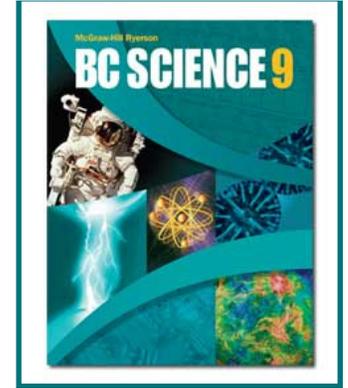


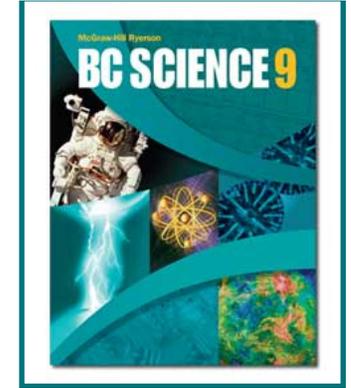
12.2 Aboriginal Knowledge of the Solar System



- Long before modern science, the Aboriginal peoples of the West Coast developed systems based on observations of space and celestial bodies.
 - Aboriginal cultures have a holistic world view, where all realms of the physical and spiritual world are connected to form a whole. Western science is based on the physical realm only.
 - Observations of the Sun and Moon allowed for the development of hunting, fishing and agricultural cycles.
 - By observing the position of celestial objects in the sky, accurate navigation and distance calculations could also be made.

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Aboriginal Knowledge of the Solar System



- The aboriginal peoples of British Columbia made daily decisions using their knowledge of the moon, planets and stars.
 - Fishing was often influenced by lunar positioning.
 - It was observed that there were 13 lunar months, of 29.5 days, throughout the year.
 - The Coast Salish, for example, named these lunar months, and associated each with knowledge of connected seasons, cultural activities and traditions.
 - Navigation was often determined by the positions of the stars and planets in the night sky.
 - By recognizing the patterns the stars and planets followed, predictable seasons were followed from year to year.

Take the Section 12.2 Quiz

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