

## **Chapter 2 Early Peoples**

### **Lesson 1: Native Americans of New Jersey**

- An archaeologist is a scientist who studied the way people lived in the past
- About 12,000 years ago the first people came here to NJ
- artifacts are objects made by humans, usually from the past

#### **\*The First New Jerseyans**

- Lenape were the first settlers here in NJ
- Lenape means "common or ordinary people," "real people," or just "the people"
- moved into the Delaware River valley
- came here because of the rich resources
- used river for drinking and watering crops, as well as trading and traveling
- used animals for food and their skin for clothing
- fish for eating
- Europeans gave the Lenape the name "Delaware" because they lived near the river that they named the Delaware River

#### **\*Two Language Groups, Many Tribes**

- Language spoken by the Lenape was Algonquian
- 2 major language groups
  1. Munsee, meaning "people of the stony country"
    - lived in northwestern NJ, north of the Raritan River and the Delaware Water Gap
  2. Unami, meaning "people downriver"
    - lived in central and southern parts of NJ

#### **\*Hunters, Fishers, and Farmers**

- in the winter the Lenape hunted deer and bear
- used dugout canoes to help catch fish
- caught larger fish using fishing weirs, which were wooden water traps that looked like fences
- Lenape planted crops such as beans, squash, and corn
- surplus = an amount that is more than what is needed

- if there was a surplus of food it was stored in pots and food pits dug into the ground
- surplus was either eaten or traded later

#### \*Lenape Villages

- about 25 - 50 people lived within the small villages
- houses were dome-shaped and made of tree bark
- wigwams were smaller houses, about 4 people lived in one
- longhouses were larger houses and could fit 4 - 5 families
- ceremonies helped to unite the community
- one ceremony they made offerings to the spirit protector of the animals
- The Corn Dance ceremony showed thankfulness for the harvest
- Lenape women decorated pots with images from the environment
  - wolf, turkey, and turtle images can be found on bags, tools, and other items
- did not have chiefs or leaders, but once the Europeans arrived they changed their government

#### \*The Lenape Legacy

- over 16,000 Lenape still live in the US
- legacy = property or cultural ideals that has been passed down from an earlier time
- part of the Lenape legacy is the Jersey Devil, which is a deer-like creature with wings, that protects the animals in the Pinelands forests
- many places in NJ were named by the Lenape based off of the place's location or physical geography.
  - Passaic means "valley"
  - Hackensack means "where two streams meet"
  - Raritan means "stream overflows"
  - Watchung means "high hills"

#### \*Living Traditions

- very few Lenape speak Munsee or Unami
- most speak English now
- Lenape still have celebrations, such as pow-wows and healing ceremonies

- One festival is the Black Creek Festival where they learn about Lenape traditions, such as shooting a bow and arrow, dancing, making arts and crafts, and storytelling.
- Other Lenape festivals keep the Lenape traditions alive and teach others about their culture.