

Iroquois Confederacy – Six Nations – Haudenosaunee

Mohawk

- Keepers of the Eastern Door
- Elder Brothers
- People of the Flint
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle
- Kastowi – 3 feathers up

Oneida

- Younger Brothers
- People of the Standing Stone
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle
- Kastowi – 2 feathers up 1 down

Onondaga

- Firekeepers
- Elder Brothers
- People of the Hills
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle, Deer, Hawk, Snipe, Eel, Beaver
- Kastowi – 1 feather up 1 down

Cayuga

- Younger Brothers
- People of the Great Swamp or People of the Pipe
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle, Hawk, Heron, Snipe, Deer, Beaver
- Kastowi – 1 feather down

Seneca

- Keepers of the Western Door
- Elder Brothers
- People of the Great Hill
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle, Snipe, Hawk, Deer, Beaver
- Kastowi – 1 feather up

Tuscarora

- Sit with the Younger Brothers
- Shirt Wearing People
- Clans – Wolf, Bear, Turtle, Snipe, Deer, Beaver, Eel
- Kastowi – No large feathers

Iroquois Confederacy

- All of the Six Nations put together – Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Tuscarora

## Grand Council

- Assembly of 50 chiefs that represent all of the clans of the Six Nations

## Clan

- a group of people with a common ancestor – usually named after birds and animals – Wolf, Bear, Turtle, Deer, Eel, Snipe, Heron, Hawk, Beaver

## Clan Mother

- is responsible for the welfare of the whole clan
- gives names to the people of her clan
- holds nominating position, installing and removing of chiefs
- she monitors the chiefs actions
- councils the people of her clan
- her title rest within her clan
  - o Rights of the women within their clan
- children belong to her clan
- use of clan lands
- rights to adopt
- own the home and all it's furnishings
- decent of blood that determines citizenship
- rights to burial grounds
- right to forbid husbands, brothers and sons from going to war
- in charge of food distribution

## Chief

- Hoyaneh meaning 'Caretakers of the Peace'
- each nation has a different number of chiefs
- all chiefs have the same authority – there is NO HEAD CHIEF
- a chiefs title rest within his clan
- a clanmother can remove a delinquent chief from his position but they are generally installed for life
- The following qualities would make a good candidate for a chief
  - pleasant personality
  - honest
  - have not committed any crimes
  - knowledge of what the confederacy laws represents
  - must represent the people fairly
  - knowledge of all the ceremonies
  - must have never left his family
  - must be able to uphold the Great Law
  - must be kind hearted
  - must be able to withstand criticism

## Sub-Chief:

- is to help the Chief with all of his duties

### Sachem

- is another word for Chief

### Elder Brother

- Mohawk, Onondaga, Seneca

### Younger Brother

- Oneida, Cayuga, Tuscarora

### Runner

- to carry messages from village to village, covering hundreds of miles in a matter of a few days
- they are selected for their endurance and their ability to memorize the instructions and information given to them

### Great Law of Peace

- is the constitution for all the Haudenosaunee
- it defines the powers of each nation
- it guarantees certain freedoms for the people
- set of rigid standards for leadership
  - o upright moral character
  - o stable family life

### Wampum:

- Hiawatha was the first to use wampum – string of different shells
- In time the quahog shell was used because it was the hardest shell
- White beads symbolize the good mind and love of peace and hope
- Purple beads are said to remind the people of the gravity of life and their responsibilities to the coming generations
- Used to teach the Great Law
- Used to record events such as treaty signings
  - o Two Row or Guswenta
  - o 1794 Canandaigua Treaty or the George Washington Belt
  - o Fort Stanwix Treaty

### Onkwehonwe:

- “Original People” or “First People”
- the six nations of Haudenosaunee people who have agreed to live under a traditional form of governance called the Great Law

### Faithkeeper:

- selected by their clans for their knowledge of plants and animals
- must understand all the activities that go with each ceremony

- must be willing to serve as teachers to pass on their knowledge to the next generation

#### Nation

- community of people of mainly common descent, history, and language forming a unified government