

The Feather Dance

Long ago all Passamaquoddy people lived off what they could get from the bay. Young men learned to fish with spears or use of nets.

Today some still fish but most have jobs elsewhere within the community or the neighboring towns.

Young boys long ago were taught the importance of keeping their balance.

They were taught in fun ways to prepare them for standing up and spearing pollock, porpoise or other sea life needed for food.

They were taught the feather dance. They danced around in a wide circle around a feather stuck in the ground.

When prompted to do so they

hopped to the feather on one foot
and grabbed it with their mouth.
They often alternated feet so both
legs would get the same exercise.

There is no song that goes with this
dance, just the beat of the drum.
If you are unable to grab the feather
on your first try you go back and
start your circle around it again. Go
ahead and try it!!!