ing journey, so the leaders, both women and men, climbed the mountain to look for a safe way around the ice; there was none. But they saw a stream, flowing from the narrow mouth of the glacier, which emptied into a great bay on the distant side. The passage under the glacier seemed too dangerous, the ice caverns too narrow to pass through. Determined to continue the migration to the ocean, the leaders met to plot a new course.

Then, four women stepped forward and volunteered to journey beneath the glacier. Two were barren, one was a widow, and the fourth was well along in years. Because the women had no children to nurture and protect, the leaders agreed to their risky plan. So the men built a raft of logs and the women set forth early next morning. With renewed hopes the leaders once again climbed the mountain, keeping watch all morning and into the afternoon.

Toward evening, they heard distant voices calling from the bay. It was the four women, waving their arms and shouting “We made it, we made it through, under the ice.” Then, the youngest and strongest of the Tlingits set out for the other side. When they arrived, they began building large boats for the next part of the journey, and explored the region beyond the glacier for a safe place abundant in resources. Then, all of the Tlingit people followed behind them. After three days and three nights, they came through the ice caverns. So, they set up camps and rested.

The next day, the people asked the Great Spirit to be with them. They decided to row in all directions and settle as much unoccupied territory as possible. It was a sad, sad day as the people sang goodbye to their uncles and aunts and cousins and friends. They wept as they rowed, but it was the beginning of the Tlingit Nation, which today occupies more than twenty-three million acres of land and water in southeast Alaska.

**Activities**

1. Use a map of the BC/Yukon/Alaska area to trace the possible journey of this group of natives. Draw your own version of the map and mark areas where you think they might have camped. Include on your map landmarks from the story, for example, the glacier, the mountain, the stream, the bay.

2. Create a decision-making chart to show the decisions the leaders of the group made along the journey. Show the alternatives and possible outcomes of each potential choice.

3. Write the story of one of the women who made the journey beneath the glacier. Write the story as the woman, in the first person. Describe your feelings and experiences. Show rather than tell, using descriptive words and images.