

MAYANS

The Mayans lived on the Yucatan Peninsula (in brown, right). This civilization flourished between 300 and 900 CE.

The Mayans had one of the most advanced civilizations in the Americas. They built temples and pyramids and developed a calendar.

Eventually Mayan civilization declined, possibly due to natural disasters or invasion.



MAYAN CIVILIZATION

Mayan cities were built around a central pyramid topped by a shrine to the gods.

Nearby were other temples, palaces, and a sacred ball court.

Some scholars believe that the largest urban centers had up to 200,000 people.

Mayan civilization was composed of city-states, each governed by a hereditary ruling class. The city-states were often at war with each other. Soldiers who were captured in battle became slaves. Captured nobles and war leaders were used for human sacrifice.



MAYAN SOCIETY

Rulers of the Mayan city-states claimed to be descended from gods

Mayan society was build on a class structure:

- Rulers and Nobles were at the top
- Priests and scribes made up the next level
- Artists, merchants, and city officials were the next level
- Peasant farmers were near the bottom
- Slaves were at the bottom of the social classes

Most of the Mayan people were peasant farmers, living on tiny plots of land in the terraced highlands

The Mayans men did the fighting and hunting while women did the homemaking and raising of children

MAYAN RELIGION

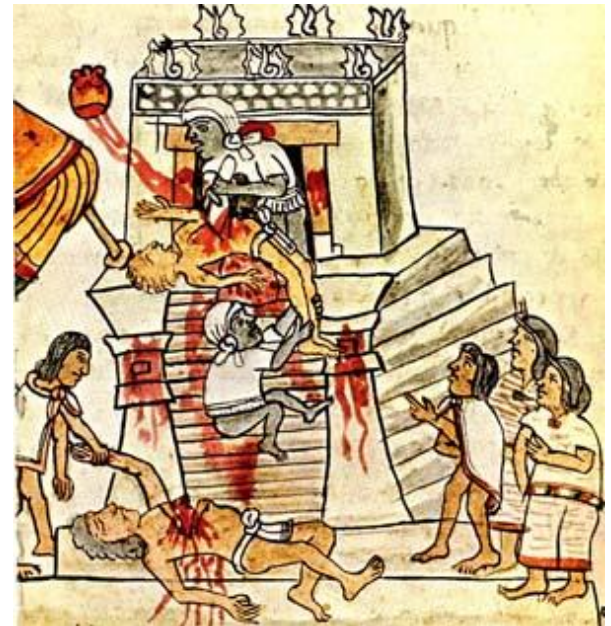
The Mayans believed that all life was in the hands of divine powers.

Their supreme god was named Itzamna (Lizard House)

Gods were ranked in order of importance and some gods were considered evil or good

The Mayans practiced human sacrifice as a way to appease the gods

- Human sacrifices were part of some religious rituals
- Prisoners of war were used as sacrifices for some ceremonies



MAYAN INVENTIONS

Mayans used hieroglyphic writing, like the Egyptians, they had pictures represent words and ideas

- When the Spanish invaded, they did not try to decipher Mayan language or writings
- Ignoring the native language helped bring about the downfall of Mayan civilization
- Mayans wrote on bark which they folded and then covered with plaster, they also carved onto clay, jade, bone, shells, and stone

