



The Lenape: The People of the Seasons

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Yesterday you heard about Bear, Gull, and Crow. The Upright Walkers in that story were Native Americans from the Wampanoag tribe.

What do you already know about the Wampanoag tribe?

WHAT KINDS OF HOUSES DID THEY LIVE IN?

WHAT DID THEY EAT?

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Today you will hear about another Native American tribe--the Lenape. Listen carefully to hear about the Lenape and how they lived.

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The Lenape people have lived in the Eastern Woodlands of North America for thousands of years. For most of that time, they lived on the land. They hunted and gathered and, later farmed. Their daily lives were guided by the seasons, and each season brought with it certain changes.

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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.

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You learned the word blossom when we studied plants. What is a blossom?



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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.

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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.

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When the fields were ready, the women and girls planted corn, squash, and beans. They also planted herbs, tobacco, and sunflowers.

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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.

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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.

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Their canoes glided smoothly and silently along the rivers of the mid-Atlantic. When they returned from their hunting trips, they brought back meat and animals furs with them.

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The Lenape hunted animals such as bear, deer, elk, and raccoon. They hunted and trapped birds, too.



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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.

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Lenape children gathered berries, collected firewood, and played in the sparkling rivers. As they played, they searched for turtles basking in the sunshine.

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In the summer, the Lenape people harvested their corn, beans and squash.

Harvested means gathered crops when they were ripe enough.

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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.

What does harvested mean?



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They gathered nuts, roots, and berries such as huckleberries, raspberries, and strawberries.



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They made beautiful baskets to store their winter food in. They strengthened their wigwams and longhouses in preparation for the winter winds and snow that would surely come.



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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.

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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. They told stories about the history of their people.

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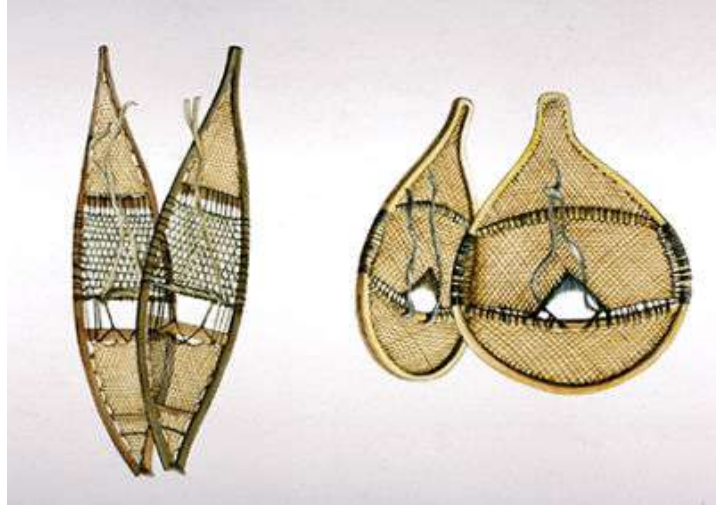
They told stories about the creation of the earth and the Great Spirit. Women and girls stayed busy making clothes and moccasins from animal skins and turkey feathers. The women and girls made pottery jars for cooking and storage too. Men and boys made bows and arrows.

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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 deep snow on snowshoes.

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If they returned with meat, the women and girls prepared a warm stew or soup.

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One season followed another, as it has always done. The Lenape lived their lives according to the seasons--spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

What is another name for autumn?

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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 changing seasons. Such was the way of the Lenape.

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What is the name of the Native American tribe described in this read aloud?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What types of food did the Lenape eat?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

*What did the Lenape do during the
springtime?*

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What did the Lenape do during the summer?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What did the Lenape do during the autumn,
or fall?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What did the Lenape do during the winter?

Think Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think Pair. Share.



Evaluative:

If you were a Lenape child, which season would you like best? Why?

Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

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*In the read aloud you heard, "In the summer, the Lenape
harvested their corn, beans, and squash."*

*Say the word **harvested** with me.
Whisper harvested to the ceiling.
Whisper harvested to your neighbor.
Let's clap it out.*

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Harvested means gathered crops when they were ready to be picked.

The farmer **harvested** the wheat crop at the end of the summer.

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Why types of crops were **harvested** by the Lenape? Try to use the word harvested when you describe the crops harvested by the Lenape.

“The Lenape harvested”

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*What's the word we have been talking
about?*

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*Draw an illustration of the crops
harvested by the Lenape and label the
foods.*