

Pre- and Post-Visit Activities:**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.

Background Information for Educators:

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 Algonquin. 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 breechcloth. 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, deer 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, fishhooks, needles, awls, combs and ornaments. Roots, grass, weeds and cornhusk 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.
- Artifact: an object that is made, used, or modified by humans and can usually give important information about a culture.
- Canoe: a Native American boat made from a tree.
- Cradleboard: a board to which a baby is strapped

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- Fibers: long, threadlike tissues of plants and animals.
- First Peoples: the earliest known people to live in any region, in contrast to other people who have settled, occupied, or colonized the region more recently.
- Flintstone: a hard type of rock that produces a small piece of burning material (called a spark).
- Gourd: a fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin, belonging to the same family as a pumpkin. Gourds are typically used in making dishes, spoons, other utensils, rattles and musical instruments.
- Indigenous: made, living or existing naturally in a particular region or environment. Native Americans are considered indigenous to America.
- Legends: tales about ancestors, heroes, and gods of long ago.
- Maize: corn.
- Moccasin: a soft shoe made of deer skin worn by Native Americans.
- Projectile point: a hand-shapes point that was attached to a handle capable of being thrown; a spear, arrow or dart.
- Quahog: a large, rounded edible clam of the North Atlantic Coast of America. Shells are used in making wampum.
- Rattle: an object used to make a rattling sound during a ceremony, usually made from hollowed out turtle shells, gourds, bark or horns
- 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). The corn removes nitrogen from the soil, the beans climb up the corn stalk, and put nitrogen back into the soil. The squash leaves create a ground cover to reduce weeds and hold in moisture.
- Unami: a language within the Algonquian language family.
- Wampum- a quantity of small beads made by indigenous North American people from quahog shells, strung together in belts to record treaties, used in ceremonies and rituals, and interactions between Native nations.
- 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

Grades 4-6:

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Suggested books:

- *"The Birchbark House"* by Louise Erdrich
- *"When the Shadbush Blooms"* by Carla Messinger & Sue Katz

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

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.