

## Book Information

Series: Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press; First Edition edition (March 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0295974486

ISBN-13: 978-0295974484

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 10.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #446,096 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > History >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

"...a beautifully written, beautifully illustrated, beautiful book." (SOS Forests - Save Our Sacred Forests (website) 2005-12-14) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hilary Stewart is an award-winning author best known for her books on Northwest Coast First Nations cultures. She has also been involved in teaching outdoor education and wilderness survival

courses for many years, as well as studying the ethnobotany of the coast First Nations, and has an extensive practical experience in the use of plants. She lives on Quadra Island in British Columbia.

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This book is exceptional. For the casual reader and diligent student of Northwest Indian groups this is the best contemporary source of information and background on the subject. I just spent a week in Madiera Park BC where I met and was hosted by the First Nations People of Sechelt. While taking a basket weaving class I found this book to be a good prep text for understanding the culture and lives of a fascinating people who are good stewards and highly technical in utilizing natural materials.

The inside of this book is so much more amazing than the cover suggests. There are great illustrations and techniques that I think you'd be hard pressed to learn about anywhere else.

A fabulous resource for those interested in NW Coastal Indians and/or woodworkers/carvers and Indian art aficionados. It includes detailed drawings of examples of the multiple uses of Cedar by the early coastal Indians. Anyone interested in pacific NW cultural will enjoy exploring the first nation "indian" existence through their varied use of their primary available material....cedar.

A wonderful description of the use of Cedar by the Indians giving a picture of how they managed with limited equipment . Their creativity and artistic ability is beyond my understanding. A good gift for woodworkers!!

This is the only book on cedar bark basketry that I know of. It is awesome. It explains how to harvest it, how to use it and how it has been done by the natives on the west coast. So glad I found it!

I've worked with cedar for several years, splitting posts and rails from culled old growth logs lying around on family forest land. I like working with cedar and this book looked like it might be interesting to read. It did not disappoint, but presented a fascinating description of how the natives used not only wood, but also bark, withes, and roots. The book is well organized and detailed descriptions of procedures and techniques are augmented with many fine illustrations and photos. It is an enjoyable read for anyone interested in how to use cedar to provide clothing, shelter, tools, and furniture.

Cedar is a very comprehensive and useful source book. Filled with Native uses for and applications of Cedar it is a must read for anyone even vaguely interested in the North West Coasts Native peoples!

Excellent!

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