

WAMPUM: HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Directions: Use the image below to complete the questions

1. Based on how this person is dressed, draw a conclusion on what you think their role is within their community. Explain below.
2. See if you can find the wampum items that this person has as part of their regalia.

Watch: [Keeping the Practice of Wampum Alive](#) and read the John Mohawk text

1. Video Question: What is something you learned or noticed about the process of making wampum beads?
2. What is a common misconception about Native American uses of wampum?

Article Notes: Ways that Haudenosaunee people use and used wampum

Article Reflection Questions:

→ **Directions:** Respond to the following questions thoroughly. Make sure to use text evidence to support your answers.

1. According to John Mohawk wampum is considered “a symbol more powerful than paper”. Describe the importance of wampum belts to the Haudenosaunee using examples from the text:

2. What role did wampum play in the protocol of peace meetings amongst the Haudenosaunee?

3. How did European misunderstandings of wampum affect the way treaties and agreements were later handled?

A Symbol More Powerful than Paper

John Mohawk

The wampum represent the peoples' best thinking put into belts. In fact sometimes it represents the agreement to hold onto an oral tradition. The interpretation of the value of wampum is an interesting one. When people look at Indian relations, one of their questions is about the value. When they look at wampum, they say that wampum was like money to the Indian, that wampum was valuable the same way money was valuable. It took many hours of labor for a person to create a string of wampum beads using a stone drill on a shell. Money actually is a measure of human labor, and the wampums in that regard were also a measure of human labor. There was a difference however; you couldn't accumulate wampums in quite the same way that you can accumulate dollars, and it didn't have quite the same kind of power to buy commodities that dollars have.

In the long time ago past, when they made wampum belts, the wampum belt became treated as a memento: both sides got one. They made a belt out of those wampums. That belt represented the effort of those people sitting down to use their minds to solve the conflict between their peoples and wampum became the symbol of that effort. A symbol more powerful than paper, a symbol more powerful than guns, it was a symbol of a people's successful accomplishment of coming to one mind about how they were going to go on from there in a permanent relationship of peace and tranquility between two sides. The wampum said that all that had transpired to create the conflict had been resolved and all that could be done by human beings using their clearest thinking to

create an environment for the future generations had been put together into that belt.

So those belts, Indians say, were sacred. They are as sacred as our sanity, as sacred as our ability to use our minds to solve our problems, as long as we believe that the principle is inviolate.

We believe that agreements that we make between people using their intelligence to solve their problems is something that is part of our heritage. It is something that is part of our grandchildren's heritage as long as the belt lasts. And you'll notice that the belt is all but indestructible; only the sinews can rot, the belt beads would last for centuries. They are a record of people's good will, a record of their thinking, a record of how we came to be the way we are, in a state of peace and tranquility with another people.

So the wampum went beyond money; it was more of an important kind of thing than dollars. When later, treaties were signed, they seemed to be much less permanent. They are signed on paper and many times they involve dollars. The treaties were written down in the tradition of American scholastic thinking: that somehow the written word is more sacred than if you speak it. This is obviously only believed by people who don't know anything about treaty history in the United States. In this context, the written word has been, I think, the most easily forgotten, the most consistently violated that there has been.

The first Europeans who were present wrote down the happenings they saw at the meetings when Indians got together to discuss

issues of conflict. There was a protocol that took place that was written down again and again and again, and the protocol was that the Indians extended to each other strings of wampums. The protocol required that the hosting party initiate the process by offering these wampums and speeches. The way they offered them was in a series of salutations, and the salutations are, I think, important to understand the significance of the wampum.

The first salutations are there to clear people's minds so that they can conduct business. The words that go with this salutation offered that they brush off the bench on which the people were going to sit and then they brush off the person's clothing and take off the stickers and the things they acquired in the forest while on their way. Then, in a series of symbolic discussions, they wipe the blood from the clothes and the tears from their eyes and they take the lump out of their throats and the tightness out of their chests. And these are the words that are carried with the wampum. It's an interesting oral tradition in that the other side is required, in the protocol, to return the salutations with the words in acknowledgment not just that they heard but that they understood.

The reason for this protocol can be seen clearly in the political ideology of the North American Indians. People cannot come to clear thinking if they are immersed in negative emotions, and when people are in the business of coming to a peaceful conclusion of a period of warfare or conflict, it is necessary that they first address their negative emotions so that they can think clearly.

