

Where Did the Native Americans Live?

A Lesson for the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*
New York Geographic Alliance

Before Europeans came to the New World, Native Americans (Indians) lived all over the continent. Several groups settled into what is now New York State. They developed a very rich culture based on agriculture and hunting.

Part One: Look at the map on **Native Americans in New York** on page 11 of the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*. There were two major *culture groups* that lived here in the 17th Century: _____ and _____.

What do we mean by a *culture group*? _____

The Algonquian speaking people lived mostly in _____ New York, and the Montauks lived on _____ Island. Most of the rest of the state was settled by the _____-speaking peoples. The most powerful were the Five Nations, also called the _____.

Name the five nations:
_____, _____, _____, _____,
and the _____. (In the 1700s, the **Tuscarora Nation** migrated north to New York, and they became the *sixth* nation of the confederacy).

Part Two: Although each nation claimed large territories, they mostly lived only in certain places. Look at the map on page 10 of the Atlas. Each dot shows _____

Name one part of the state that had very few Native settlements: _____

Why do you think this was so? _____

The dots are NOT random, but they are *clustered* and sometimes they *line up*. On the last page of this packet is a black and white version of the settlement map. *Circle* two clustered patterns and *draw lines* through two linear patterns.

Part Three: These patterns were not accidental, but the native people settled intentionally. They were good locations, especially for farming. To see this better, we need to look at a "Clickable PDF," called **NYClickable2016.pdf**. Your teacher will open it for you. Only a couple layers will be shown: *Native Am villages, Scale and north, Great Lakes waves, NY Basemap, Grid numbers*.

Does it look like the map on page 10 of the Atlas? _____

Now let's turn on another layer. Click on the box for *Rivers and lakes*. This should give you some important information.

Finish this sentence: "The Native American settlements usually _____
_____."

Name *three* rivers where this is true (use the map on page 8 in the Atlas to help you out):

_____, _____, _____

As you probably noticed before, there is a large cluster of settlements L6, L7, M6, M7.

They were located there because there is a *confluence* (meeting place) of two important rivers: _____ and _____ Rivers.

The Algonquian settlements of Long Island were often near the ocean. Can you think of a reason why that would be so? _____
_____.

Now we can add our last layer, *Detailed elevation*. The colors represent different _____
_____. The lowest elevation is colored _____, and the highest elevation is _____.

The Native Settlements are mostly found at _____ and they avoided _____. Why do you think this was so?

Notice that there is a "ribbon" of green color (_____ elevation) stretching from the Hudson River all the way to Lake Erie. The *Haudenosaunee* people (the _____ Nations) controlled this territory. This helped them to become powerful because _____
_____.

Sadly, the Native Peoples lost most of their lands after the American Revolution. Today, they live mainly in a few small regions colored red on page 11 in the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*. What are they called? _____

They proudly protect their sovereignty (self-rule). Many non-native people go to these reservations to buy two main products. Do you know what they are? _____
and _____. (They are tax-free there).

Native American Settlements

