

Mohawk Tribe

by

TESSA

Where Did They Live?

The Eastern Woodlands is where the Mohawk Indians lived. They lived in the Mid-Mohawk River Valley which is now upstate New York and Vermont. Upstate New York and Vermont is where they are original residents. Some Mohawk Indians still live there to this day. In the 1700's, a majority of them retreated to Canada. South of the St. Lawrence River from Schoharie Creek to East Canada Creek is where their area extends. That is where the Mohawk Indians lived.

What Did They Wear?

The Mohawk women did fancy beadwork and ribbon appliqué on both men and women clothing. Breechcloths with leather pant legs tied on is what the men wore. The women wore wraparound skirts and poncho-style blouses. Men and women both wore moccasins on their feet. The Mohawk Indians wore Iroquois headdresses, a feathered cap with different designs on it representing each tribe. Their headdress had 3 eagle feathers standing straight up.

The Mohawk hairstyles are interesting. The Mohawk men actually shaved their head like a Mohawk. The women cut their hair long and loose. Other times they wore their hair in a long braid. The men also decorated their body and head with tattoos.

What Did They Eat?

The Mohawk Indians were carnivores and herbivores, they ate plants and meat. The women grew crops while the men went hunting. The 3 main crops that were called the "three sisters" are corn, beans, and squash. Artichokes, pumpkins, sunflowers for the seeds and oil, tobacco and different types of herbal plants for tea and medicine were grown in other crops.

The women also collected berries and other types of fruit in baskets to share with the tribe. The men hunted for fish and wild animals. An interesting fact is that the women are responsible for more than 80% of the Mohawk diet. The Mohawks had mainly stew and soup with any food they had; they threw all food in a pot to make the soup and stew.

What Did They Do All Day?

The Mohawk children did the same thing we do now. They play with their friends, played with toys, help with chores, and went to school. They had more chores to do and less time to play though. The boys liked to go fishing and hunting with their fathers. The Mohawk people also built and rode canoes.