



Goldbelt Heritage Institute

*"Drink from the Vessel of Traditional Knowledge"*

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation  
United States Department of Education  
Alaska Native Education Programs  
Alaska Native Award #S356A090050  
Wooch. een "Together We Can"



Once home, the remaining outer bark is removed, the cedar may be thinned by splitting it, as Gabbi Kay is doing, and then it is set aside for use later.



To remove cedar bark, harvesters cut through the outer bark and through the cambium layer.





Informational Note Red and yellow cedar bark is gathered for many purposes. In spring, before the sap rises, gatherers locate mature cedars with few low branches. Strips are pulled in long unbroken pieces from standing trees. Only part of the bark is removed, as in the photo to the right, so the vitality of the tree is not affected. Cedars with healed scars may be found in stands of old trees.

Pages 2-3 show typical gathering

circumstances. The remaining pages show stripping bark from a downed tree. Finding a downed tree is not typical but provides an opportunity to easily gather a large quantity of bark.



6



Wea  
scatters  
loose  
tobacco on  
the ground,  
as a way to  
thank the  
tree for  
its bark.

15



# Gathering Cedar Bark

By Kathy Nielson

Photographs by  
Kitty Eddy and  
Shgen George



Wea rolls the  
cleaned bark into a  
loop to carry out of  
the woods.



When the strip is 3-4 inches wide, they carefully  
begin to lift the bark.





*Gabbi Kay and her great-uncle pull cedar bark from a standing tree near Angoon.*

2



8

*Gathering Cedar Bark*

228 words

DRA level 40

19



Once the bark is removed, Wea scrapes off the rough outer bark, leaving it in the woods.

13



This book is intended to accompany the "Red and Yellow Cedar" K-2 or the "Math- Weaving" Grade 5 cultural curriculum unit.

18



With harvesting complete, Gabbi Kay thanks the tree for its cedar bark.

3



With help,  
Wea is able to  
pull most of  
the bark off  
the tree.

12



Wea pulls a 4  
inch wide strip  
from the  
downed cedar  
tree. After the  
initial cut for  
width, she is  
able to pull the  
bark and it  
releases  
smoothly from  
the tree.

9





Near Sitka, cedar bark gatherers find a recently fallen cedar. They will remove all the bark from the tree since it has already fallen.

4



17



10



Sometimes the strip will hit a branch. The strip will either split around the branch or it may be necessary to cut the strip at the branch.

11