

HOME LIFE

The Algonquin lived in groups of 100 to 300 people. When winter moved in, they split into smaller groups.

The people lived in homes called wigwams. These were made of strong sticks bent into an upside-down "U" shape. They were covered with woven grasses or tree bark. These homes were strong, but easy to build.

Did You Know?

Parents, children, and even grown children often lived together.

WHAT THEY ATE

The Algonquin gathered wild plants, including berries, nuts, and roots. Sometimes tribes traded with each other for food, such as corn.

The Algonquin did a small amount of farming. Some people tapped maple trees for sap. When winter came, they moved around to find food.

Did You Know?

Algonquins traded objects such as beaver pelts or furs. In return, other tribes, such as the Huron, gave them corn.

DAILY LIFE

In each Algonquin band, people had different jobs. Men were warriors and hunters. Some were chiefs. Women gathered food, cooked meals, and took care of the children. Men and women told stories and made art.

The children helped their parents. They played with toys that prepared them for adult life. Dolls were often attached to cradleboards, much like Algonquin babies in real life.



LONGHOUSES AND WIGWAMS

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Algonquian-speaking peoples lived in settled villages and wanted homes that would last a long time. Their homes were much alike except

for their size. The Haudenosaunee built longhouses for many families to share. Algonquian-speaking peoples often built smaller homes called wigwams.

Longhouses and wigwams had a frame of poles and a curved, or arched, roof. Sheets of bark covered the frame and were tied in place. One or more holes in the roof allowed smoke from the fires to escape.



WIGWAM

HOME IS SHELTER

What does home mean to you? It likely means many things. It's the place you share with your family. It's where you eat meals and sleep. It's the place you **celebrate** special occasions. It's where you find **shelter** in bad weather and comfort after a bad day.

Home was all these things to Native Americans as well. But not all Native American homes looked alike.

Different groups of Native Americans built different kinds of homes, depending partly on the **natural resources** around them.



MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK IN COLORADO

HOME LIFE

The Iroquois lived in longhouses. Longhouses were narrow. They had one room split into parts. They were made with tree branches. The roof was often rounded.

A longhouse was large. Up to 50 people could live in it! Each family had its own small space for sleeping and living. They shared a fire and other parts of the building.

Did You Know?

The Iroquois often called themselves *Haudenosaunee*. This means "the people of the longhouse."



WHAT THEY ATE

The Iroquois were hunters, gatherers, and farmers. The men hunted animals such as deer. They fished using nets and spears. The people also gathered wild fruits, nuts, mushrooms, and roots. The women farmed corn, beans, and squash. If food wasn't available, the Iroquois moved to find it.

DAILY LIFE

Longhouses were the heart of life in an Iroquois village. Each village usually had several hundred people. Within the village, people had important jobs. Men hunted, fished, and trapped. They were warriors or tribe leaders. They also built houses.

Women planned and cared for the crops. They made clothing. They also chose tribe leaders. Children did chores and played with cornhusk dolls. Boys and men played lacrosse.

Did You Know?

Iroquois women chose the members of the tribal council. They took them out of power if there were problems.



Headdresses

Iroquois men wore feathered caps called *gustowehs*. These showed which tribe each man belonged to. Women sometimes wore beaded headbands.



Water Drums

Iroquois music included flute and drum sounds. The drums were filled with water and known for their unusual sounds.



Lacrosse sticks

The Iroquois played lacrosse with wooden sticks. These were carved from tree branches. The netting was made of animal parts, such as leather.

MADE BY HAND

The Iroquois made many objects by hand. They used animal bones and skins to make tools, clothes, and other useful objects. They added beauty to everyday life through their arts and crafts.

Beadwork

The Iroquois used colorful beads and porcupine quills to decorate their clothes. They made beaded belts and pouches (*right*). Wampum belts were sewn with purple and white shell beads.



Chapter 4

Preparing the Materials

The Iroquois dried the sheets of bark. They put heavy stones on the sheets. The stones kept the bark flat until it was dry and ready to use.

The Iroquois also prepared other building materials. Some people cut strips of bark to make lacing. They used the lacing to tie sheets of bark to the frame. Other people cut pieces of wood into thick posts and thinner poles.



Chapter 3

Gathering Materials

Materials to build longhouses were found in the forest. Men chopped down cedar and elm trees. Builders used this wood for the house's **frame**.

In late spring, Iroquois women peeled large sheets of bark from trees. They used the bark to cover the sides and roof of the longhouse.

FACT

The bark was easier to peel from the trees in late spring.



An Iroquois man dances in the snow outside a longhouse.

