

Lenni - Lenape



The sub-tribe
of the North:

The Minsi

Lenni Lenape

Minsi Nation

People of the Stony Country

Totem -- Wolf

Chief of Nation

Families

Minsi	Unami	Unalachtigo
Wolf	Turtle	Turkey
12 clans	12 clans	12 clans
12 chiefs	12 chiefs	12 chiefs



Unami Nation

People Who Live Down River

Totem -- Turtle

Chief of Nation

Families

Minsi	Unami	Unalachtigo
Wolf	Turtle	Turkey
12 clans	12 clans	12 clans
12 chiefs	12 chiefs	12 chiefs



Unalachtigo Nation

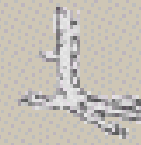
People Who Live by the Ocean

Totem -- Turkey

Chief of Nation

Families

Minsi	Unami	Unalachtigo
Wolf	Turtle	Turkey
12 clans	12 clans	12 clans
12 chiefs	12 chiefs	12 chiefs



Way of Life

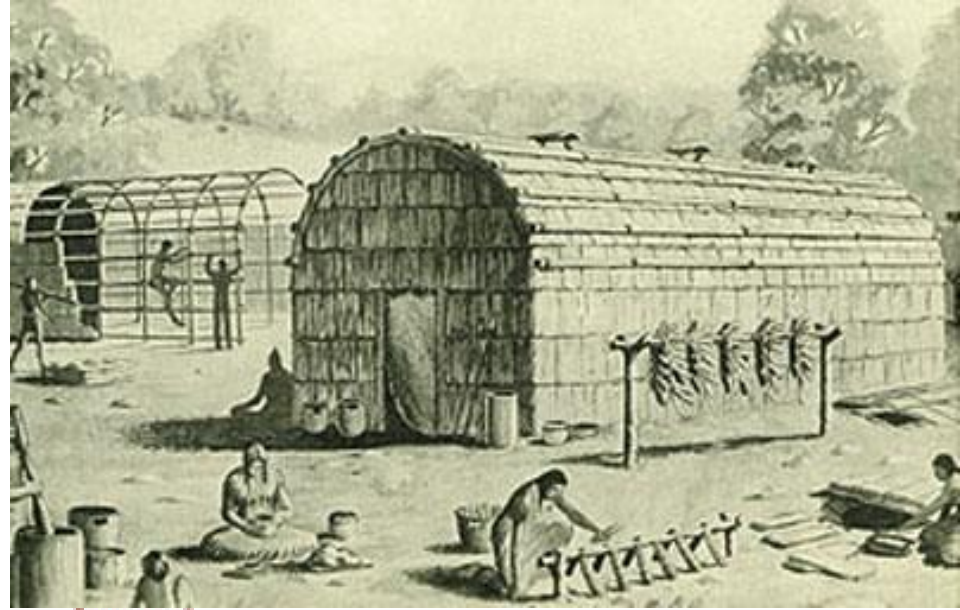
- The Indians located their villages and campsites near streams where transportation was readily available, although much of their travel was by foot
- The Lenni-Lenape traveled with the seasons, making full use area resources
 - During the spring they planted gardens around their permanent settlements.
 - In the summer, they went to the shore to catch oysters and clams and stay cool
 - In the fall, they would move back to their village and harvest their crops.
 - In the winter, they hunted deer and other animals at their settlements.
- The Iroquois called them "The Old Women." They frequently were the intermediaries in resolving problems within the nation because of their peaceful nature.



Traditional Dwellings:

