

Pre- and Post-Visit Activities: Land of the Lenape



Overview:

These activities, which support the Staten Island Museum's lesson "Land of the Lenape," introduces students to what life was like for the first people of Staten Island.

Three components:

1. Background: Information about the Lenape to prepare yourself and your students for your trip to the Staten Island Museum.
2. Pre-Visit Activity: Before your visit, conduct a read aloud (Pre-K–3rd) OR read the provided background information and practice saying provided words in Lenape or Unami (4th–6th).
3. Post-Visit Activity: Back in the classroom, students will draw upon what they have learned during their trip to the Museum to analyze the Lenape painting.

Materials:

1. Background information for teachers and students.
2. Read aloud books (see suggestions below).
3. Lenape or Unami vocabulary words.
4. Image of Susan Crabtree's painting, "Archaic Period Scene (8,000 BC 1,500 BC)."

Background Information:

The word Lenape (len-AH-pay) means "the people." These Native Americans lived on Staten Island as well as eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, southeastern New York State, parts of Oklahoma and Ontario, Canada.

The Lenape were a part of a larger group called the Algonquins. These groups lived separately, but shared common values and traditions. Lenape families lived in bark-covered houses called longhouses. They could extend their homes as the family grew. Each home had an opening on the roof to allow for smoke to escape when heating the house or cooking.

The Lenape wore simple clothing in the warm weather. The men and boys wore breech cloth. This was a long piece of soft deerskin decorated with painted designs. In cold weather they wore fur robes with moccasins and leggings. The robes were made of beaver or black bear skins. Women and girls wore only a short wrap-around skirt. In cold weather they too wore leggings, moccasins and warm fur robes. Women also wore necklaces, earrings, combs and other ornaments and face paint.

Everyone had a job. The women and girls gathered wild plants, roots, nuts, berries, mushrooms, birds' eggs, and clams. Men and boys hunted, fished and trapped so the family would always have meat, skins and warm furs. The Lenape men made all their tools, weapons, and utensils by hand. Wood was used to make houses, dugout canoes, bows, arrows, clubs, mortars, pestles, bowls and spoons. Animal bones were used to make

skewers, fish hooks, needles, awls, combs and ornaments. Roots, grass, weeds and corn husk were used to make baskets, sieves and mats. Sharp stones, such as flint, chert and quartz were chipped into arrowheads, knives, scrapers and drills. Clay was used to make cooking pots and smoking pipes.

Vocabulary:

- Aquehonga Monocknog: the Lenape name for Staten Island, which means "Sandy Banks and Haunted Forests."
- Archaic Period: 8,000 B.C.E. – 1,500 B.C.E. Marked by a moderation of the climate; making life on Staten Island more hospitable.
- Canoe: a Native American boat made from a tree.
- Fibers: long, threadlike tissues of plants and animals.
- Flintstone: a hard type of rock that produces a small piece of burning material (called a spark).
- Legends: tales about ancestors, heroes, and gods of long ago.
- Maize: corn
- Moccasin: a soft shoe made of deer skin worn by Native Americans.
- Rituals: prayers, songs, and other religious activities.
- Sinew: a tendon or cord that attaches the muscles to the bone. It is found in a deer's leg and is used as thread or string.
- Three Sisters: main agricultural crops of various Native American groups in North America: winter squash, maize (corn), and climbing beans (common beans).
- Unami: a language within the Algonquian language family.
- Wampum: a quantity of small cylindrical beads made by North American Indians from quahog shells, strung together and worn as a decorative belt or other decoration or used as money.
- Woodland Period: label used by archaeologists to designate pre-Columbian Native American occupations dating between roughly 600 BC and AD 1000 in eastern North America.

Before Your Visit:

Grades Pre-K – 3:

Suggested books:

- "Rainbow Crow" retold by Nancy Van Laan
- "The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush" By Tomie dePaola
- "Raven" by Gerald McDermott

After the reading, have each student write two or more sentences about the book OR have a whole class discussion about the book.

Grades 4-6:

Read the provided background information as a class and practice the Lenape words.

English: rainbow

English: raccoons

Lenape: mënùkòn

Lenape: nahënëmuk

English: crow

English: Water

Lenape: ahas

Lenape: mpi

More Lenape translations can be found here: http://www.native-languages.org/lenape_words.htm

After Your Visit: All Grades

Project the image below or share printed copies. While viewing the painting, students will answer questions in the task below.



Susan Crabtree, "Archaic Period Scene (8,000 BC 1,500 BC)." 2006.

Name: _____



Date: _____

Looking at the painting, "Archaic Period Scene (8,000 BC 1,500 BC)" by Susan Crabtree, answer the following questions.

1. Everyone had a job. What are some of the actions you see in the painting?

2. How were the Lenape canoes made?

3. What do you think the young men were learning to do in this painting?

4. What are the women doing in the painting?

5. Can you find these objects? Stone axes, dugout canoe, stone projectile points, atlatl or spear thrower, and stone pot.