## Songs & Dances

Long ago our *s7elálexw* (old people) taught us that *st'elt'îlem* (songs) came before spoken *sqwél7ten* (language). *St'elt'îlem* (songs) were a *tl'í7teng* (gift) from *Xál7s* (the Creator) and from the *tetóselngexw* (animal people). One reason they were given to humans were to express emotions. Before the humans had *st'elt'îlem* (songs) they were unable to express their frustrations, sorrows, joys and unity. There was fighting across the land between humans and the animal people. The *tl'í7teng* (gift) of *st'îlem* (song) brought peace to the world and being able to release emotion brought purity to our peoples *séli7* (souls).

Qwey7îlesh (dances) came along with the st'elt'îlem (songs). The movement of these qwey7îlesh (dances) tells a sxwiyám (story). When you watch closely you can see the dance movements reflect different elements of their sxwiyám (story). These tell a sxwiyám (story) of emotion and messages to others.

St'elt'îlem (songs) and qwey7îlesh (dances) have been handed down from generation to generation. Some of our st'elt'îlem (songs) are forgotten or lost, but that doesn't mean they are gone. They come back to us as tl'elî7teng (gifts) that we breathe life into from our séli7 (spirit). Nilh skwá7-lh chelángen tiyá. (This is our culture.)

Written by: Kelly Hall - Xws7ámeshqen Manager



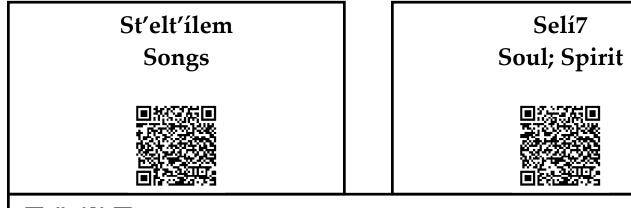


You can listen and learn the pronunciation of the words with your smartphone! Use your smartphone's camera app to scan the QR codes to follow along.

## Samish Language Labels for the Story!

We have something new for you! Please use these labels with the accompanying story, "How the Raven Created Tides".

Tetóselngexw	<u>x</u> ál7s
animals	creator
Qwey7ílesh	Tl'í7teng
Dances	Gift
Tl'elí7teng	sqwél7ten
gifts	language
s7elálexw	st'ílem
old people	song

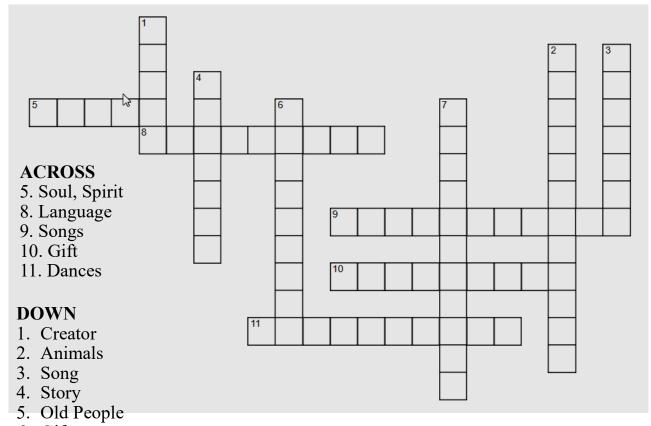




## Nilh skwá7-lh chelángen tiyá.

This is our culture.

Using the Song and Dances text or the QR Code flash cards, complete the crossword puzzle! Don't forget to check for singular and plural!



6. Gifts