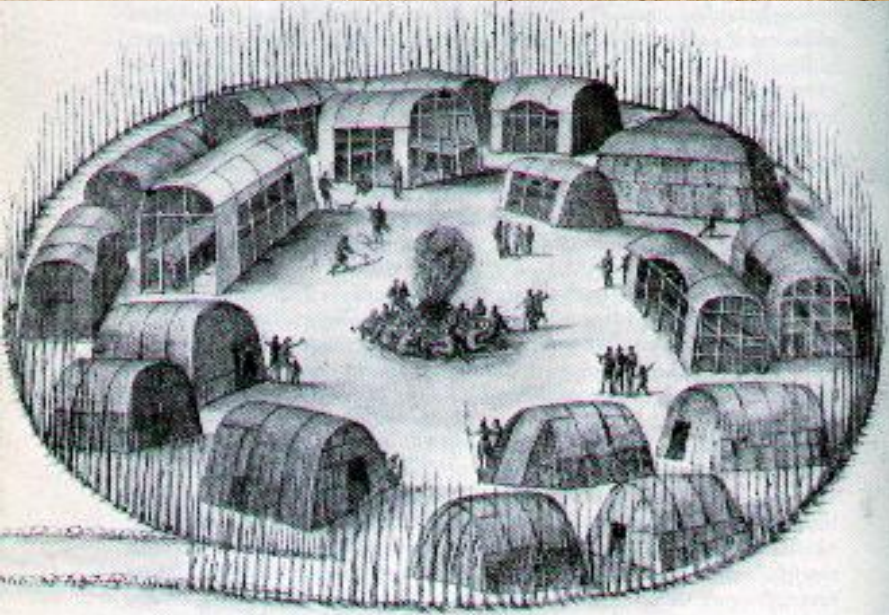
- They did not live in teepees but rather in longhouses.
- Their houses were made of bark.
- First a framework made from trees was built, usually in a rectangular or oval shape, and then this was covered with large sheets of bark.
- Sometimes, especially in the summer, the houses were covered with mats made from reeds.
- In the northern part of the Lenape tribe, larger multiple-family bark houses were made and these had rounded ends and a door on the side.
 - Usually several related families lived in these.

Longhouse



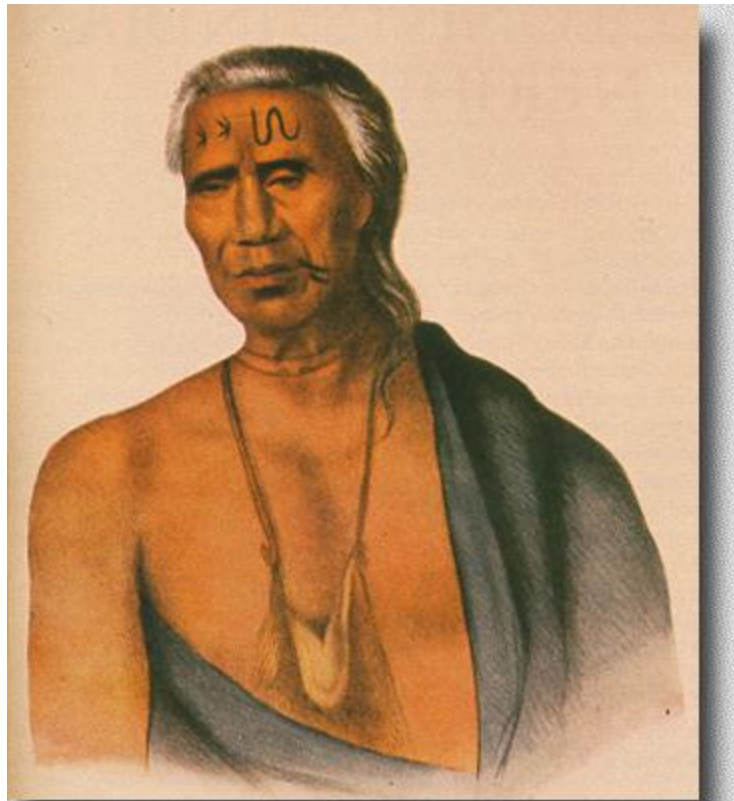
Wigwam:

- Another housing preferred by some tribes was the wigwam.
- It had the same building procedure as the longhouse, except it was a round hut instead of a long, drawn out building.
 - It was meant for a single family or individual.
- These wigwams were circled around a central community or government building with a large outside fire pit for community cooking and rituals.
- The shelters for each different clan of the tribe was based on personal preference and was not specific to one area or another.



Tribal Government:

