

How did Native American's adapt to their environment?

4. The Seminole

The story of the Seminole is one of resistance. The word Seminole comes from the Spanish 'cimarrones', or free people, because they would not allow themselves to be dominated by the Europeans. The Seminole are actually a mixture of different tribes, as well as runaway slaves from the southeast who fled English colonies to Spanish Florida. The Seminole found shelter in the wild interior of Florida. Their culture was steered by the fact they were constantly on the run, resisting European settlement and avoiding capture. They became dependent on the Everglades to provide food, shelter, as well as protection from Europeans. The Seminole homes were called chickee, palmetto thatch over a cypress log frame – using what was available to them within the environment to create shelter. The Florida environment also influenced Seminole legends.



Little Frog - As Told by Betty Mae Jumper

"This story was told to me by my grandmother when I was just a baby. Where we lived, the sounds in the woods were very important to us. We were always asking, "What is that sound from?" A lot of times we were answered with a story such as this one."

The little green frog was sitting on the edge of the water lilies sleeping away. A big ol' rabbit came hopping along, came upon the frog and said, "Hi there! Why are you sleeping? It's too pretty a day to sleep. Wake up! Wake up!"

"I don't have to do anything," said the irritated little frog. But that pretty ol' pesky rabbit kept on until the little frog got really mad and told him, "I'll fix you up."

So little frog started singing his funny little song or noise he makes to call the rain. Within a few minutes, the black cloud came and the wind started blowing. Then the rains came and soaked the ol' rabbit so much he got cold and ran home.

Whenever you hear the frogs singing away today, better be near shelter, because they are warning you that rain is coming soon.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

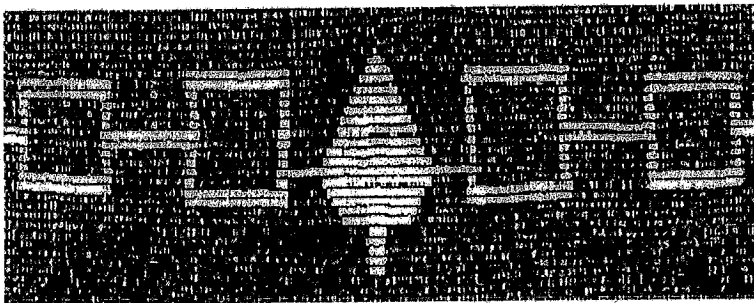
- 1) How did the Seminole get their name?
- 2) How did the Seminole use the environment to provide shelter?
- 3) How did nature influence Seminole story telling?

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2. The Iroquois (The Haudenosaunee)

Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee) means "people who build a house." The name refers to a confederation or alliance among six Native American nations who are more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy. One of the most important events that shaped the Haudenosaunee was the creation of the Great Law of Peace. The Peacemaker (also known as Hiawatha) brought peace to the 6 nations who were once constantly at war with one another over resources. He taught the power of Reason, not force. The Great Law of Peace emphasizes three principles: Righteousness, Justice, and Health. The Great Law of Peace provides the Haudenosaunee people with instructions on how to treat others, directs them on how to

maintain a democratic society, and expresses how Reason must prevail in order to preserve peace.



The Hiawatha Belt made out of wampum (beads made of shells that the Iroquois traded other East Coast tribes for) symbolizes the unity of the original five Haudenosaunee nations,

connected by the Great Law of Peace. Each white square and the tree in the center, represents one of the original five nations, the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. The Tuscarora Nation, the sixth nation in the Confederacy, joined after this belt was created.

The Haudenosaunee had a special relationship with the Three Sisters, what they called their three main agricultural crops. Squash, corn, and climbing beans were grown together. The three crops benefit from each other. The corn provides a structure for the beans to climb, eliminating the need for poles. The beans provide the nitrogen to the soil that the other plants utilize and the squash spreads along the ground, blocking the sunlight, which helps prevent weeds. The squash leaves act as a "living mulch," creating a microclimate to retain moisture in the soil, and the prickly hairs of the vine deter pests. The Haudenosaunee believe that the Three Sisters were a gift from the creator, several legends and traditional stories tell of the importance of the Three Sisters.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1) How did the Great Law of Peace change how the Haudenosaunee lived?
- 2) What can we discern about Haudenosaunee trade based on their use of Wampum?
- 3) How did the Haudenosaunee depend on the Three Sisters?