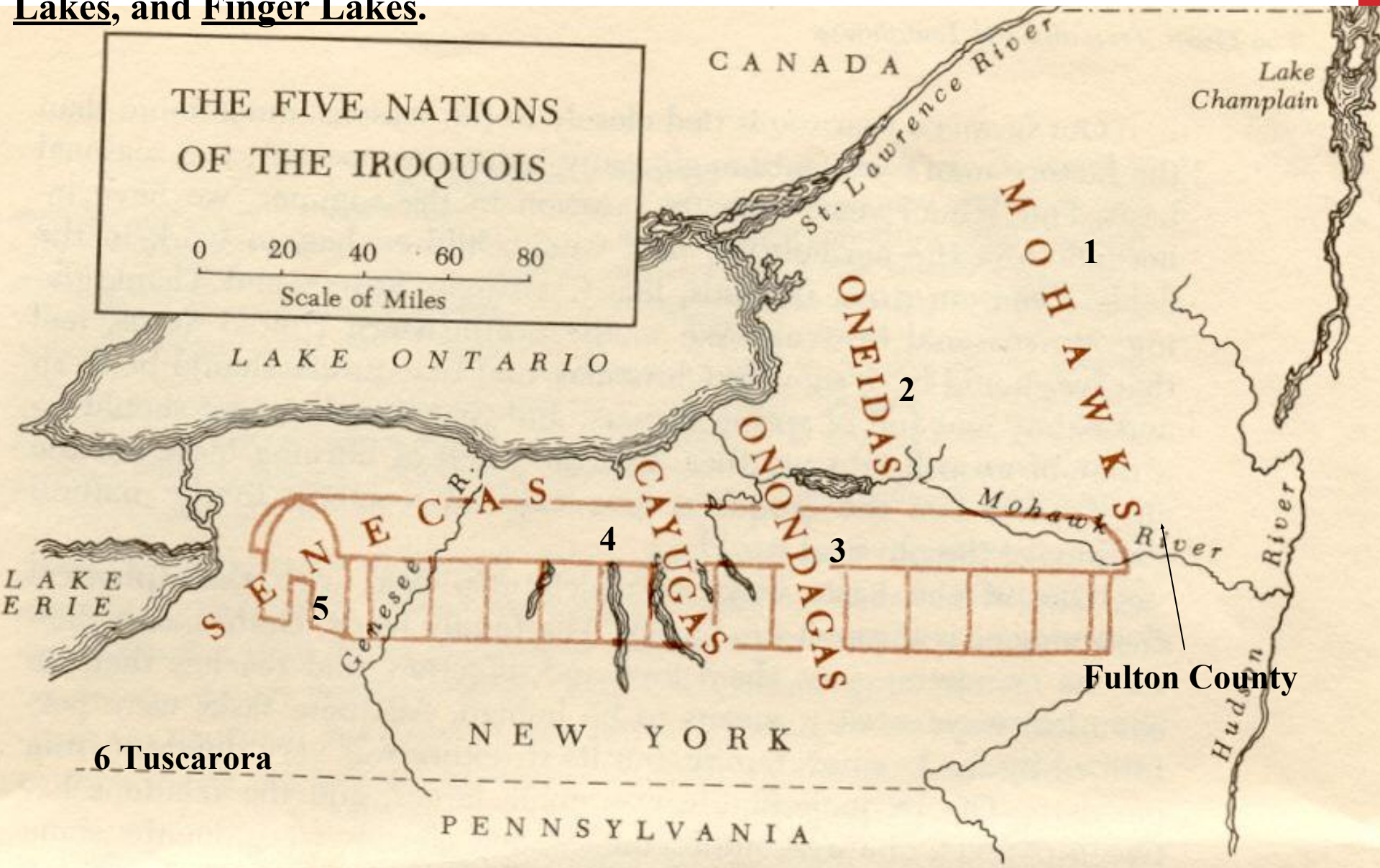
The Mayans also created a calendar called the Long Count.

- The calendar was based on the belief in cycles of creation and destruction
- The Mayans used two different systems for measuring time
 - The solar calendar was 365 days, divided into 18 months of 20 days each, with an extra five days at the end
 - The sacred calendar was 260 days, divided into 13 weeks of 20 days; only trained priests could read and use this calendar, which was used to foretell the future and know the omens associated with each day

Iroquois:

LOCATION:

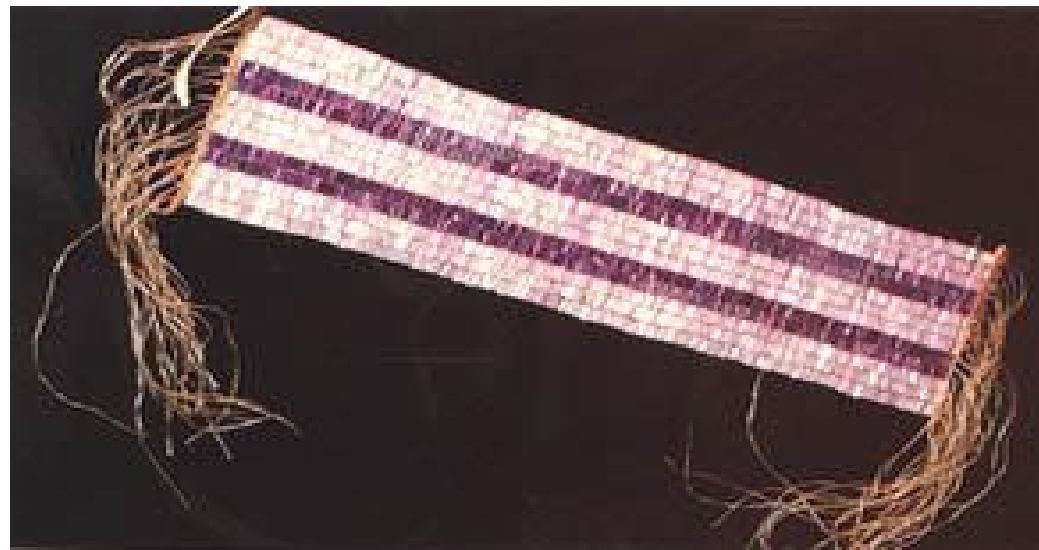
They lived in the present day state of **New York** along the Mohawk River, Great Lakes, and Finger Lakes.