- The main government of the Lenape tribe was a main chief that ruled the tribe

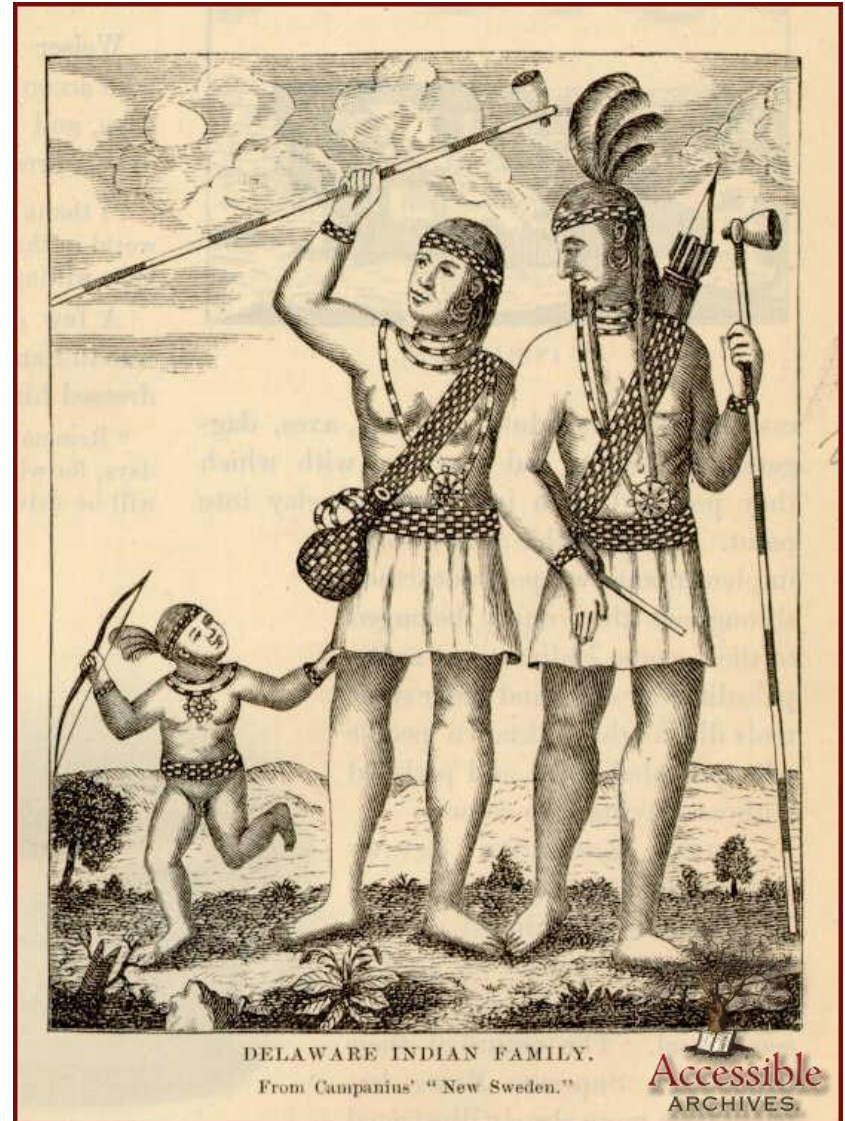


Religious Beliefs

- Living within the natural ecosystem encouraged
- Harmony with nature the norm
- Only mild alterations of nature for immediate needs: food, clothing, shelter; no permanent damage. Low impact technology.
- Entire world viewed as alive: plants, animals, people, rocks.
- Humans not superior, but equal part of the web of life. Reciprocal relationship with non-human life.
- Kee-shay-lum-moo-kawng was the word the Lenapi's used to refer to the Great Spirit/God and Manitowuk was the term used for lesser spirit agents, which were forces present in all manifestations of nature (trees, flowers, rocks etc.).
- The deep seated religious convictions of the Lenapi did not include a satan or devil.
- One component of the Lenapi's religion was a belief in dreams, visions and the existence of guardian spirits. These were a line of communication between the supernatural world and everyday life.

Family Relationships

- Families lived in close proximity to one another in their longhouses and often this included the extended family.
- Children were valued members of Lenape society; they were loved and well cared for



Language

- Each group spoke a different dialect of language that belonged to the Algonquian family.
- The Lenape language (of the Algonquian family) is virtually extinct.
- Munsee (or Minsi): Means-people from Minisink(the stony country).
- It is also a dialect of the Delaware Indians.
 - It was often spoken by Delaware Indians living in the lands of the lower Hudson River and upper Delaware River area.
- Munsee Indians were the Wolf clan of the Delaware Indian tribe.

