Honoring

AIM ➨ To appreciate the value Indians placed on giving to others.

Honoring Ceremonies

Indian people have had their own ways of honoring. Remember the Potlatch ceremony in A Visit to Taholah which involved the giving of gifts. Gifts helped a tribe to take care of all of its people. In this way it was possible to make sure that the poor, the old, the sick, and those having hard times would be taken care of.

Celebrations were held to honor both the living and those who had died. Sometimes it gave an opportunity to recognize good hunters or fine artists and craftsmen. During these occasions everyone ate, sang honoring songs, danced and felt the love and pride of their people.

Give-Aways

The Plains and Plateau Give-Aways feature the giving away of many quilts, fabrics, woolen blankets, beadwork, quillwork and anything of value that the family wants to give away. Members of the family hosting a Give-Away always dance together in honor of their loved ones. In old times this family, if honoring the dead, gave away all that they owned including tepees, horses and all personal belongings.

On the Northwest Coast, families held potlatches. The Potlatch was a significant social event in which a family's wealth and social standing was measured by the quantity of food and gifts given away to others.