Name: _____

Lesson 2

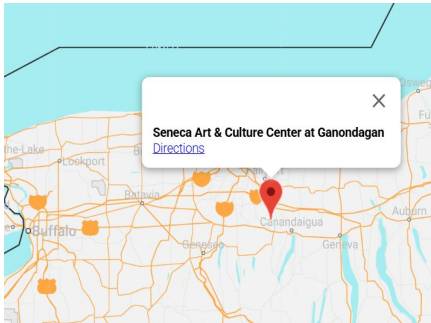
Date: _____

WAMPUM GOODS

Watch: [The Use of Wampum Belts](#)

1. List two details about the wampum belts shown in the video:
2. Explain how messages and treaties were communicated using wampum belts:

Ganondagan Wampum Exhibition:



Ganondagan (ga·NON·da·gan) Historic Site located in Victor, NY is a National Historic Landmark. Spanning almost 600 acres, Ganondagan is the original site of a 17th century Seneca town, that existed there peacefully more than 350 years ago. The culture, art, agriculture, and government of the Seneca people influenced our modern understanding of equality, democratic government, women's rights, ecology and natural foods.

Directions: Use the link ([here](#)) to explore four different wampum artifacts from Ganondagan's Wampum Exhibition and record the key details of each below.

Object Name:

Date:

Materials:

Describe: What does this object look like? Use three adjectives in your description

Explain the historical background & importance of this object:

Who is the source of the object description? Give 2 details about this person.

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Directions: As you listen to your classmates' descriptions of their artifacts respond below:

1. Describe one of the objects you've learned about from your classmates:

2. What was the historical importance of this wampum artifact?

GREAT LAW INFLUENCE



Warm up: Background- The Great Seal of the United States

The Great Seal of the United States was created in 1782 by the Continental Congress to represent the United States as an independent nation. It took six years to design, with ideas from leaders like Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and was finalized by Charles Thomson. The seal's original purpose was to make official government documents, like treaties, look authentic and important. Today, it's still used for official papers, such as treaties and announcements from the President. The seal's design, showing a bald eagle holding arrows and an olive branch, is also a symbol of the United States and can be seen on passports and the back of the one-dollar bill.

1. What is the purpose of the Great Seal of the United States?
2. Which individuals contributed to the creation of this seal?
3. What similarities do you see between this image and the symbolism of the Great Law?
4. Looking at the Great Seal of the United States, what conclusions can you draw about the founding of the U.S. and the possible influence of the Haudenosaunee on its ideas and symbols?

Watch: [Early Democratic Principles](#) | [Native America: Nature to Nations](#)

The United States government is often called the oldest continuously operating **democracy**, starting in 1776.

1. What are the characteristics of a democracy?
2. How does the claim about US democracy (above) hold up based on what you've learned about the Haudenosaunee Confederacy? Give evidence to support your answer.

US GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION (1988):

- Essential Question: What does the United States Government recognize about the Haudenosaunee contributions to their founding?

Directions: Read and annotate the text, linked [here](#), to answer the questions below.

1. What is the main purpose of this document?
 - A) To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution.
 - B) To acknowledge the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the US Constitution.
 - C) To declare war on the Iroquois Confederacy.
 - D) To discuss the history of the United States government.
2. What specific democratic principles from the Iroquois Confederacy influenced the US Constitution?
 - A) The right to bear arms.
 - B) The right to free speech.
 - C) The concept of a representative government.
 - D) The right to a fair trial.
3. What is the document's stance on the relationship between the US government and Native American tribes?
 - A) The US government should invest in trade with Native American tribes.
 - B) The US government should treat Native American tribes as equals.
 - C) The US government should take control of Native American tribes.
 - D) The US government should be hostile towards Native American tribes.
4. Who are some of the Founding Fathers mentioned in the text as being influenced by the Iroquois Confederacy?
5. What is the significance of the year 1778 in the context of the relationship between the US government and Native American tribes?
6. According to the text, what are some of the responsibilities that the US government has towards Native American tribes?

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HAUDENOSAUNEE AND US GOVERNMENT

*"It would be a very strange thing if Six Nations of Ignorant Savages should be capable of forming a Scheme for such an Union and be able to execute it in such a manner, as that it has **subsisted** Ages, and appears **indissoluble**, and yet a like Union should be impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies."*

— Benjamin Franklin to James Parker, 1751

1. What does Benjamin Franklin think about the Six Nations Confederacy?

2. Based on the quote, what do you think is the message Franklin is trying to convey?

Word Bank:

Subsisted: survived, stayed alive

Indissoluble: lasting, unable to be destroyed

How did Benjamin Franklin learn about the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?

In 1744, the Onondaga leader Canassatego gave a speech urging the contentious 13 colonies to unite, as the Iroquois had. This cultural exchange inspired the English colonist Benjamin Franklin to print Canassatego's speech.