Clothing

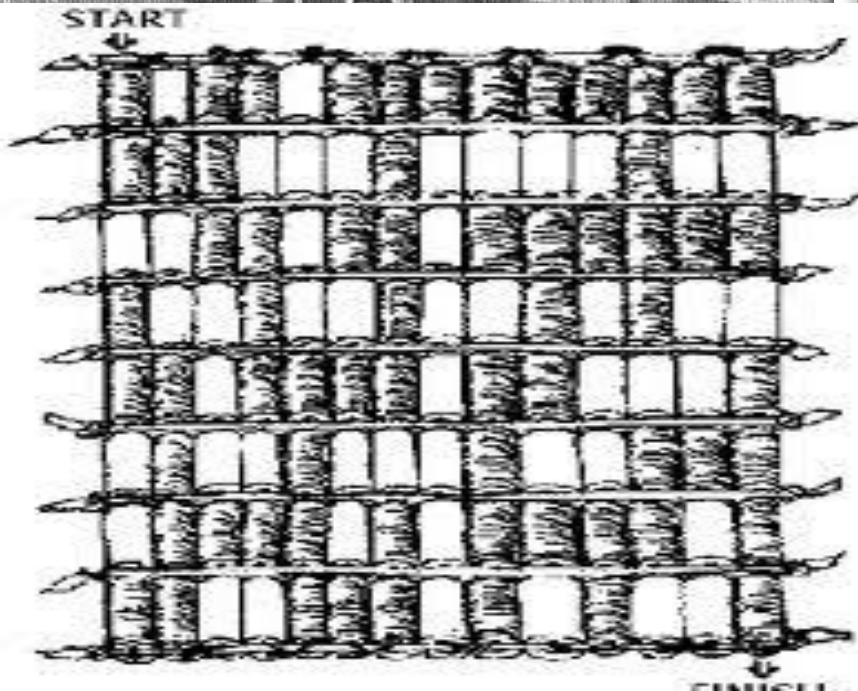
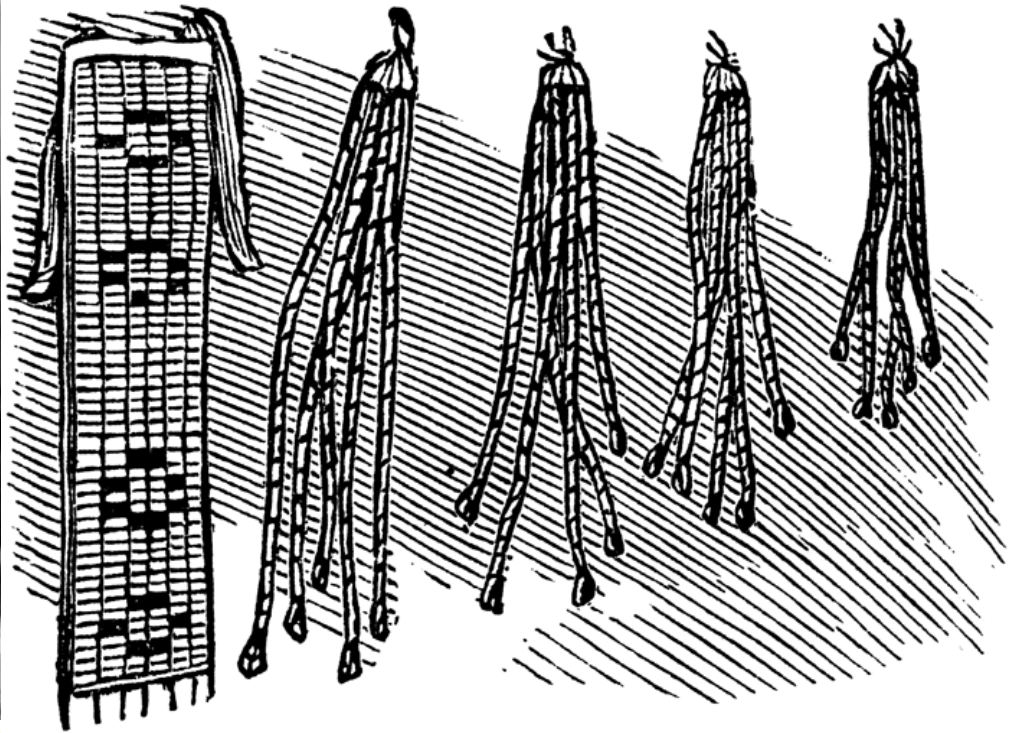
- Furs were used for clothing
- The Lenape made and wore clothing both as protection from the weather and also for comfort.
- Leggings not only kept them warm, but also protected them from scratches as they walked through the woods.
- Men wore breechcloths that were held in place by a belt.
- Women wore dresses or shirts and skirts, both wore moccasins or sandals.
- Clothing was made from animal hide and sometimes decorated with beads or shells.
- Although shirts were not required for men, many wore them to keep warm in the winter and were, in general, worn.



Arts and Crafts

- The Lenape tribe is known for their beadwork and basketry products.
- Like other eastern American Indians, the Lenni-Lenape also crafted wampum out of white and purple shell beads.
- Wampum beads were traded as a kind of currency, but they were more culturally important as an art material.
- The designs and pictures on wampum belts often told a story or represented a person's family





Food

- The Delaware Indians were farming people.
- Lenape women did most of the farming, harvesting corn, squash and beans.
- Lenape men went hunting for deer, elk, turkeys, and small game.
- They caught fish in the rivers and inlets.
- Delaware Indian foods included soup, cornbread, dumplings and salads.
- In the summer, when the tribes lived at the shore, they caught and ate oysters and other shellfish caught in tidal pools.



