

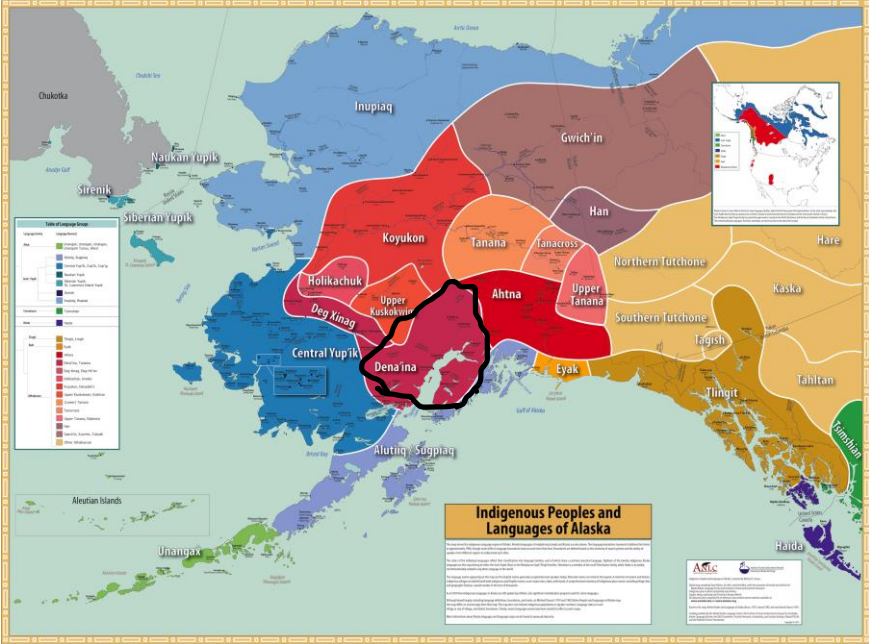
Dena'ina

Dena'ina also called
Tanaina are a
Southern Native
Alaskan tribe.



Map

The map to the right shows you that the Dena'ina are a Southcentral Native Alaskan tribe. They are also called Tanaina in their native Alaskan language.



History

Did you know that where we all live and go to school is on the land of the Dena'ina people who first settled here on the Kenai in Southcentral Alaska? Here is a phrase in Dena'ina acknowledging the people first settling here.

Dena'inaq ełnen'aa' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu

'I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.'

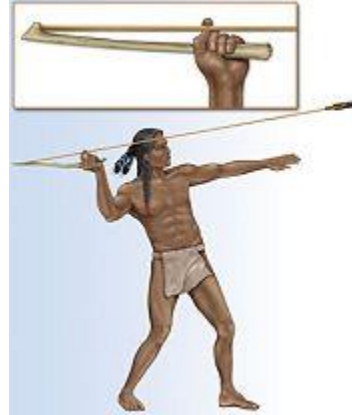
translation: S. Shaginoff-Stuart, J. Isaac

Technology



Bows

The most powerful bows are mainly backed with animal tendons for better stiffness and power. Also their arrows are made with wood and tipped with flint, copper, stone they also get backed with feathers on the end.



Spears

Spears are mainly used to kill whales but can be used otherwise like for killing bears and wolves. They are made of bone and stone and are also backed with wood.



Knives

Most Native American knives are made of obsidian, stone, flint, and sometimes copper. Also the handle is mainly made of driftwood, bone, and all different types of woods.

