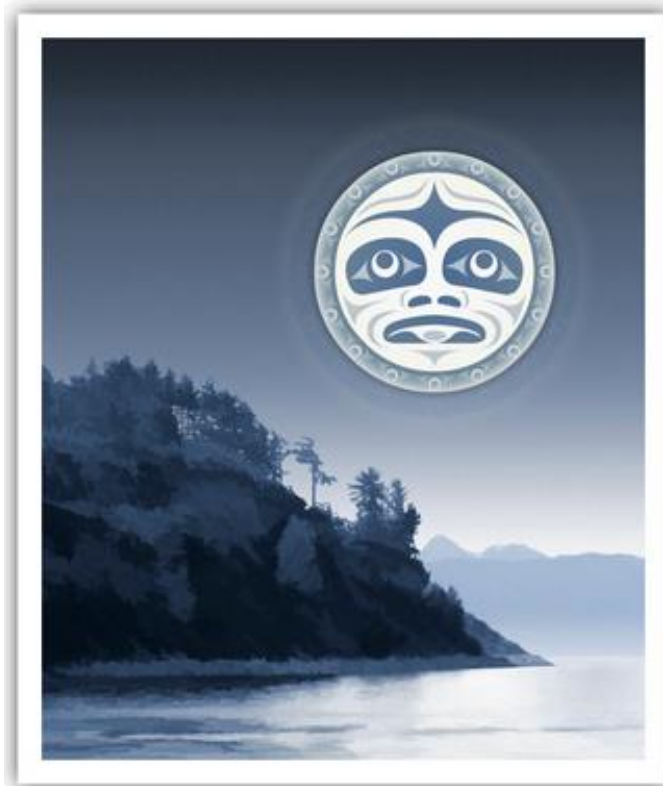


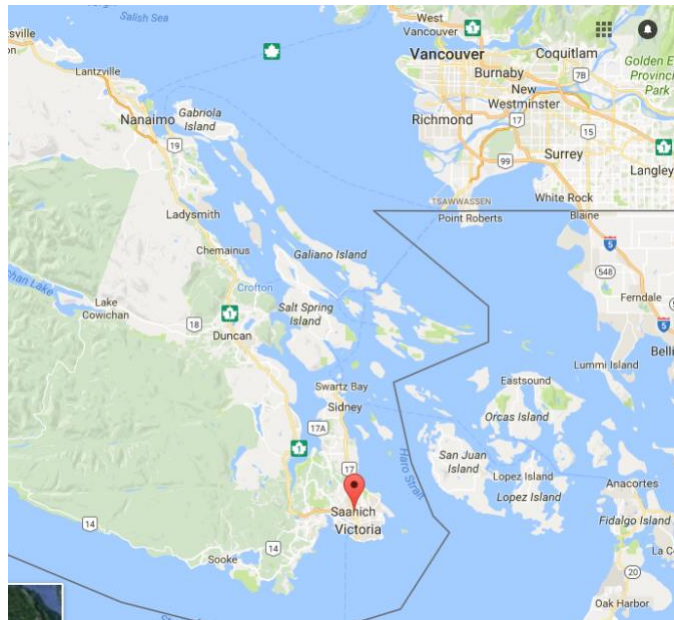
Inquiry Question

How did our First Peoples value the moon and its ability to predict upcoming seasonal events?

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Saanich is a community located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. It is near Victoria, on the lower, east side of the island.



The Importance of the Moon to the Saanich Peoples

"The Saanich people valued the moon because it counselled them of the changes in weather, signaled when to gather food and determined spiritual and social activities. The Saanich Year is based around thirteen moons which correspond roughly with the 12 months of the Gregorian [Western] calendar year. The names of each moon signify their origin and purpose and are markers of the rhythm of nature, rather like a calendar symbolizes changes in the seasons. The yearly cycle of the Saanich Inlet peoples reflects the changing seasons, the changing resources and the sophisticated strategies developed by the people to deal with periods of abundance, as well as times of scarcity"

Personal Recount:

"The length of time, the harvesting schedules, the spiritual needs are all tied into the seasons. We have 13 moons -- each with different significance, and that is how we worked." -Tom Sampson (January 28, 1997):

http://www.racerocks.com/racerock/jason/firstnations/cs_bkgrnd.html

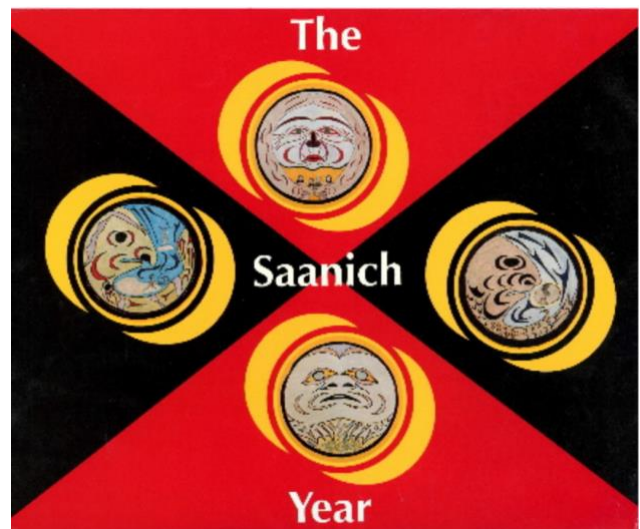
The Saanich Moons

Right now, you are going to learn a little more about each specific Saanich Moon.

Introduction from First Voices Website

Today we are part of a world that uses clocks and calendars and "daylight savings time" but we once used a system that was better for us.

Before the coming of the Europeans we were in touch with nature and used the universe as a



giant clock. Our culture and survival depended on the time of man and nature being one, so much so that we planned our lives around it. The moons told us of a change in weather and signaled our food gathering, spiritual, and social activities.

Because we are Saltwater People, who once lived as much on the sea as on the land, the tides were the clock that fixed our daily activities. The moon that signaled winter storms also warned us to put our paddles away and stay on land. Some moons were also signs to prepare for the annual cycle of the reef net fishery that distinguished us from other people. As a people without any major rivers we learned to create artificial reefs when the salmon passed through our Straits.

Our calendar has thirteen moons rather than twelve months. The names of the moons signify their origin and their purpose. In our tradition--like the names of places and persons they are sacred--they explain their place in the universe. We shared this calendar with the animals. Science now confirms what we have always known--that the Salmon People use the moons and the sun to navigate and to know when to come back to us.

The Salmon People and the animals still follow this age old calendar.

Please visit the [First Voices](#) website (or this resource from SD71: [Saanich Moons](#)) and select three Saanich Moons to read about. Once you have read about the moons of your choice, complete the discussion questions:

1. What were some of the Economic Activities that occurred during each moon?
2. What were some of the Cultural Activities that occurred during each moon?
3. Explain how the economic and cultural activities relate to the weather / season of that moon.

[First Voices Website](#)

Information from: <http://www.firstvoices.ca/en/SENCOTEN/story/ce197001da52c10e/The+Saanich+Moons>

Instructions
Read the material presented above and answer the discussion questions
This Project will be graded according to the project marking guide.
Project Submission: Submit your scanned document to the project drop box.