

NATION PROFILE: THE ALGONQUIN

ANSWER KEY

Geographical Location and Natural Resources

- Hudson Valley Region north into Canada, west to Wisconsin, and south to Virginia
- forests in north and west — large supply of birch trees
- wild game — moose, bear, rabbit, mink, beavers
- wild berries and fruits
- fish and shellfish

Lifestyle (food, clothing, etc.)

- three major tribes — Delaware, Mohican, and Wappinger
- mostly hunters and fishermen — used spears, nets, clubs, and traps to catch wild game and fish
- besides food, fish used to fertilize cornfields
- some farmed — grew corn, beans, and squash (the “three sisters”) like Iroquois
- some grew wild rice and tobacco — rice grown in muddy shores of marshes and streams around Great Lakes
- tobacco used for ceremonies and social gatherings
- made maple syrup from maple trees
- women wove fishnets, mats, and bark container
- built lightweight canoes and utensils from birch bark

Homes and/or Dwellings

- wigwams — cone-shaped homes made of birch bark — also built longhouses like Iroquois
- homes built around central area called plaza

Culture (religion, beliefs, and practices)

- believed in *Great Spirit of Manitou* — gave everything needed — water, trees, animal life, moon and stars, etc.
- held special ceremonies to honor and thank Manitou — one special solitary one for young boy ready to become a man — father took boy into forest and left for 3–5 days until met his Manitou, giving him strength and spiritual guidance
- carved on birch bark dreams, memories, and other writings
- men used symbols for sacred stories to create memory scrolls — best known is dream catchers
- dream catchers hung on cradleboards to protect babies — believed would catch bad dreams and let good one pass through web

Miscellaneous (interesting facts, encounters with explorers)

- Algonquin known as Algonquian-speaking nations
- saved many Europeans from starvation
- believed in peace and friendship with settlers
- signed peace treaties with other tribes to foster peace and trade
- soon but sadly learned to give up land to Europeans or be killed