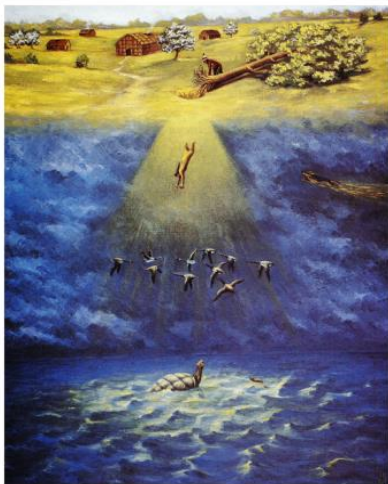
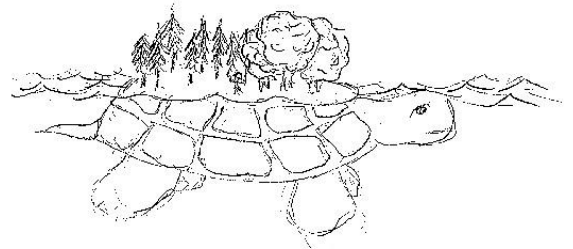


Iroquois Creation Myth

How did the Iroquois environment affect the way they lived?

- The Iroquois lived in the _____ of North America.
- The Iroquois farmed and _____ for food.
- They lived in _____ made of wood.



At the foundation of nearly every culture is a creation myth that explains how the wonders of the earth came to be.

These myths have an immense influence on people. They influence the way people think about the world and their place in relation to their surroundings.

Because the Iroquois Creation Myth is part of an oral tradition, there are many different versions of the story. Today you will learn about two of these stories.

Directions: Watch the video link found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WszDM7Jmg94>

In the chart below, write at least three facts that you learn about the Iroquois creation story from the video. Then, add more facts after our class discussion.

Directions: Read another version of the myth below and complete the summary for each section.

Long before the world was created there was an island, floating in the sky, upon which the Sky People lived. They lived quietly and happily. No one ever died or was born or experienced sadness. However one day one of the Sky Women realized she was going to give birth to twins. She told her husband, who flew into a rage. In the center of the island there was a tree which gave light to the entire island since the sun hadn't been created yet. He tore up this tree, creating a huge hole in the middle of the island. Curiously, the woman peered into the hole. Far below she could see the waters that covered the earth...She fell through the hole, tumbling towards the waters.

1. Summarize Section #1 _____

Water animals already existed on the earth, so far below the floating island two birds saw the Sky Woman fall. Just before she reached the waters they caught her on their backs and brought her to the other animals. Determined to help the woman they dove into the water to get mud from the bottom of the seas. One after another the animals tried and failed. Finally, Little Toad tried and when he reappeared his mouth was full of mud. The animals took it and spread it on the back of Big Turtle. The mud began to grow and grow and grow until it became the size of North America.

2. Summarize Section #2 _____

Then the woman stepped onto the land. She sprinkled dust into the air and created stars. Then she created the moon and sun. The Sky Woman gave birth to twin sons. She named one Sapling. He grew to be kind and gentle. She named the other Flint and his heart was as cold as his name. They grew quickly and began filling the earth with their creations.

Sapling created what is good. He made animals that are useful to humans. He made rivers that went two ways and into these he put fish without bones. He made plants that people could eat easily. Flint destroyed much of Sapling's work and created all that is bad. He made the rivers flow only in one direction. He put bones in fish and thorns on berry bushes. He created winter, but Sapling gave it life so that it could move to give way to Spring. He created monsters which his brother drove beneath the Earth.

Eventually Sapling and Flint decided to fight till one conquered the other. Neither was able to win at first, but finally Flint was beaten. Because he was a god Flint could not die, so he was forced to live on Big Turtle's back. Occasionally his anger is felt in the form of a volcano.

3. Summarize Section #3 _____

Conclusion: What do we learn about the Iroquois from their creation myth?
