



SWSW Library Offerings

Siwal Si'wes "Our Forefathers' Teachings"

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Please add your school name with your request. Thanks.

SWSW Library Hours:

Mon & Wed 7:30—5:00 Tues & Thurs 7:30—4:00 Fri 7:30—11:30

Hot Topics

Transformation Stories : A Sense of Place

"The sacred legends of [First Nations peoples]...have been passed down form generation to generation through the Elders, and are integral to the teachings and oral traditions of First Nations peoples. These stories link people to the land and to each other, and pass on traditional knowledge and history." (People of the Land., (2009). Back cover.)



"T'xwelátse is a man. He was turned to stone but he is still alive....the story of Stone T'xwelátse...describe[s] how he was transformed to become a part of the Stó:lō cultural landscape..." (<http://www.stolotourism.com/stoacutel333-publications.html>)

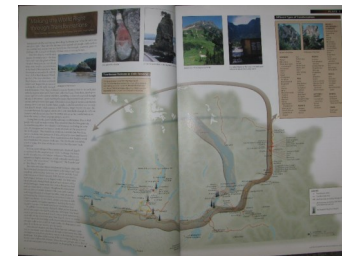
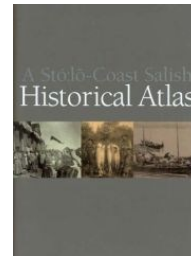


Lightning Rock is an important spiritual site to the Sumas First Nation. According to oral history, a shaman who confronted the Thunderbirds was transformed into stone and split by lightning. (Duncan McCue/CBC)

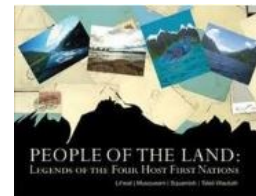
"Transformation stories are an important way that Coast Salish people make sense of their place in the world..... Through...examination of the names of people and places in these stories in the context of [First Nations] kinship and spirit power, the importance of the relationship between humans and non-human ancestors (like animals, rocks and trees), and between humans and places is [shown]." (Thom, Brian, PhD. (1998) Coast Salish Transformation Stories: Kinship Place and Aboriginal Rights and Title in Canada. <http://www.web.uvic.ca/~bthom1/Media/pdfs/ethnography/transform.htm>)

If you are interested in local places that have Stó:lo transformation stories associated, check out these books and go visit some of the sites.

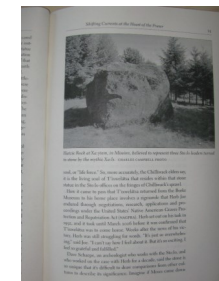
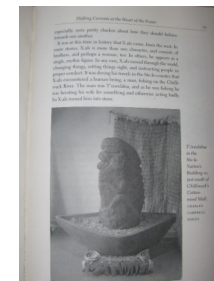
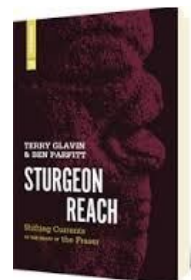
A Stó:lo-Coast Salish Historical Atlas, “Making the World Right through Transformations”, Albert “Sonny” McHalsie, David M. Schaeper and Keith Thor Carlson, p. 6-7. (Note: Every school library has a copy of this book in their library collection.)



People of the Land: Legends of the Four Host First Nations: Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Tseil-Waututh. Through words and photographs, this book tells the legends associated with our area. You will recognize many of the places associated with these stories.



Sturgeon Reach: Shifting Currents at the Heart of the Fraser, Terry Glavin and Ben Parfitt. P. 23-27. Along with chronicling the history of an integral part of the Fraser River, chapter 3 tells the transformation story of T'xwelátse, the man of stone, and of Hatzic Rock found at Xa:ytem in Mission.



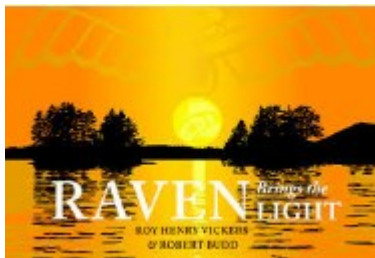
Educational Unit Plan Resource

Roy Henry Vickers: First Nations Artist

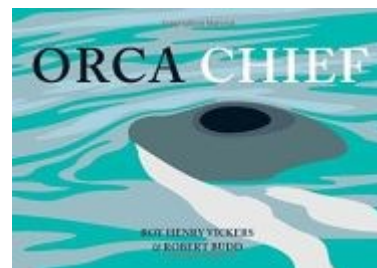


VICKERS, Roy Henry, artist (b 4 June 1946, Greenville/Laxgalts'ap). Of mixed British and Tsimshian background, he was raised in the north coastal village of Kitkatla and in Hazelton and Victoria, where he graduated from high school. In the 1970s he studied at the Kitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art in 'Ksan. After temporarily abandoning his art to work in commercial fishing, he settled in Tofino where he opened his own gallery in 1986. Since then his career has flourished. (KnowBC, <http://knowbc.com/limited/Books/Encyclopedia-of-BC/V/Vickers-Roy-Henry>)

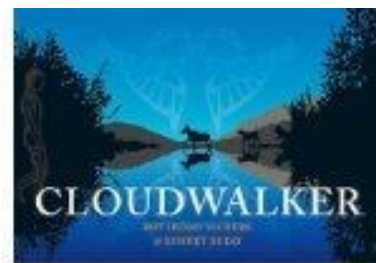
We have several beautiful books highlighting Vickers wonderful artwork accompanied by his personal remembrances and story inspirations. These books are available for sharing stories and legends with your students, or for studying the art of this prolific and masterful aboriginal artist.



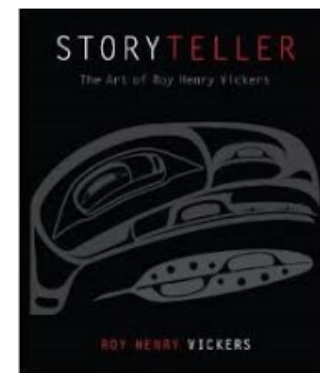
Raven Brings the Light



Orca Chief



Cloudwalker



Storyteller: The Art of Roy Henry Vickers 2003-2013