

## Story Weaving - The Transformation Story of Lhílheqey Weaving Description

- 4 ft wide 7ft long story weaving
- Created with only wool spun and dyed by weaver.
- 150 hrs to weave.
- 7 months to complete the project. Steps; harvesting plants, flowers, and berries for dyeing, dyeing the wool, buying raw wool, and roving, spinning, raw wool process; acquire, wash, dry, pick, card, spin, blanch, hang to dry, ball, weaving final project.
- Inspired to weave this story by the Mountain Goat who live on Lhílheqey, our ancestors used their wool to weave.

The story of Lhílheqey is about a Stó:lō women who is married to Mt. Baker who travels back to her home, the Stó:lō territory, to watch over the Sto:lo people and the fish in the Stó:lō (Fraser River). She asks Xexá:ls the transformers to transform her into the mountain, in which they did, along with her dog Sqwema:y, so she can watch over her people and the fish.

The yellow lightening bolts at the top represent the protection and transformation from the creator. Yellow wool dyed with onion skins, dandelion, carrot tops, turmeric.

Two eagles - In our culture are the ones that can fly closest to the creator and carry our prayers to the creator. The eagles in this weaving carry Lhílheqey's prayers, to be transformed into the mountain to watch over the people, river, and fish. Raw black sheep's wool, short hair, washed, picked, carded, and spun.

The yellow and purple zig zags represent the wind and heat coming from the sun to wind dry the fish. This is a way that fish takes care of our people, a way we preserve the fish so we can eat in the winter. Yellow wool dyed with dandelion, onion skins, turmeric, carrot tops, purple wool dyed with blackberries.

The family dry racks in the canyon also represent the preservation of the salmon, one of the only ways our ancestor could preserve the fish. The fish camp section in this weaving was inspired by the Douglas family fish camp in the Yale BC. The dip net used to fish is on the rock where they fish in the river, the next level up is where they cut the fish for hanging to dry, the fish backbone represents the backbone taken out of fish. The fillets are then brought up to the next level where the fish are hung on the dry racks to dry. Dark brown wool spun from roving, light brown wool dyed with cedar bark, red wool, sides of fish hanging on the dry rack, dyed with root madder.

The fish – making the journey up the river and stop in the eddy to rest where they are caught for wind drying by the fishermen. Red wool dyed with root madder.

Rock Wall Fortification – built by our ancestors and still stand in the canyon, were built to help fight off invaders. Raw Black sheep's wool, short hair, washed, picked, and spun, grey wool spun from roving.

Canoes and Paddle – How our people travelled the river. Light brown wool dyed with cedar bark, dark brown wool, roving spun.

Pit Houses – Represent Stó:lō people, we used to live in pit houses underground and camouflaged with cedar branches, sticks and dirt to look like the ground. The grey wool hanging down represents this. The pole in the middle of the pit house is how we used to access the pit houses and was put in the middle, so it was easy to see invaders enter. Brown wool, spun roving, grey wool, spun roving, steps on the entrance pole, light brown wool dyed with cedar bark.

Woven cedar hats - Represent Stó:lō people, the four hats represent a family and below are cedar capes and woven shawls. Light brown wool dyed with cedar bark, dark brown wool spun roving, yellow wool dyed with dandelion, red wool dyed with root madder.

Cedar trees – first triangle light green wool dyed with stinging nettle, second triangle light brown dyed with cedar bark, third triangle, dark brown triangle spun wool roving.

Lhílheqey (Mt Cheam and her Dog Sqwema:y) – Where the mountain goat live. Woven with mountain goat hair spun into white sheep's wool, outline of the mountain purple wool dyed with blackberries.

Zig zags in the mountain – represent the pack straps and lighting, we would weave pack straps to carry harvesting baskets. Dark brown wool spun roving, yellow wool dyed with carrot tops, red wool dyed with root madder.

Harvesting basket in the mountain – Harvest basket we used to harvest, light brown wool dyed with cedar bark, dark brown wool spun wool roving.

Blueberries in the mountain– represent the wild blueberries that grow on Mt. Cheam. Purple wool dyed with blueberries.

Green and grey stripe – Represents medicinal plants. Green wool dyed with stinging nettle; grey wool dyed with alder tree.