

Songs & Dances

Long ago our *s7elálexw* (old people) taught us that *st'elt'ílem* (songs) came before spoken *sqwél7ten* (language). *St'elt'ílem* (songs) were a *tl'í7teng* (gift) from *Xál7s* (the Creator) and from the *tetósélnqexw* (animal people). One reason they were given to humans were to express emotions. Before the humans had *st'elt'ílem* (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'ílem* (song) brought peace to the world and being able to release emotion brought purity to our peoples *séli7* (souls).

Qwey7ílesh (dances) came along with the *st'elt'ílem* (songs). The movement of these *qwey7ílesh* (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'ílem (songs) and *qwey7ílesh* (dances) have been handed down from generation to generation. Some of our *st'elt'ílem* (songs) are forgotten or lost, but that doesn't mean they are gone. They come back to us as *tl'elí7teng* (gifts) that we breathe life into from our *séli7* (spirit). *Nilh skwá7-lh chelángen tiyá*. (This is our culture.)

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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
animals



Qwey7ílesh
Dances



Tl'elí7teng
gifts



s7elálexw
old people



xál7s

creator



Tl'í7teng
Gift



sqwél7ten
language



st'ílem
song



St'elt'ílem Songs



Selí7 Soul; Spirit



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!

ACROSS

- 5. Soul, Spirit
- 8. Language
- 9. Songs
- 10. Gift
- 11. Dances

DOWN

- 1. Creator
- 2. Animals
- 3. Song
- 4. Story
- 5. Old People
- 6. Gifts