

FOCUS QUESTION

How did the Iroquois bring peace to their people?

VOCABULARY

slash-and-burn
Creek Confederacy
longhouse
wampum
clan
Iroquois Confederacy
compromise

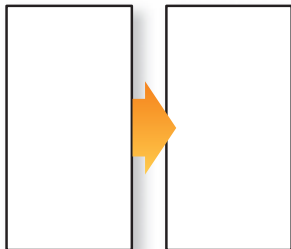
VOCABULARY STRATEGY

PREFIXES The prefix **con-** means “with” or “together.” You may know the word **connect**. What other words begin with this prefix?

READING STRATEGY

Identify Cause and Effect

Use the chart below to write the cause and effect of the Iroquois people forming the Iroquois Confederacy.



People of the Eastern Woodlands

Start with Your **CALIFORNIA STANDARDS**

5.1 Students describe the major Pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.

5.1.1 Describe how geography and climate influenced the way various nations lived and adjusted to the natural environment, including locations of villages, the distinct structures that they built, and how they obtained food, clothing, tools, and utensils.

In this lesson you will discover how the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands used the lush forests around them to build houses and get food. (Begins on page 103)

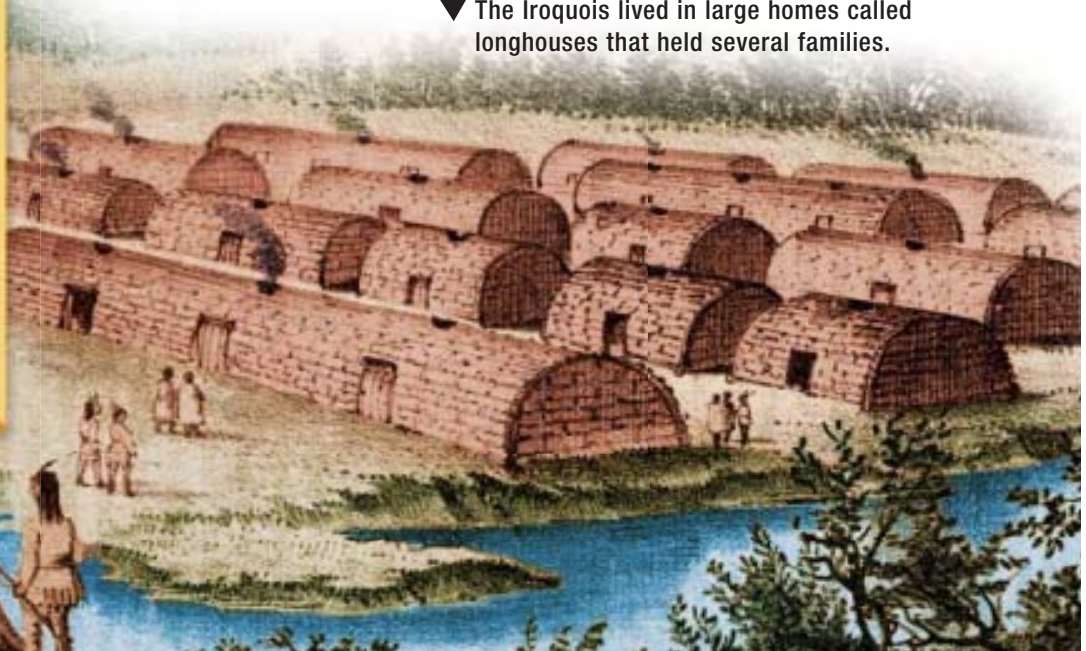
5.1.2 Describe their varied customs and folklore traditions.

You will read how the groups in this area, speaking different languages, held unique customs and traditions. (Begins on page 104)

5.1.3 Explain their varied economies and systems of government.

You will read about the Creek and Iroquois Native Americans and how they formed united groups to keep order. (Begins on page 104)

▼ The Iroquois lived in large homes called longhouses that held several families.



1500

1600

1700

1800

circa 1570
The Iroquois
Confederacy is formed

circa 1722
Tuscarora join the
Iroquois Confederacy

He had traveled far from home. Suddenly he heard the whistle of an arrow. A few feet from him, a deer fell. Then a stranger stepped out and faced him. The two men were amazed to find that they spoke the same language. They did not know if their people were friends or enemies, but they were both hungry. That night, they ate together like brothers.



A Land Rich in Forests 5.1.1

East of the Mississippi River, giant forests cover the land. In the north, at the end of autumn, forests blaze with color—orange, yellow, and red leaves. The trees, plants, and animals of the forests provided everything people needed to survive. One Chippewa said that nature “gives us the gifts that are appropriate and necessary.”

Living in the Four Seasons

The season often guided how the people of the Eastern Woodlands lived. During winter, men hunted game such as deer, bear, rabbits, beavers, and wild turkeys. Women made clothing, blankets, and other objects for family use. At night families gathered by the fire to tell stories about their history and traditions.

During spring, the soil of the coastal plains and river valleys was ideal for growing the “Three Sisters” of corn, squash, and beans. Many groups practiced **slash-and-burn** agriculture to renew the soil. Farmers burned cleared forest land. They then let the

land rest before replanting crops. This helped keep the soil fertile.

In the summer, men fished, carved canoes from trees, and built homes. Women gathered berries and wild plants. Autumn was a time of harvest. Men and women dried food for the winter.

The Penobscot and Natchez

People in the woodlands adapted to the varied climates and geography. The Penobscot, for example, in the mountainous areas of what is now Maine, moved to family hunting areas. They also gathered fruits, nuts, and berries. During the cold winters they wore warm clothing made from animal skins.

In the Southeast, groups such as the Natchez lived in permanent villages in what is today Mississippi. They were successful farmers. Because the climate was mild, the Natchez wore light clothes woven from plant fibers.

REVIEW How did the seasons affect the way Native Americans in the Eastern Woodlands lived? *Cause and Effect*