

# LESSON 6 - THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

The Lenape people have lived in the Eastern Woodlands of North America for thousands of years. *[Show a map of the United States today and point to the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.]* For most of that time, they lived on the land. They hunted, gathered, and, later, farmed. Their daily lives were guided by the seasons, and each season brought with it certain changes.



# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

Springtime meant that the days were warmer and brighter. Springtime also meant that new life was appearing everywhere. One of the first signs of springtime was the appearance of some flowering plants and trees. This included the black cherry blossoms.

*You learned the word blossom in Domain 4 when we studied plants. What is a blossom?*

(Blossoms are the flowers on a plant or tree.) The sight of the beautiful white blossoms made the Lenape people smile. The blossoms were usually a sign that the last snow had fallen, and that animals would soon shed their winter coats.





# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

As the spring sunshine warmed the earth, the Lenape people set to work. They planted their spring crops. The Lenape men and boys prepared the fields for planting. When the fields were ready, the women and girls planted corn, squash, and beans. They also planted herbs, tobacco, and sunflowers.



# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

As the Lenape people worked in the fields, the creatures of the land and sky set to work, too. Some animals woke up from their winter sleep. Others dug burrows, and birds built nests in preparation for their young. *A burrow is a hole or tunnel used by animals as a home or a hiding place.* The Lenape and the animals and birds worked side by side.





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With the ice and snow gone, Lenape men and older boys were able to go on longer hunting trips. Usually they hunted on foot. Sometimes they traveled far from their villages in their dugout canoes. Their canoes glided smoothly and silently along the rivers of the mid-Atlantic. *[Point to the rivers of this region on the U.S. map.]* When they returned from their hunting trips, they brought back meat and animal furs with them. The Lenape hunted animals such as bear, deer, elk, and raccoon. They hunted and trapped birds, too.



# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

Spring slowly turned into summer. The heat from the sun became even stronger. During this time, the Lenape people fished for salmon, herring, and shad. They guarded their ripening crops from the greedy birds. Lenape children gathered berries, collected firewood, and played in the sparkling rivers. As they played, they searched for turtles basking in the sunshine.





# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

In the summer, the Lenape people harvested their corn, beans, and squash. *Harvested means that they gathered the crops when they were ready to be eaten or used.* Corn was one of their most important food crops. It was ground to make cornmeal. It was used to make bread. It was roasted in the fire. Often, the kernels were stored for use during the cold days of winter when nothing could grow in the frozen earth.





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In the autumn, the Lenape harvested their gourds and pumpkins. They gathered nuts, roots, and berries such as huckleberries, raspberries, and strawberries. They made beautiful baskets to store their winter food in. They strengthened their wigwams *or dome-shaped houses* and longhouses in preparation for the winter winds and snow that would surely come.



# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

Wigwam is the name given to one type of Lenape home. *[Point to the wigwam in the image.]* In late autumn, the golden, red, and orange leaves fell from the trees. The Lenape children rushed to catch them, or jump in the gathering piles. Gradually the leaves blew away, carried by the chilly winds. The days darkened and winter arrived.





# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

During the wintertime, the Lenape people spent more time in their warm homes called wigwams. Their wigwams, made from saplings, rushes, bark, and fur, were warm and cozy. Inside the wigwams, the elders told stories of long ago.



# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

They told stories about the history of their people. They told stories about the creation of the earth and the Great Spirit. Women and girls stayed busy making clothes and moccasins from animal skins and turkey feathers. The women and girls made pottery jars for cooking and storage, too. Men and boys made spears, bows, and arrows.





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When snow fell from the dark wintery sky, the Lenape children, just like children everywhere, rushed outside to play in it. Even in winter, the men and older boys went off to hunt. They trekked *or traveled slowly, with difficulty* through the deep snow on snowshoes. They followed animal tracks in the snow. If they returned with meat, the women and girls prepared a warm stew or soup.

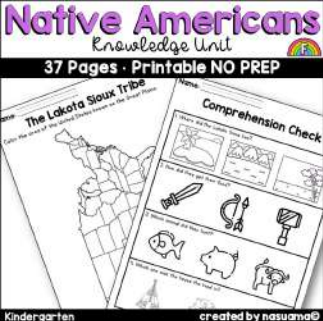


# THE LENAPE, THE PEOPLE OF THE SEASONS

One season followed another, as it has always done. The Lenape lived their lives according to the seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter. They listened to the earth's rhythm of life. The world in which they lived provided them with everything they needed. They were guided by the earth's turning and the changing seasons. Such was the way of the Lenape.

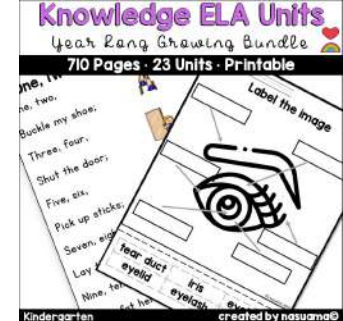






# NATIVE AMERICANS

# BUNDLE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Lenape Tribe

Color this areas of the United States: New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

## Lenape Seasons of Farming

Place the images into the correct season.

## Comprehension Check

Where did the Lenape tribe live?

How do they get their food?

What animal did they eat?

DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?

