

# When Was the First Totem Pole Created?

Totem poles are large wooden sculptures created by Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast of North America. They are often carved from cedar trees and are rich in symbolism, telling stories about lineages, clans, and important events.

The history of totem poles dates back thousands of years. The exact date of the first totem pole is difficult to pinpoint, but evidence suggests that the earliest forms were created around the late 18th to early 19th century. However, the roots of the tradition can be traced back even further to earlier Indigenous art forms.

Much of the totem pole's significance is tied to the communities and cultures that created them. Each totem pole is unique, often representing particular family groups or events. Common themes include animals, which hold special meaning in the cultures, as well as humans in various poses.

In summary, while we cannot say exactly when the very first totem pole was created, we know that the practice of carving totem poles has been an important part of Indigenous cultures in the Pacific Northwest for several centuries, evolving over time in terms of style and significance.