

QUESTION 5 — PAGE 1

The Erie Canal: The Native Americans of New York State

The Native Americans of New York State include the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Valley. They are known for the alliance, or confederation, called the League of the Haudenosaunee, the People of the Longhouse. They were also known as the Five Nations Confederacy. Today they are known as the Six Nations with the inclusion of the Tuscarora.

1. According to the 1747 map to the left, in which British Colony are the Five Nations located?

- 2.** List two lakes located in Five Nations territory:

- 3.** List two rivers located in Five Nations territory:

Copy of a map attached to Governor Colden's *History of the Five Indian Nations*. Printed in London 1747. Reproduced in Cadwallader D. Colden's memoir, *An Account of the Grand Canal Celebration at New York*, 1825, Albany Institute of History & Art Library.



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Certificate, Marine Society of New York, printed in London, 1770, and detail from lower left, Albany Institute of History & Art Library



Look closely at the images of the New York Native Americans. The one on top is from 1770 and was printed in London. The one on the bottom is from 1825 and was printed in New York City.

1. If you were in London in 1770, would looking at this top image make you think New York Native Americans were friendly?

_____ yes _____ no

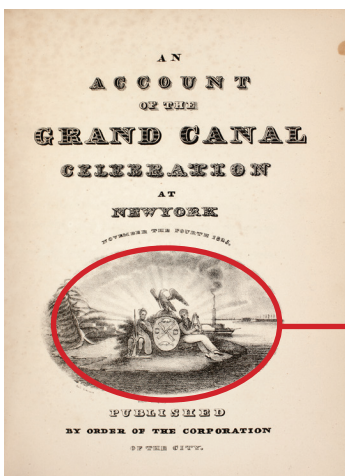
2. List two things that you see in the picture that supports your answer:

1. _____

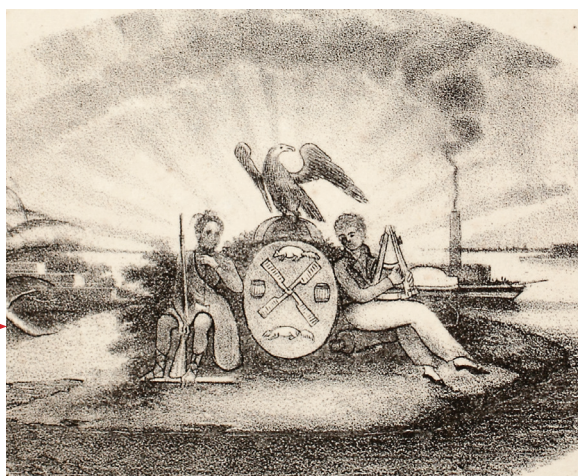
2. _____

3. What animal is shown in all images that is frequently used as a symbol of New York State?

4. What animal in the bottom images is used as a symbol of the United States?



Title Page from *An Account of the Grand Canal Celebration at New York*, 1825, and detail from illustration, Albany Institute of History & Art Library

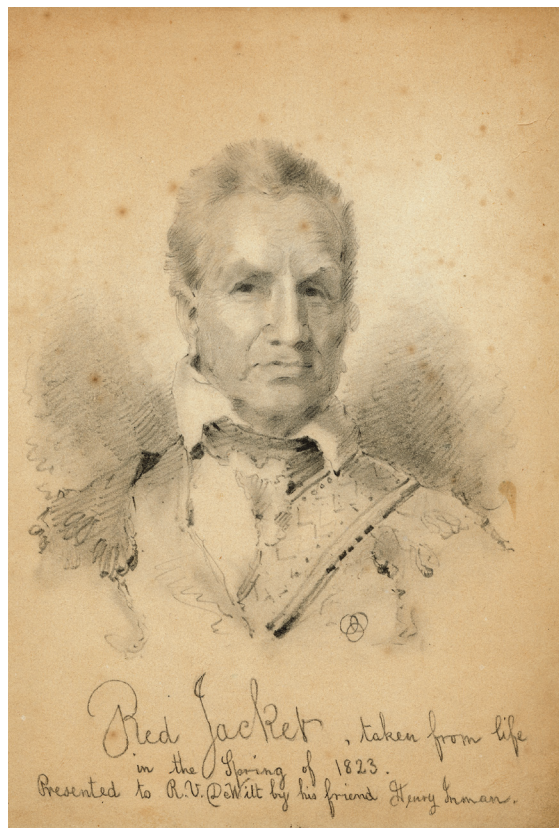


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Sa Ga Teath Qua Pieth Tow, of the Maquas (Brant) c.1710, London. Jan Verelst, maker (c.1648-1734); John Simon, engraver (1675-1754). Albany Institute of History & Art, bequest of Mrs. Henry M. Sage, 1972.65.9



Red Jacket (Sagoyewatha), Henry Inman, Spring 1823, Pencil on paper, Albany Institute of History & Art, Bequest of Sarah Walsh DeWitt, 1924.1.19
 "Red Jacket taken from life in the Spring of 1823 Presented to R.V. DeWitt by his friend Henry Inman."

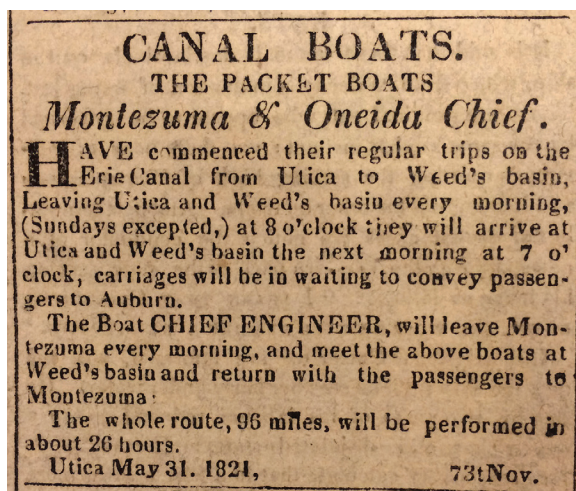
Unlike the images on the previous page which are symbols, these two images are portraits of people created by artists while the people were in front of them. In both cases we know the names of the people and the artists who created the portraits.

List three things that you see in these images that help you know they are portraits of real people, not symbols.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Canal Boats, The Packet Boats, Advertisement, *Albany Argus*, 1821, Albany Institute of History & Art Library



Erie Canal Commemorative Token and Wood Presentation Box, Box attributed to Duncan Phyfe, New York City 1825. Wood and metal with engraved paper label. Gift of Albert B. Roberts, Albany Institute of History & Art, 2006.49.10



Native American names were often adopted by European settlers in the early period of the United States. People living alongside the Erie Canal were no exception, often choosing names from local tribes, as well as, from outside the region.

The Iroquois Confederacy in Upstate New York included the Seneca tribe. In 1825, Dewitt Clinton, who lead the effort to build the Erie Canal, traveled in a boat called the *Seneca Chief* from Buffalo to New York City to celebrate the opening of the canal.

The canal boats *Montezuma* and *Oneida Chief*, noted in the 1831 advertisement pictured to the left, drew their names from Native American sources. Montezuma was a well-known Aztec emperor who lived in what is now Mexico. The Oneida are another member of the Iroquois Confederacy.

List two reasons why a boat owner might name his boat after one of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.

1. _____

2. _____