Chapter 7

Longhouse Villages

The Iroquois built villages of various sizes. Some villages had just a few longhouses. Other villages had 200 homes.

A wall 20 feet (6 m) high circled each village. The **palisade** protected the village from enemies and wild animals.

The Iroquois moved about every 20 years and built new longhouses. They believed moving to a new place gave the earth time to rest.

palisade—a tall fence that protected an Iroquois village from wind, animals, and enemy attacks

a 1651 Dutch map of longhouse villages

MADE BY HAND

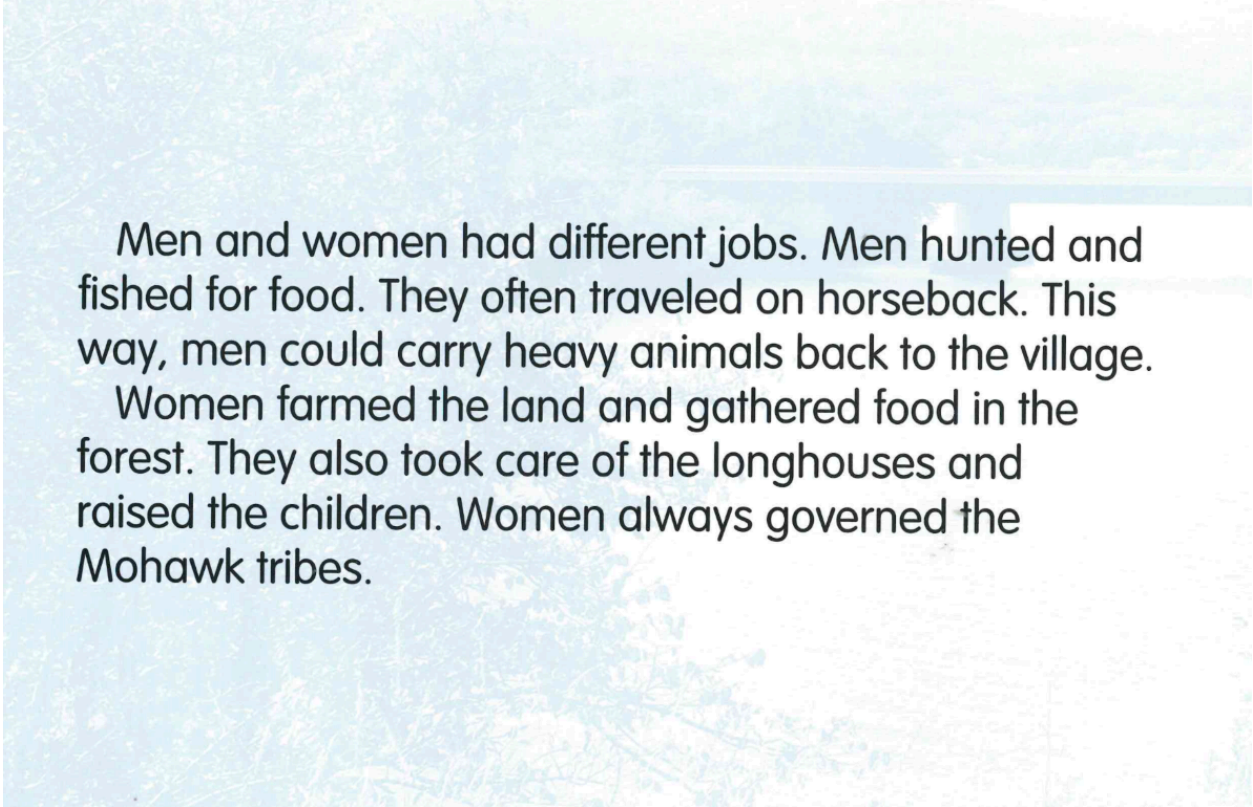
The Mohawk made many objects by hand. They often used natural supplies. These arts and crafts added beauty to everyday life.



Beaded Moccasins

Women sewed beads onto moccasins to make them look beautiful.





Men and women had different jobs. Men hunted and fished for food. They often traveled on horseback. This way, men could carry heavy animals back to the village.

Women farmed the land and gathered food in the forest. They also took care of the longhouses and raised the children. Women always governed the Mohawk tribes.

WHAT THEY ATE

The Mohawks mostly ate their own crops. Women grew corn, beans, and squash. But they also ate bear and deer meat. Sometimes, they would fish. They also gathered nuts and berries.

HOME LIFE

Mohawk people lived in large, bark-covered houses called longhouses. Some longhouses were up to 200 feet (61 m) long! Many families lived together in one house. There were several longhouses in each village.