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Congratulations on your purchase of some of the finest teaching materials in the world.

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Woodland Indians

Preface

Throughout this unit the group written about will be referred to as “Woodland Indians.” As we all know, these natives were given this name by Columbus who thought, when he reached the land we now call America, that he had reached India. Therefore, the natives he encountered were called “Indians.”

Even after Columbus’s mistake was discovered, the term “Indian” was retained. Actually, these natives were on our continent thousands of years earlier, having come over the land bridge from Asia during the Ice Age.

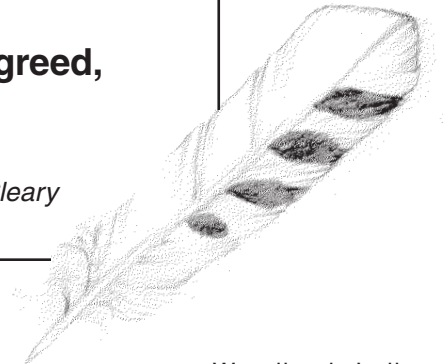
Today, even though their lands have been taken and their ways of life have been changed, these first “Americans” are proud of their heritage. We might more correctly call them “Native Americans.”

The term “Woodland Indians” has been used here only to identify them as the group of natives who inhabited the northeastern part of this land when the European colonists arrived. Teachers might choose to refer to them as “Woodland Natives.”

**Woodlands...fertile, thick and green,
Oak, elm, fir and maple
Offering food and shelter for
Deer and bear, squirrel and bird.
Lakes and rivers...clear and cold,
Abounding with fish and water fowl,
Nuts and berries growing wild,
Dancing sunlight through the leaves.**

**Indians...swift and strong and brave,
Native to woodlands of the East,
Dwelling in clearings near lakes and streams,
In harmony with nature’s gifts,
Attuned to spirits of their world.
Now...suffering because of others’ greed,
Struggling to keep tradition alive.**

Elaine H. Cleary



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- Atlas of the North American Indian* by Carl Waldman, Facts on File Publications, 1985.

Pamphlets from the Allegheny Indian Reservation, Salamanca, N.Y.

Data Sheet #1	<i>The Seneca Nation of Indians</i>	Data Sheet #4	<i>Original Myths</i>
Data Sheet #2	<i>Comparative Governmental Structure</i>	Data Sheet #5	<i>Wampum</i>
Data Sheet #3	<i>The Salamanca Lease</i>	Data Sheet #6	<i>Iroquois Foods</i>

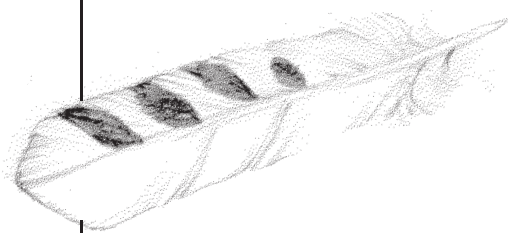
Books for intermediate grade readers

(Listed under "Juvenile Literature")

Hofsinde, Robert (Gray Wolf)	<i>Indian Costumes</i>
Lenski, Lois	<i>Indian Captive: the Story of Mary Jamison</i>
Siegel, Beatrice	<i>Indians of the Northeast Woodlands</i>
Yellow Robe, Rosebud	<i>An Album of the American Indian</i>
Bierhorst, John	<i>The Woman Who Fell from the Sky</i>
Doherty, Craig A.	<i>The Iroquois</i>
Fradin, Dennis B.	<i>Hiawatha, Messenger of Peace</i>
McCall, Barbara A.	<i>The Iroquois</i>
Sherrow, Victoria	<i>The Iroquois Indians</i>
Wolfson, Evelyn	<i>The Iroquois: People of the Northeast</i>

Note: This activity may be done as a whole-group brainstorming session or in cooperative-learning groups. Combine all information to create a large chart to leave up in class throughout the unit of study.

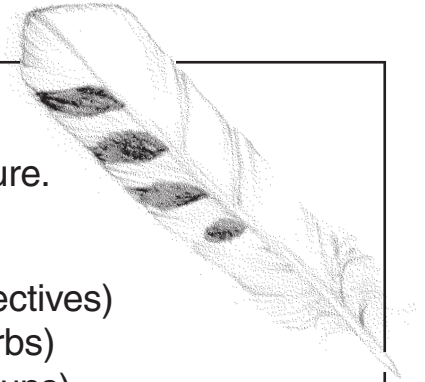
Before We Begin

What we know about Woodland Indians	What we want to learn about Woodland Indians
	

Choose an Indian Name for Yourself

Indian children were given names that represented special qualities regarding abilities or personality traits. For example, a bright, observant, helpful person might be “Shining Owl.” Other names could be: He who runs fast, Gentle Sparrow, She Who Cares, and Strong Bear.

Make a list of your own abilities or personality traits. Then choose the one you like best and make up your own symbolic name. Design a personal symbol to go with your name.



A good way to explain your name is to write a cinquain poem. A cinquain has five lines with a very exact structure.

They are:

- Line 1:* one word title (your name)
- Line 2:* two words describing the title (adjectives)
- Line 3:* three words expressing action (verbs)
- Line 4:* four words expressing feelings (nouns)
- Line 5:* one synonym for the title

Here is an example of a cinquain for Shining Owl.
See how each line fits the pattern above.

Shining Owl
Wise, Clever
Instructing, Learning, Helping
Strength, Devotion, Encouragement, Support
Teacher

Now, try writing your own cinquain following the pattern above.
