**Job Cards**

**Gatherer of Shellfish**

I gather shellfish for the people in my village. At low tide, when the water is far away and there is a great expanse of sandy beach, I do most of my collecting. Using a stick that I have hardened in the fire, I dig up clams. I put these into an open-weave basket and rinse them before bringing them back to my people. I also collect oysters, mussels, abalone, crabs, limpets, periwinkles and sea urchins. However, clams are the most popular dish of my people. To honour the animals who have given themselves freely to me, I use all the parts of their bodies. The shells of the giant mussels are particularly good tool for scraping the hides of animals and to ladle food out of containers.

**Weaver**

I make the clothing for the people in my community. Some of these I make with animal parts and some with plants. I use a loom to weave goat hair into blankets. The geometric patterns on the blanket are designed by the men in my village and I weave the patterns for them. My blankets are often used in ceremonies and are so valuable that they are often traded. Sometimes I sew the soft fur of otters into the capes of my chief or his most important noblemen. I also make capes for the other people in my tribe but these are usually made of cedar bark. To make the cedar bark cape, I select a tree and thank it for sharing its bark with me. I cut the tree bark at the tree’s base and slowly back away so that the bark comes off in a long strip. Once I have the bark home, I soak it in salt water, then in fresh water and hang it up to dry. When it is dry, I beat it until it is soft and split it into fibres that I mix with feathers and dog or goat’s hair. I can now weave it into a cape or skirt on my loom.

**Shaman**

I am a Shaman. I am one of the most highly respected members of my community. I am a healer and a spiritual guide. My training for this role was very difficult. I had to go without food for a long period of time, bathe in icy water each morning and beat my body with branches to become pure. I use plants and herbs to heal illness and I can find illness and drain it from a person. My work is often done in ceremonies where I sing, dance and wear masks and sacred outfits. Only I, as a Shaman, can speak to and deliver messages from the spirit helpers in the spirit world. As well, I can help a person find their missing soul, whether it be nearby or in the spirit world.

**Gatherer of Plants**

I began my training to be a plant gatherer as a young girl. I would go with my mother to collect plants and herbs. My mother taught me the names of each of the plants my community needed for food and medicine. I also learned what parts of the plants to take and what time of the year to harvest (pick) them. For example, I learned that it was only the green shoots of the fireweed and thimbleberry that were to be eaten and only in the spring. I also remove the prickles on the stalks of salmon berries so that my people can eat the green shoots inside. I know that if a plant is eaten at the wrong time of year it will not taste good and that if people eat the wrong thing or too much of a plant, they may get sick. My community depends on my knowledge to keep them healthy. I also bring people pleasure by making soapberry ice cream at feasts. It’s made by whipping the soapberries with a salal branch until the mixture is frothy.

**Chief**

I am a chief. I was selected as a young boy, by the female elders in my community, to follow in my father’s footsteps and to become a chief upon his death, as long as I am deemed ready. Together, with my nobles, I am a caretaker of my community’s rights to crests, songs, dances and property. I represent them in ceremonial gatherings and try to make decisions that my people feel are in their best interests, such as when we should change camps. I can also raise the status of people who excel in their work. I share my wealth and bring honour to my people by giving away pieces of my copper shields at potlatches.

**Hunter**

I am a hunter. I work with others to trap animals like deer, bear and goats. We drive the animals into an enclosed (cut off) area where we can easily shoot them with spears or bows and arrows. We also use deadfall traps and spring traps to capture animals like raccoons and beavers. We trap waterfowl, like ducks, by stringing a net across a known flyway (common flying path) and blind them with the smoke from our campfires so they will fly into the net. The meat of the animals we catch is roasted, boiled, smoked or dried and kept for the winter. Every part of an animal I catch is used, even its fat and horns. I treat the animals I hunt with honour and thank them for giving their lives. I know that if I do not pay them proper respect, the next animal I hunt will not give itself freely to me.

**Woodcarver**

I am a woodcarver. I fell trees by drilling holes in them and placing hot coals inside. When the tree is hollowed out, I cut into it and with the help of others, we push it over. The trees are charred out further with hot coals and then I use my adze or maul and chisel to finish hollowing them. I fill the canoe with water that I heat with hot rocks I take from the fire. I place strong sticks across the top of the canoe to keep the sides of the canoe spread apart and I cover the top of the canoe with mats to hold the steam in. Steaming the canoe will make the wood softer and easier to work with. I burn the outside of the canoe, sand it with dogfish skin to make it smooth and rub fish oil on it. Then it will be ready to move to the beach where we will celebrate its launch with a feast and naming ceremony. I also make bentwood boxes. These are made with wood softened in much the same way and bent into a cube or rectangular prism shape. These are often carved and painted on the outside and used as baby’s cribs or to hold food, blankets or a clan’s most prized possessions.

**Fisher**

I am a fisher. My village makes fence weirs in our fishing site. We use a stone pile driver to drive posts firmly into the riverbed. Then we tie material between the posts. Many fish have trouble getting through the weirs and so from my rectangular-shaped box in the middle, I am able to spear them or catch them in my net more easily.

I also make bigger nets with twine that I make out of cedar bark and the stems of the stinging nettle plant. I use a reef net when I am in my canoe. We string the net between 2 canoes and then bring the canoes together. We pull up the net when we can see we have trapped a good number of fish inside.

I use a herring rake to catch the little herring fish from my canoe and use a spear and special lure to catch tricky fish like the ling cod. When hunting the great, Green Sturgeon, in the winter, I must work with at least one other fisher. These fish can only be caught with a harpoon as they can be up to 6 metres long and weigh up to 600 kilograms. This job is best performed with many people as it is difficult to pull this monstrous fish to shore.

Spirit helper are needed to catch some of the trickier fish and the fish must be treated with respect. The First Salmon Ceremony is an important tradition to my people. We greet the first salmon as it returns to its spawning grounds and its body is prepared and eaten according to our customs and then its bones are returned to the river. If this is not done, there is a risk that the salmon will not return in the following year.