

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

Optional Exercise 11: Mohawk-Iroquois Village

Check One: for grading for extra credit

Due no later than the day of the Final Exam.

PURPOSE:

This exercise explores the interrelationship between the Native Americans of central and northern NYS and their physical environment. The Mohawk Iroquois Village web site (<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/IroquoisVillage/>) is maintained by the New York State Museum. It is a window to the museum's exhibit on the life of the Iroquois. If you were to visit the museum, in addition to the 3-D dioramas, there are interactive learning experiences for visitors to test their knowledge.

Many of the Indian nations maintain their own outlets for disseminating information. Through the various links that radiate from the web addresses below, you will be able to access various sites and learn about Native American settlement, culture, hunting and gathering, and agricultural methods. Visit the sites. Surf through the various links. View the photographs. Read the descriptions. Learn about the Native Americans of NYS.

www.nysm.nysed.gov/IroquoisVillage - NYS Museum site

<http://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/iroquoisvillage/villageone.html> - NYS Museum site

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/common/nysm/files/mohawkvillguide.pdf> -

Mohawk Village guide

nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-sites/26/details.aspx - Ganondagan State Historic Site

www.ganondagan.org - NYS Native American historic site

www.iroquoismuseum.org (learning longhouse link)

www.mbg-tmt.org/ - Mohawk Nation (Canada-based)

<http://www.oneidaindianation.com/> - Oneida Nation; link to history and culture

www.senecamuseum.org/ - Seneca-Iroquois National Museum (exhibits link)

www.senecanation.com - Seneca Nation of Indians

www.nmai.si.edu/ - Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian

<http://www.nmai.si.edu/visit/newyork/> - NYC museum in Lower Manhattan

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/nativeref.htm - Selective Native American web sites

compiled by the NYS Library.

ASSIGNMENT:

After reviewing the Iroquois Village site of the NYS Museum and any other web sites with pertinent information, answer the following questions in detail and with illustrations. Short and generalized answers will not earn full credit. Include a bibliography of source material.

- a) Describe how the people of the Iroquois nation interacted with the elements of their physical environment. (*Where were the site characteristics of their villages and what determined their location? What forest products were used and for what purposes? How did they prepare for the seasons?*)
- b) Choose one aspect of the cultural geography of Iroquois life (such as farming or village construction method or food and its preparation or arts and crafts or trade routes or the use of natural vegetation in their activities) and discuss it within geographic themes. Provide visual examples. Do not repeat any details mentioned in paragraph (a).