

Name:

Nonfiction: Review

Date:

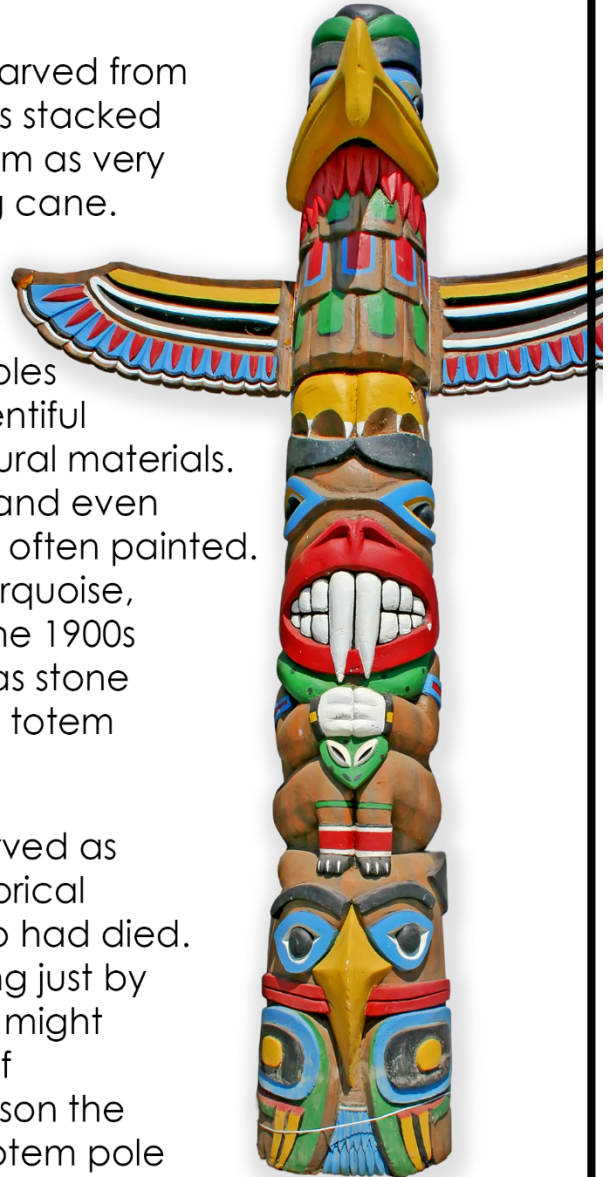
As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

What is a Totem Pole?

A totem pole is a Native American sculpture carved from a tree. They feature carvings of animals or humans stacked one on top of the other. You probably picture them as very tall towers, but they could be as small as a walking cane.

Long ago, Native Americans lived throughout North America. However, totem poles were only carved by tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Totem poles were made from large cedar trees which were plentiful in that region. Their carving tools were simple, natural materials. They carved with shells, stones, sharpened wood, and even bones, antlers, or beaver teeth. Totem poles were often painted. The most common paint colors were red, black, turquoise, and white. Very few totem poles carved before the 1900s still exist. Wooden totem poles are not as **durable** as stone sculptures. Wood **decays** over time. The average totem pole lasts 75 – 100 years.

Totem poles are works of art, but some also served as storytellers. They described a legend, retold a historical event, or honored an important tribe member who had died. It's difficult to know what story a totem pole is telling just by looking at it. For example, a bear on a totem pole might symbolize strength. A bear can also be a symbol of motherhood. The bear might indicate that the person the totem pole is honoring was a bear hunter. Each totem pole tells a unique story. To understand the story of a specific totem pole, you need someone familiar with the totem pole to tell it to you.



Common Animals on a Totem Pole	What do they symbolize?
Beaver	Creative, Artistic, and Determined
Bear	Strength, Motherhood, Teaching
Eagle	Great Strength
Owl	Wisdom
Wolf	Intelligence and Leadership

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Monday

Before you read, make a prediction about the text based on the title and text features.

Long ago, where were you most likely to see a totem pole?

According to the text, what is a totem pole?

What is the meaning of the word **durable** in this text?

Tuesday

Why did Native Americans choose to make totem poles out of cedar trees?

What caused totem poles to be less durable than stone sculptures?

True or False?
Totem poles are always very large towers.

What is the main idea of this article?

Wednesday

What is the 3rd paragraph mainly about?

What were the most common colors found on a totem pole?

List one detail in the 3rd paragraph that supports the main idea.

Why is it difficult to know what story a totem pole is telling just by looking at it?

Thursday

How does the picture in this article help the reader?

Where in the article can you find out what an Eagle symbolizes on a totem pole?

What information can you find in the chart?

If a totem pole were to include a bear, what might that bear symbolize?