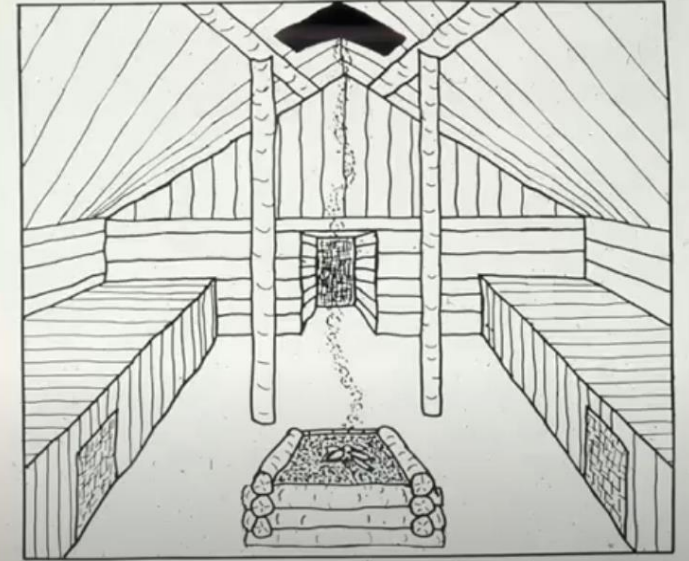
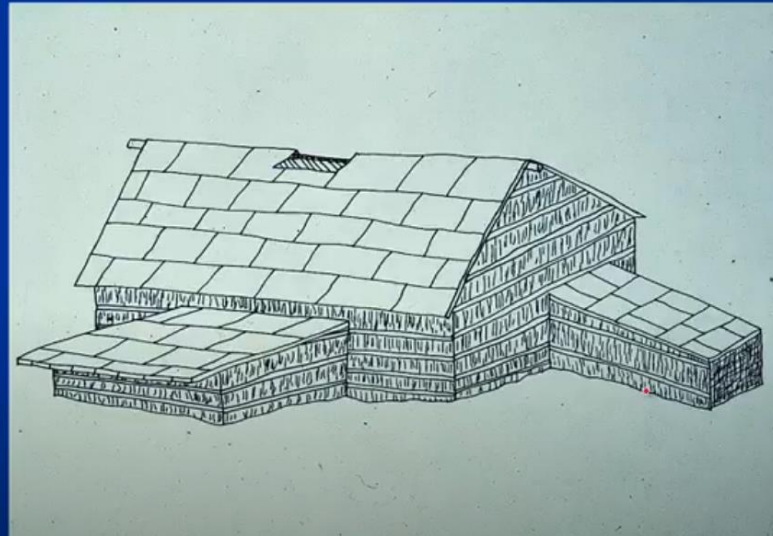
Shelters



Earthen Houses

Earthen houses are layered with many multiple different things. They first get dug out then they build wood walls, a thatched roof, and dirt layers to insulate. And they also put a fire pit in the center, and they are very strong permanent houses.

Nichit





Foods

- Dena'ina foods mainly contain caribou, rabbits, plants, salmon, and many others.
- The people don't waste any part of the animals they kill they eat the meat use the skin and eyeballs.
- They also make many different foods out of one animal like rabbit stew,



Clothing/Arts

- The Dena'ina made their clothing out of caribou skin.
- The men and women wore tunics, leggings, and moccasins.
- In the cold weather they wore parkas and caps.
- A kuspuk is a traditional shirt worn by the people.

Art

- On mushing adventures the Dena'ina wore tunics with beadwork on the bottom.
- They also used porcupine quills to make art.
- The people also made dentalium necklaces.



Language/Government/Religious Beliefs



The Dena'ina language is different from the other Athabascan languages because they lived on saltwater. There are very few people who speak it today.

"Dena'ina is the traditional language of the Cook Inlet and the Kenai Peninsula and up to Lake Iliamna. The name Dena'ina comes from two parts: dena meaning person and ina, the human plural marker in Dena'ina. About 50 people speak Dena'ina as a first language. Dena'ina language classes are held at Kenai Peninsula College and at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Dena'ina, like many other Alaska languages, is polysynthetic, meaning a whole sentence can be expressed with just one word. For example, the single word nuntnghel'it means 'I will see you again.'"

Resource/Source List

Redish, L. and Lewis, O. (2020). Dena'ina.
Native Languages of the Americas

http://www.bigorin.org/tanaina_kids.htm

<http://sites.kpc.alaska.edu/anthropology/lectures-2/9-denaina-language-introduction/>

Late Dr. Alan Borass Anthropology in
Dena'ina

<https://www.alaskanativelanguages.org/dena-ina#:~:text=Dena%E2%80%99ina%20is,you%20again.%E2%80%99>