

EQ # 11- What is the cultural significance of Celilo Falls & Salmon?

Salmon & Ecology Unit



What are we learning today?

- Salmon are important ecologically AND culturally.
- Salmon is vital to the cultures of Native Americans in Oregon—more than as a food source.
- The Dalles dam impacted salmon populations and this, in turn, hurt the Celilo community.

Read the Handout

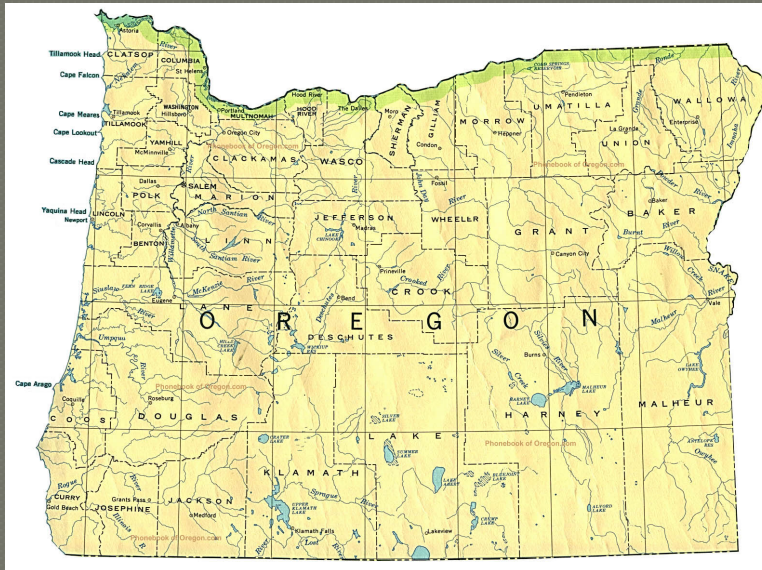
- Number the paragraphs
- Mark up the text as you read
- As you read, underline 3-5 IMPORTANT FACTS from the reading that you think are key to understanding Celilo Falls.

Handout about Celilo Falls...

- Now DISCUSS what you underlined with a table partner.
- In your INB (LEFT side) across from a new EQ #11, under your picture (LEFT side), record THREE- FIVE total facts from your discussion and reading.

Where was Celilo Falls?

- Near the Dalles,
OR.
- On the
Columbia River



What did the falls look like?

- Before the Dalles Dam was constructed in 1957, Celilo Falls was a 40' wide falls along the Columbia River.



Celilo Falls

- Celilo was called *Wy-am* by the Native Americans.
- *Wy'am* means “echo of falling water”
- At Celilo Falls, the river dropped 80' in less than half a mile and had a volume of TEN times Niagara Falls in Spring.



The History of Celilo Falls

- Celilo Falls is Oregon's oldest continuously occupied site—evidence dates occupation at over 11,000 years.
- At least SIX different tribes fished nearby.
- Celilo or Wy-am was a rich trade center
- As many as 10,000 people lived there at its peak.



How did they fish?

- The high water volume, narrow channel and rocks made for excellent fishing.
- They fished from platforms, tied by ropes for safety.
- Fishing was dangerous; falls into the water were usually fatal.



What was the Cultural Significance of Salmon at Celilo?

- Elders and chiefs regulated fishing
- There was no fishing until the first Salmon Ceremony took place
- Fishing during the daytime only.
- Visitors could fish but had to leave anything they couldn't haul away.
- Salmon brought thousands together for celebration, trade, food and tradition.

Why did they dam the river?

- Dams can control flooding by allowing water flow adjustments.
- Dams create electricity by using the power of the flowing water to turn turbines.
- Dams on the Columbia River provide navigation locks that allow ships to travel inland from the ocean all the way to Idaho.

The Columbia River has 14 Dams



The Dalles Dam Installed in 1957

- Celilo Falls disappeared within six hours of the dam gates closing.



A Poem About Celilo

-by Ed Edmo

Celilo Fisherman

*You made your nets
and tested the knots
seeing that they held.
Little did you know
what was to hold you
after the sound of water falling
over what
used to be.*



Echo of Water Against Rock

- Watch the video about the damming of the Columbia River at Celilo Falls.
- Record FIVE important facts from your viewing in you INB

Echo of Rocks on Water Film

- Share your film notes with a table partner. What did you write down and why?

Celilo Today...

- News Article Analysis Activity- Celilo Today
 - Find a partner
 - Each read ONE article and complete the News Analysis Handout as / after you read.
 - When directed, share your article analysis with partner. Trade when first student finishes.
 - Ask questions; practice good listening skills