"We heartily recommend Union and a good Agreement between you our Brethren," Canassatego had said. "Never disagree, but preserve a strict Friendship for one another, and thereby you, as well as we, will become the stronger. Our wise Forefathers established Union and Amity between the Five Nations; this has made us formidable; this has given us great Weight and Authority with our neighboring Nations. We are a powerful Confederacy; and, by your observing the same Methods our wise Forefathers have taken, you will acquire fresh Strength and Power; therefore whatever befalls you, never fall out one with another." He used a metaphor that many arrows cannot be broken as easily as one. This inspired the bundle of 13 arrows held by an eagle in the Great Seal of the United States.

Franklin referenced the Iroquois model as he presented his Plan of Union at the Albany Congress in 1754, attended by representatives of the Iroquois and the seven colonies. His Plan of Union suggested creating a central council made up of representatives from the colonies to manage shared issues like defense, relations with Native nations, and taxation. This mirrored the structure of the Iroquois Grand Council, where leaders from each nation collaborated to make decisions. While Franklin's Plan of Union was not adopted at the time, it foreshadowed the structure later used in the U.S. Constitution.

1. Who was Canassatego and what advice did he give the American colonies?

2. How did Benjamin Franklin use the ideas of the Iroquois Confederacy in his Albany Plan of Union? What impact did it have on future lawmaking?

Directions: As you read the article, linked [HERE](#), list the key features of the Great Law (left column) and the similar US Government policy (right column)

Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Law of Peace	United States Government
List any key differences you noticed between the two governments below:	

Haudenosaunee Influence on the Founding Fathers

Directions: Use the website linked [HERE](#) to answer the question below.

Explain how the Haudenosaunee influenced each of the founding fathers below:

1. Benjamin Franklin	
2. John Adams	
3. Thomas Jefferson	

Name: _____

Score: ____/ ____

Great Law Influence: Short Essay Question:

Directions: Choose one of the questions below to answer. Make sure you answer all parts of the question, give specific evidence to support your answer, and use complete well-structured sentences.

Option 1: What was the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Great Law?

- Describe the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, including its formation and purpose.
- Explain the Great Law of Peace and its principles.
- Highlight the structure of governance within the Confederacy and its importance to member nations.

Option 2: Similarities between the USA and the Great Law

- Compare the principles of the Great Law with the foundational ideas of the United States government.
- Discuss aspects such as democracy, representation, and rights.
- Provide specific examples of similarities in governance and societal values.

Option 3: Evidence of Founding Fathers Being Influenced by the Haudenosaunee

- Present evidence showing how the Founding Fathers were inspired by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.
 - Discuss specific individuals or documents that reflect this influence.
 - Use quotes or references to support your claims.
-

Option _____

[illegible]

Name: _____

Score: ____/____

Wampum Belt Treaty Project

You will be researching one of the Haudenosaunee wampum belt treaties, learn about its history and meaning, and explain why it is important. Then, you will create a visual version of the wampum belt to show what you learned.

Pick a Wampum Belt:

Choose one of the Haudenosaunee wampum belts to study from the links posted to Google Classroom.

Do Your Research: Find out

<i>When was this belt created?</i>	
<i>What do the visuals and symbols on this belt represent?</i>	
<i>The treaty or agreement connected to the belt.</i>	
<i>Why is the belt important to the Haudenosaunee and to history?</i>	

Write Your Report: Your report should include

- **Introduction:**

A brief explanation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the role of wampum belts.

- **Main Section:**

- Describe the belt you chose.
- Explain the treaty or event it represents and why it's important.
- Talk about the belt's design and what the symbols mean.

- **Conclusion:**

Reflect on why these belts are still important today.

- **Sources:**

Include the reliable sources where you found your information.

WAMPUM BELT PROJECT

Directions: Use the links below to help you conduct research on your assigned wampum belt.

1. Canandaigua Treaty Belt (Washington Covenant Belt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 21) • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback • George Washington Belt – Onondaga Nation • Canandaigua Treaty Ganondagan
2. Dish With One Spoon Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 44) • A Dish with One Spoon The Canadian Encyclopedia • One Spoon, One Dish Wampum Belt • Wampum Matters- paper
3. Jay Treaty Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 99) • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback • Indian Defense League of America: Free Border Crossing CDN • Wampum Matters- paper
4. Tuscarora Taken-In Belt (Onondaga Alliance Belt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 114) • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback
5. Six Nations Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 129) • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback
6. Tuscarora Returns Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 138) • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback • Wampum Matters- paper
7. Two Row Wampum Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wampum Belts Messages Coded in Symbolism (p. 139) • Wampum • Wampum Belts of the Iroquois (Tehanetorens)- paperback

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Two Row Wampum – Gaswéñdah – Onondaga Nation</u>