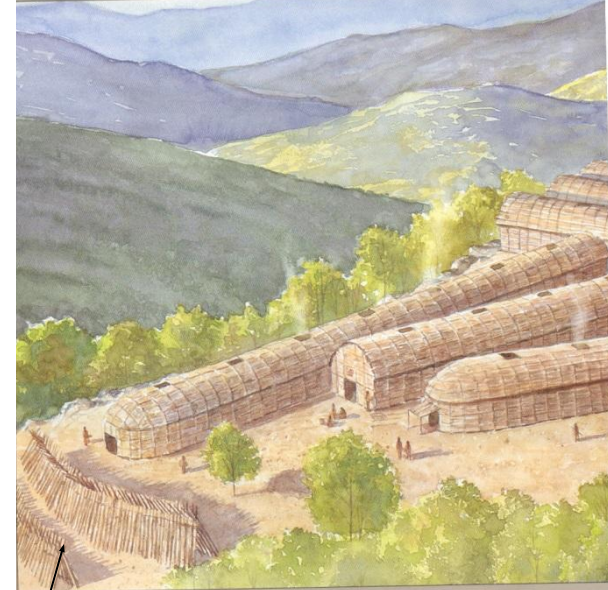
GOVERNMENT:

1. The Iroquois Confederacy was created
2. The main purpose of the league was to bring about peace and stop the fighting among themselves.
3. The Iroquois created a system of law to govern the league called the Great Law of Peace.
4. Iroquois government was a representative government in which the sachems represented the people
5. Representative Government; system of government where voters elect representatives to make laws for them.

Wampum
belt



1. Iroquois depended on environment for all they needed. They only took what they needed. They did not waste any resources.
2. Iroquois did not own land. Used what they needed. They shared land with others.
3. Women controlled the village and the farm land around the village.
4. When the resources of an area were used up, the village moved.
5. Villages moved every 10-20 years. They moved because the soil wore out. They needed to find fertile soil for farming.



Palisade



E. ROLE OF IROQUOIS MEN:

1. **Sachems:** Men served as sachems.



3. **Hunters:** Men hunted and fished to provide food for the family and village.



2. **Warriors:** Men were warriors. They protected the village and league against enemies.

4. **Merchants/Traders:** Men went to other villages and tribes to trade. They traded with Europeans when they arrived.



5. **Cleared Land:** Men cleared the land in order to build the village and farm.



6. **Builders:** Men built the tools and weapons that they used. Before the Europeans arrived, they used stone, wood, and bone for tools and weapons. After the Europeans arrived, they began using metal weapons and tools.



F. ROLE OF IROQUOIS WOMEN:

1. **Farming & Gathering Food:** Women grew corn, beans, and squash and gathered food from the environment.



2. **Picking Chiefs:** Women picked and removed the sachems.



3. **Food Preparation:** Women prepared meats and other food for the people to eat.

Mortar and pestle for grinding corn and other things.

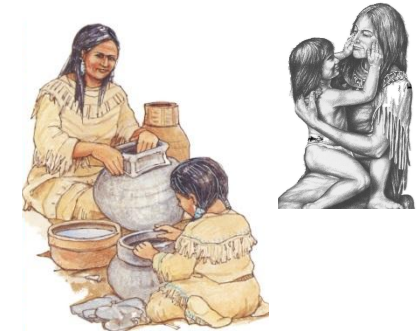


Drying fish and animal meat over smoke helped to preserve it so it would last longer.

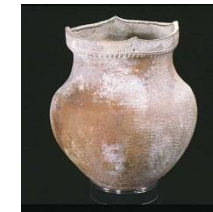
4. **Making Clothes:** Women took animal skins (deer) and made clothing, shoes, blankets, and coats.



5. **Raising Children:**



6. **Make Tools:** Women made the tools that they needed to do their jobs of farming, gathering, and cooking. They made pots, baskets, spoons, bowls from wood, bark, stone, and clay.



EASTERN WOODLANDS: THE MOUND BUILDERS

Around 1,000 BCE, farming villages appeared in the Eastern Woodlands, the land in eastern North America from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The best known people of this region were the **Hopewell** people in the Ohio River valley. The Hopewell culture extended along the Mississippi River. They are known for the elaborate earth mounds they built for tombs or ceremonies. They came to be known as the Mound Builders.

By 700 CE, most of these peoples had shifted to full-time farming, growing corn, squash, and beans.



The Mound Builders prospered and cities began to appear, some of them containing more than 10,000 citizens. One city, **Cahokia**, is located near present-day East St. Louis. It flourished from 850 to 1150, but collapsed in the 13th century for unknown reasons.

PEOPLE OF THE GREAT PLAINS

West of the Mississippi, the Plains Indians cultivated beans, corn, and squash.

Every summer, the men left their villages to hunt buffalo, an important animal in Plains Indian culture.

The Plains Indians are known for their teepees made of buffalo hide that provided shelter for their tribes.



PEOPLES OF THE SOUTHWEST: ANASAZI

The Southwest covers the territory of present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado.

The Anasazi people established an extensive farming society in the Southwest.

Between 500 and 1200 CE, the Anasazi used canals and earthen dams to turn parts of the desert into fertile gardens

They were skilled at making baskets and pottery

They used adobe to build pueblos, multi-storied structures that could house many people

The Anasazi people created Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, the heart of the Anasazi culture. They also built Mesa Verde, in Colorado.