

Name: _____

The Iroquois

Fill out the KWL chart below with what you already know (K) and what you want to know (W) about the Iroquois. At the end, fill out what you learned (L) about the Iroquois.

K

W

L

The Iroquois

Before the United States, there were hundreds of thousands of people living on the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In the Northeastern Woodlands of North America lived a group of people who shared many customs and spoke a common language. They were known as the Iroquois.

Many Iroquois groups lived in Central and Western New York. They settled along the southern shores of Lake Ontario in the Finger Lakes region.

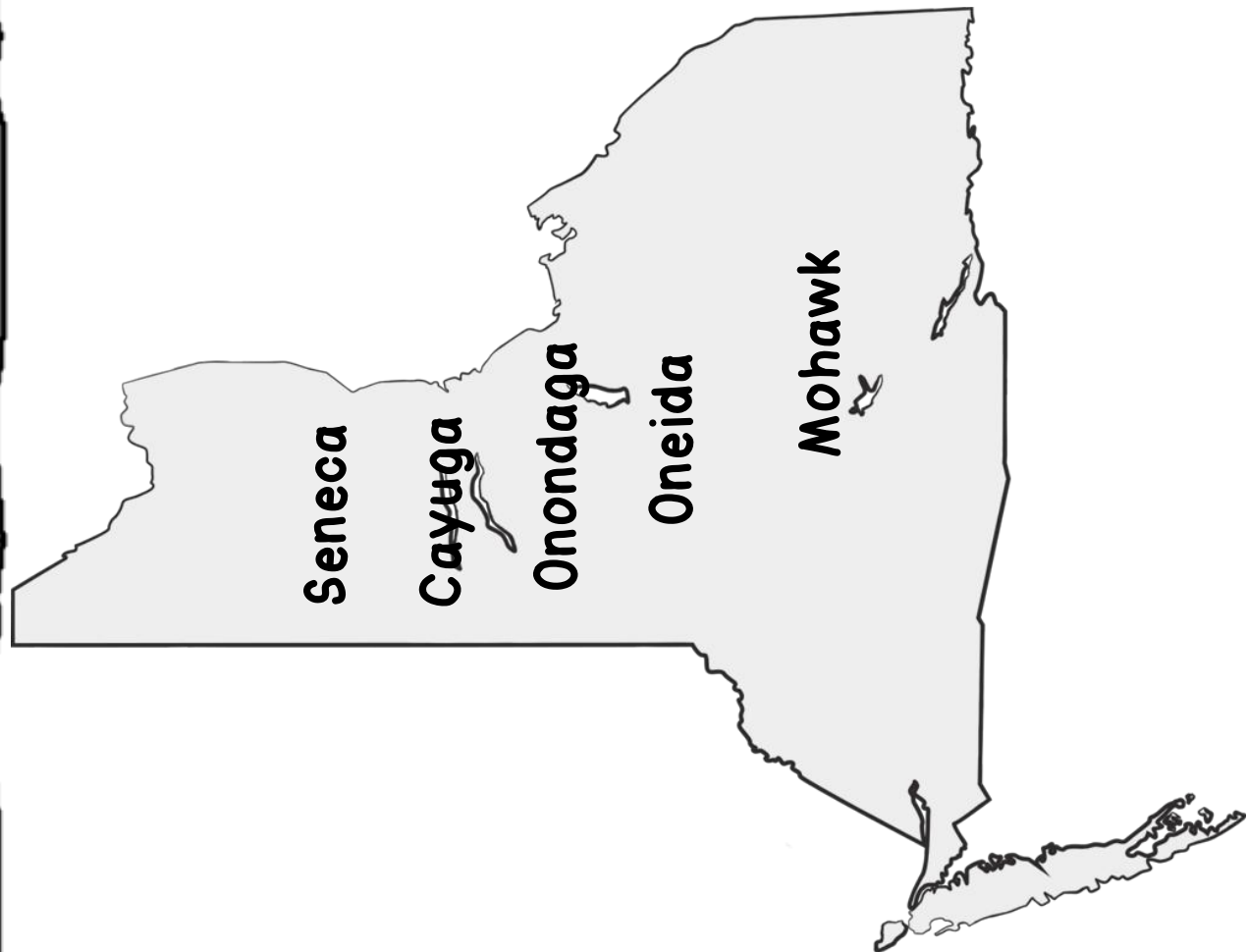
The name Iroquois is actually a French name given to a league of five Iroquoian-speaking nations: the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk. They called themselves Haudenosaunee, which meant "people of the longhouse."

Iroquois men and women had different jobs in the village. Men built the longhouses, hunted, and fished. They also cleared the land for farming. Women raised the children, gathered wild foods, and planted vegetables. The three most important vegetables were corn, beans, and squash. They were grown together and called the Three Sisters. Iroquois women also prepared animal hides to make clothing. They made pottery, wove baskets from cornhusks, fashioned pots, and made many other things.

Iroquois children represented the future of the nation. One sport they played was lacrosse. For chores, they helped get water and wood for the fire. Boys learned how to shoot a bow and arrow and build traps to catch animals. Girls learned how to cook, make pottery, and make clothing. Iroquois children did not go to school. The elders of the longhouse were respected advisers in the village. They taught the children important life skills and passed down stories.

The Iroquois soon became one of the most powerful and successful people living in New York. How did that happen? Brainstorm some possible reasons for their growth and success?

Iroquois in New York



The Eastern Woodlands were covered mostly with forest. New York was home to the Iroquois. The Iroquois settled to the south of Lake Ontario and around the Finger Lakes.

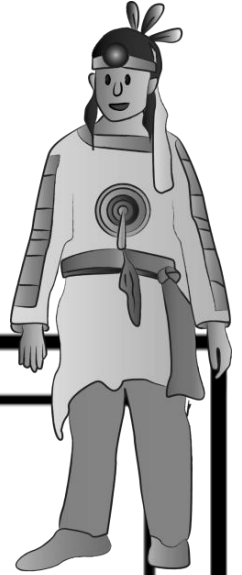
Name: _____

Score: _____

10

Interview with an Iroquois Child

Pretend you have been given the chance to interview an Iroquois child who lived in New York. Use the space below to write the answers you think you might receive.



1st Question: What does Haudenosaunee mean?

Answer: _____

2nd Question: What does your village look like?

Answer: _____

3rd Question: What crops are grown in your village?

Answer: _____

4th Question: What are some of the jobs men, women, and children have in your village?

Answer: _____

5th Question: What do you like to wear?

Answer: _____
