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## Winter



*U-in-mi, Cayuse basket weaver, Umatilla reservation.*

In traditional Native American culture, winter was a time for families to gather together in villages. The largest villages could have several hundred people. Winter was a time to celebrate, dance, and sing and to tell stories about family and tribal history and beliefs.

Winter was a time to enjoy fish, berries, meat, and other foods that had been gathered in spring, summer, and fall.

If the weather was nice enough, winter could also be a time to fish in rivers and to hunt for deer, elk, and antelope. Hunting provided meat for food, hides for clothing, and bones and antlers for tools.

Winter was also a time to make traditional crafts and supplies, such as baskets and nets, to help with food gathering during the rest of the year.

At the end of winter, Native people looked forward to new life and new foods. In traditional culture, wild celery was one of the first foods to be harvested in spring. The end of winter and beginning of new life were—and are—a time for celebration.