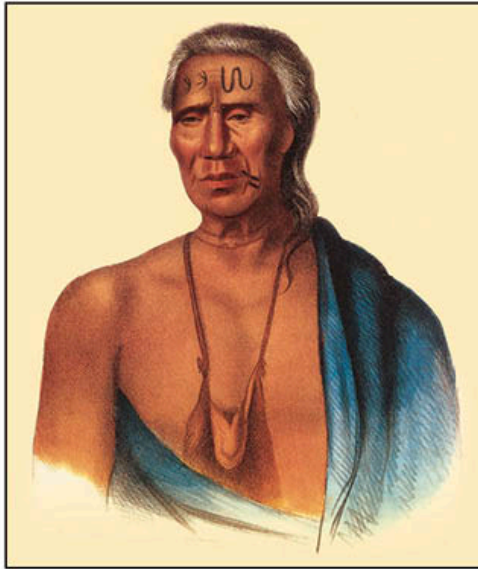


The **Lenape**, **Mohicans**, and **Iroquois** were native to New York State



Native Americans lived in the New York region since the end of the Ice Age, thousands of years before European people arrived here. A few different people groups lived in parts of what is now called New York State.

The **Lenape** occupied a territory they called Lenapehoking that included present-day New York City and New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and eastern Delaware. The Lenape are also sometimes called the Delaware. The second picture above, a 1735 painting, shows Lapowinsa, a chief of the Lenape.

The Lenape followed a matrilineal lineage. Unlike some cultures, women were not treated as a man's property and were considered the owner of the home.

The **Mohicans** (or Mahicans) lived north of the Lenape in central New York state and in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont. The Mohican and Lenape languages were similar, part of the Algonquian language group that covered a lot of the northeastern United States. The first picture, a painting from 1710, shows the Mohican chief Etow Oh Koam.

The **Iroquois** were a confederacy of five tribes — Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, Oneida, and Mohawk — between the Adirondack Mountains and Niagara Falls in

Upstate New York. The Tuscarora later joined as the sixth member. The third picture is a photograph of an Iroquois woman making corn meal in 1910.



In the year 1609, Henry Hudson came from England and traveled on the Hudson River in Lenape territory. Henry Hudson was one of the first European people to visit that land. In that time, 6,000 to 12,000 Native Americans lived along the Hudson River.

The indigenous people were severely impacted by contact with the Europeans. They traded with Europeans for many new items, like tools, clothes, blankets, weapons, utensils, beads, and alcohol. As more Europeans arrived, the land on which Native Americans had farmed, hunted, fished, and lived without private ownership for generations were given borders and land titles. The Europeans brought infectious diseases such as smallpox, measles, diphtheria, and scarlet fever that killed thousands of Native people. Missionaries pressured people to convert from traditional practices to Christianity and to stop using their languages.

“Indian removal” policies in the 1800s forced Native Americans to move west, far from their ancestral lands.

Most of the remaining Lenape in the U.S. today live in Oklahoma on land purchased from the Cherokee. Many Native American people were forced to move to Oklahoma in the 1830s on a tragic journey known as the Trail of Tears. A small population of Mohicans occupy a reservation in Wisconsin, and thousands of Iroquois remain in New York State.

Adapted from:

<https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2021/10/08/the-lenape-mohicans-and-iroquois-were-native-to-new-york-state/>