

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Snoqualmie Tribe's new kitchen and classroom help sustain cultural practices**

Section: **THE MIX, E4**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

Feel free to adapt this lesson for your students. For instance, some educators may assign this as a homework task, while others might facilitate the reading and discussion of questions within small groups or larger class discussions.

****Please take a moment to review all NIE content before classroom use to ensure it is suitable for your students.****

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

The main learning objective of this article is to inform the reader about how the Snoqualmie Tribe's new Harvest Kitchen and Greenhouse Classroom facilities are being used to sustain, revitalize, and pass on their cultural practices and traditional knowledge to both children and adults.

The article aims to show:

- ***The facilities' function:*** To serve as dedicated spaces for traditional food preparation, plant care, language classes, and communal gathering.
- ***The cultural impact:*** How the spaces help tribal members, especially children, connect with their heritage—such as learning the Lushootseed language, traditional cooking, and plant harvesting—which were previously limited due to colonization.

- **The importance of place:** Why having a physical, accessible "gathering home" is crucial for protecting the tribe's cultural rights and facilitating intergenerational teaching.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the meaning of the word.

"The children's connection to the land and crafts is **innate**, he said. "It's in them already," Castleberry said. "We're just awakening it."

Innate Guess:

Innate Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. In the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe's Harvest Kitchen, Chris Castleberry baked salmon fillets over an open fire, securing them with cedarwood dowels and sticks. He rotated the fish to imbue a smoky flavor from the coal. It was Castleberry's first time slow-cooking salmon like this. As a tribal member, he recalled the experience as "_____", giving him agency over the process of preparing his food. "Most people get (the salmon) on a plate, and they don't see it in that traditional form, split in the wood," Castleberry said.
2. In July, the Snoqualmie Tribe opened the _____ — where multigenerational tribal members gather for events and community meals — as well as a Greenhouse Classroom that serves the 54 Native and non-Native children enrolled in the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Child

- Development Center, giving them hands on opportunities to learn cultural practices, such as plant care and harvesting, from tribal staff.
3. Located on the Tribal Administration Campus near the _____, the new facilities are right next to each other.
 4. The construction of the kitchen and classroom cost \$_____ million, sourced from federal, state and private grants, and is the second phase of the Snoqualmie Tribe's child care expansion project, following the launch of its child development center in 2023.
 5. The tribe's culture department recently began teaching weekly culture classes. What are some of the classes they're teaching?
 6. Robert de los Angeles, chairperson of the Snoqualmie Tribal Council, said the new facilities help make education more readily available for the tribal community — adults as well as children — allowing them to do what?
 7. The facilities are intended to familiarize children with what?
 8. Crucial sources of _____ — such as tribal lands, waters and social systems — have been limited due to colonization and federal policies displacing Indigenous peoples, according to the Snoqualmie Tribe Ancestral Lands Movement team.
 9. Having facilities like the Harvest Kitchen and Greenhouse Classroom helps the Snoqualmie people protect what?
 10. What is the language of the Snoqualmie people?

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?

Deeper-Dive comprehension questions for small groups, entire classes or journal entries and/ or essay prompts for extended enrichment:

- The article mentions that colonization and federal policies limited Indigenous knowledge sources. How do the Harvest Kitchen and Greenhouse Classroom specifically act to reverse this disruption and protect the Tribe's "cultural rights"?
- Chris Castleberry felt "powerful" slow-cooking salmon and is excited his son will use the new classroom. Discuss the concept of "agency" over food preparation and culture. Why is it important for parents to be able to pass on traditions in a dedicated, communal space?
- Castleberry says the children's connection to the land is "innate" and that the facilities are "just awakening it." What does he mean by this? How does the hands-on learning in the Greenhouse Classroom foster this awakening?
- Define the concept of food sovereignty in the context of the Snoqualmie Tribe. How does the Harvest Kitchen, by utilizing ingredients from the Tribe's forests and waters, support this goal?

- How does integrating culture classes (Lushootseed language, drum-making) directly into the Tribe's Child Development Center support the overall mission of the facilities? What effect might this early exposure have on children as they grow?
- Castleberry was inspired to learn Lushootseed after hearing his children sing songs in it. Research the importance of language revitalization efforts and discuss how providing language classes for both children and adults creates an important cycle of learning.

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