**Eastern Woodlands Native Americans – Special Collection**

When European settlers came to this land about 400 years ago, it was occupied by Native Americans who had been here for thousands of years. Today, names like Hackensack, Hohokus, Hoboken and Manhattan remind us of this Indian heritage. We are going to talk about the Eastern Woodlands Native Americans, who lived in the forests near lakes or streams in what is now the Eastern part of the US- going from Maine to the Carolinas and West nearly to the Mississipi River - which is why they're called Eastern Woodland Native Americans. There were two main groups with different kinds of language- the Iroquois group (including the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Mohawk, Oneida, Huron, Tuscarora and Cherokee) and the Algonquin Group (including the Cree, Fox, Kickapoo, Shawnee, Ojibway, Algonkin, Delaware, Micmac, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Penobscot). (For Fifth graders, find out which of them have studied these tribes- )

Does anyone know the name of one of the main tribes that lived here in our area? (4th grade studies them.) The **Lenni Lenape**, which means the True people, who were part of the Algonquin language group. Most of them were forced to the west and many are in Oklahoma today, but there are still some small Lenape communites in NJ and PA - the total population is around 16,000. They live autonomously on their reservations, that means that each tribe has its own government, laws, police, services – like a small country, but they are still also US citizens and must obey US law. They now speak English and only a few speak their native language, Unami. He (pronounced hey) is a friendly greeting like hi and wanishi means thank you**. (show some other pictures and words)** Mwekane means dog. Name´s means fish. Chemanmes means rabbit. Maxkw means bear.

What do people need to live? (food, clothes, shelter, etc)- we are going to talk about how the Indians provided these things.

**Housing:** (**show pictures).**

Woodland tribes lived in wigwams and longhouses (not tepees).  Who knows what wigwams are? Wigwams were round, wooden-framed houses, covered in bark and mud or clay, where one family would live Longhouses were made the same way as wigwams except they are larger and rectangular. They had a long hallway with rooms on both sides and several related families lived there together. The men and older children were the primary builders. Today the Indians live in modern houses like we do.

**Food: (Show arrows, gourds, ladel.)**

Woodland tribes were hunters and gatherers, but also grew corn, beans and squash. These three corps were planted together because they helped each other grow and were know as the three sisters. They hunted [bear](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/430-wild-things-the-polar-bear), moose and bison, and were good [fishermen](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/2302-go-fishing-tips-and-advice). They also ate beavers, raccoons, rabbits. Both men and women worked in the fields- mothers would attach their young children to their backs while they worked. Tools were made from stone, bone and antlers and tendons and intestines were used for sewing and as rope. And gourds and implements were made from river clay.

### Clothing (Show leather and claws; moccasins, necklace, ransom belt, turkey feather headdress and Porky Roach headdress- for special occasions)

What do you think they used to make clothing? Clothing and moccasins were made from the pelts (animal skin with the hair or fur still on it) of the animals they ate, decorated with beads or dyed porcupine quills. The women wore skirts woven out of wild grass and covered with furs with leather leggings underneath and fur cloaks in the cold weather. During the hot weather, men only wore a loincloth (a small piece of buckskin, which is animal skin without fur, between their legs and tucked into a belt) and woman wore their grass dresses. They kept track of the years by adding a black bead of wampum for each year in a special belt- wampum are special beads made out of clam and whelk shells, which were highly valued because they were difficult to make. Women wore their hair in braids and men wore a scalplock- they plucked out most of their hair except for a square or round patch that covered the crown or top part of the head.

**Does anyone know the significance of the feathers?** Warriors earned a feather for each brave act. Each time a warrior earned a feather, he could wear it into battle or put it on a pole used for special occasions. When he had enough feathers, he and his close friends would bind them together into a headdress. Each feather had a special meaning, and the most prized was the golden eagle feather.

**Religion: (Show corn husk mask, pipe, club, cow horn rattle and turtle shell rattle.)**

When someone in a Woodland tribe died, the tribe would hold a ceremony which lasted for five days with singing and dancing around the fire. The day before it started, five knots were tied in a piece of milkweed, then every day of the ceremony they untied a knot.

Face paint was important to the Woodland Indians. They wore it for special occasions to express feelings and [each color meant something](http://www.kidzworld.com/quiz/3306-quiz-the-power-of-color): red = life, black = death or eternal grief and purple = [royalty](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/1979-history-the-queen-mum)). They also made special war clubs for combat. Before [going to war](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/4039-the-war-in-iraq-what-are-your-thoughts), they painted themselves, performed magical rites and took special medicines. Music was also an important part of their rituals with musical instruments that they made..

They wore masks to cure [diseases](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/3557-the-facts-on-mad-cow-sars-and-more). The scary masks were supposed to scare the evil spirit out of the sick person. If they were wearing the **corn husk mask**, they believed they could communicate with the spirits of the plant world and influence the crops that they needed to eat. They worshipped Light and its representatives sun and fire, and had priests called powow, meaning dreamer, as they interpreted dreams and visions foretelling future events.

**Play: (read legend of the corn husk dolls and then make dolls)**

Children played with cornhusk dolls and toy bow and arrows. They also played lacrosse and a kicking football like game. Children enjoyed going hunting and fishing with their fathers, but also had a lot of chores to do like early colonial children.