

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES: EASTERN WOODLANDS

Research some defining characteristics of Native American cultures in the Eastern Woodlands.

Environment

*Where is the Eastern Woodlands region?
Describe its physical features.*

It is an area in the eastern part of modern-day United States and southern Canada. It is heavily wooded with many forests, swamplands, rivers, and streams.

Nations

List some examples of Native American nations in the Eastern Woodlands.

The Iroquois, Huron, Mohegan, Ojibwe, Cree, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Powhatan, Seminole, and Shawnee are some of the Native American nations from this region.

Food

What did Native American peoples in the Eastern Woodlands region eat?

Deer, bear, elk, birds, fish, berries, seeds, corn, squash, and beans were some of the foods eaten in the Eastern Woodlands.

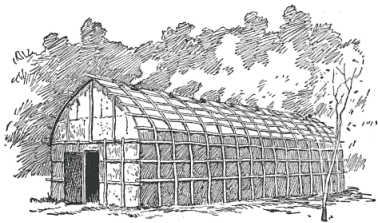
Technology

Research some of the tools common to the Eastern Woodlands region.

Bows and arrows, spears, canoes, snowshoes, animal traps, stone pipes, and specialized instruments for extracting maple syrup from trees were some of the tools and innovations used in this region.

Housing

Look at this example of an Iroquois dwelling. Research why the Iroquois chose this type of home and what materials they used to build it.



This is an Iroquois longhouse. These large communal dwellings were up to 100 feet long and housed as many as 20 families. Different types of trees were used in various parts of the longhouse. The strongest trees were used for the outer posts. Branches from younger trees were stretched across the top to form the roof. Elm trees provided bark to cover the roof and sides of the building. The Iroquois also wove reeds from nearby rivers into mats for the walls and floors.

Culture

*How did living near forests influence art and lifestyle in the Eastern Woodlands?
Research some examples.*

The many trees and rivers provided resources for basket-making, wood carving, and pottery-making. Women used tree and plant fibers to weave bags, floor mats, and burden straps, which were used for carrying heavy items. Hunting provided animal hides that were softened, tanned, and sewn into soft-soled moccasins. Clothing made from animal hides kept people warm through the winter.