

The Algonquian Tribe

a report by **Sara**



Food: The Algonquian people hunted for meat with spears. They lived by planting crops and eating the ripe food. There were Indians called squaws, and squaws were responsible for harvesting crops. As their corn became ripe, it was set out to dry. After it was dried, it was placed in lightly woven baskets and stored underground. The women also had to prepare the grain for eating. Yellow corn called yokeag was poached in hot ashes and pounded with stones into a fine powder. Squash and pumpkins were cut into strips and hung on racks to dry. Then they were stored into bags on the walls of the wigwams. As the tribe's gardeners, Algonquian squaws had limitless energy and deserve high praise.



Housing: In Miami, the tribe had different houses for the summer and winter. In the summer, they lived in longhouses covered in rush mats. They were 30 to 100 feet long, about 20 feet wide, and 12 to 15 feet high. In the winter, they moved around in hunting camps so they could follow the herds of animals they hunted.

Clothing: The tribe really liked to wear fancy clothes, especially the chief. Their clothes were made out of deer skins because it was easy to sew. Their jewelry was made out of shells and teeth. The men painted their faces, especially in time of war or during a dance. They wore their hair in 2 long braids down to their chests so, by the time they were old men, they had very long hair. Long hair on an old man was a sign of great peace.



Religion: Most tribes shared religious beliefs: a supreme creator, a spirit of the elements, a hero figure who taught the people skills for survival, evil spirits who caused illness, and good spirits who helped the good and punished the bad. There was also a belief in spirits of dead men who chased the spirits of dead animals. Dreams were important to the shamans (the priests) who were in charge of telling the people what their dreams meant. They had a fear of witchcraft, and they didn't like to mention their real names to prevent enemies with spiritual power and evil from misusing them.