

CWSF 2011 - Toronto, Ontario



Moses Smith

Kwakwaka'wakw Uses of Devil's Club

Challenge: Environment

Category: Junior

Region: Northern Vancouver Island

City: Alert Bay, BC

School: Alert Bay Elementary

Abstract: The purpose of the project "The Use of the Devil's Club Plant in First Nation's Cultures" is to raise awareness of the traditional ecological knowledge and skills of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. The plant was traditionally used for both medicinal and spiritual purposes and is still used to this day for a number of different ailments.

Biography

Nugwa'am Ga'yusdis (I am Moses Smith) Ga'yutlan laxa Kwikwasut'inuxw dlu Namgis. (I come from the Kwikwasut'inuxw and Namgis) I am First Nations. My culture is very important to me. In Alert Bay BC where I live culture is a part of my daily life. We practice our culture at my school and in our Big House where we have traditional potlatches and feasts. I am a member of the T'sasala Dance group. I am one of the singers in the group. We educate tourists about our dances and other traditions. Our group has traveled through BC and parts of the USA. My Ada (grandmother) inspires me to continue to learn about my culture through her storytelling of our legends and history. My personal hobbies are soccer and basketball. I enjoy making people laugh.