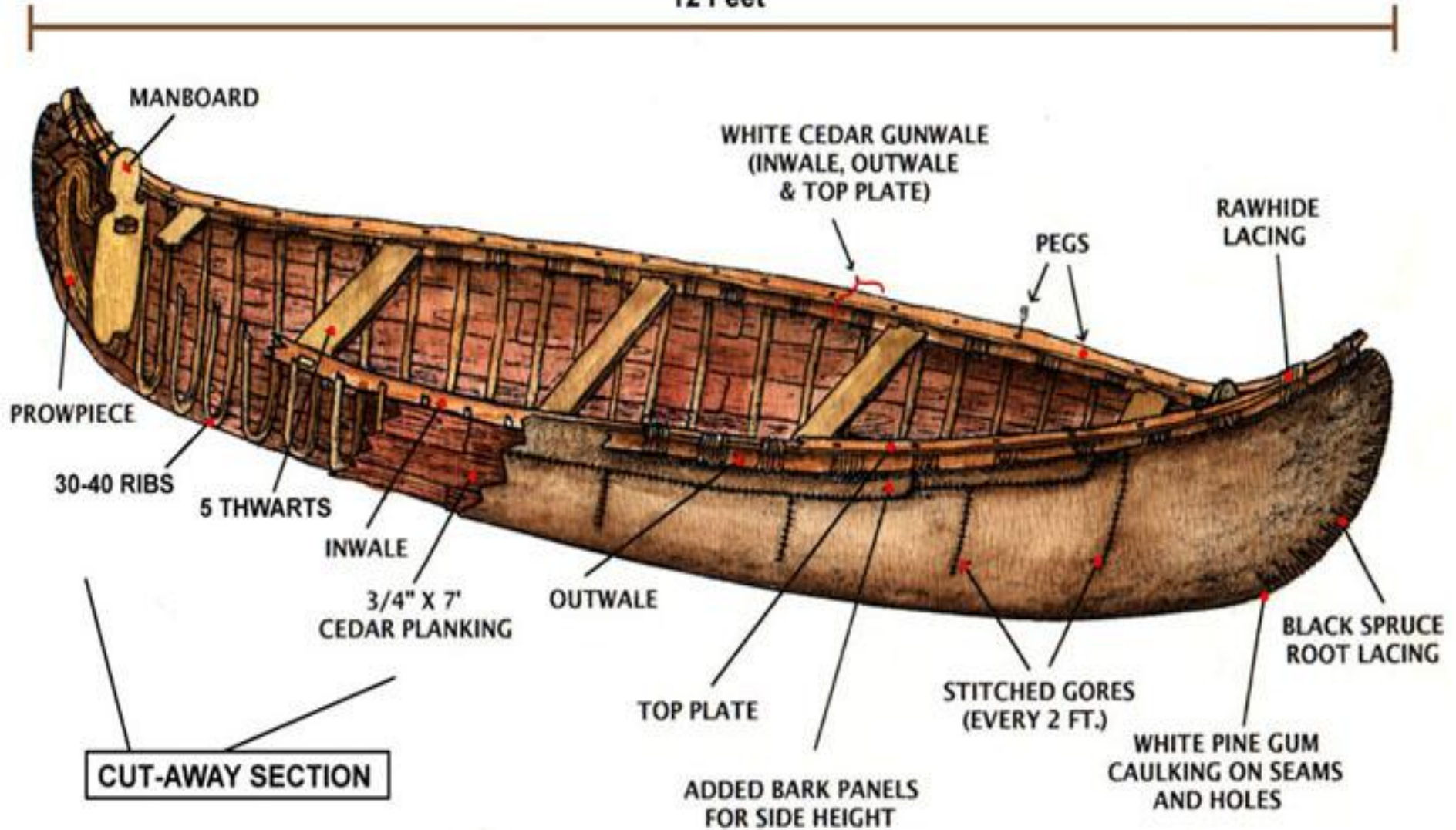
Travel

- The Lenni Lenape tribe used bark and dugout canoes to travel on the Delaware River and the East Coast.
- Since they moved to Oklahoma, however, Lenape traditions of canoe-building have mostly been lost.
- Over land, the Lenapes used dogs as pack animals.
 - (There were no horses in North America until Europeans brought them here.)
- Lenape Indians used sleds and snowshoes to help them travel in the winter.

Northeastern Native American Birchbark Canoe [from 6-7 Ft. circumference *Betula Papyrifera* tree]

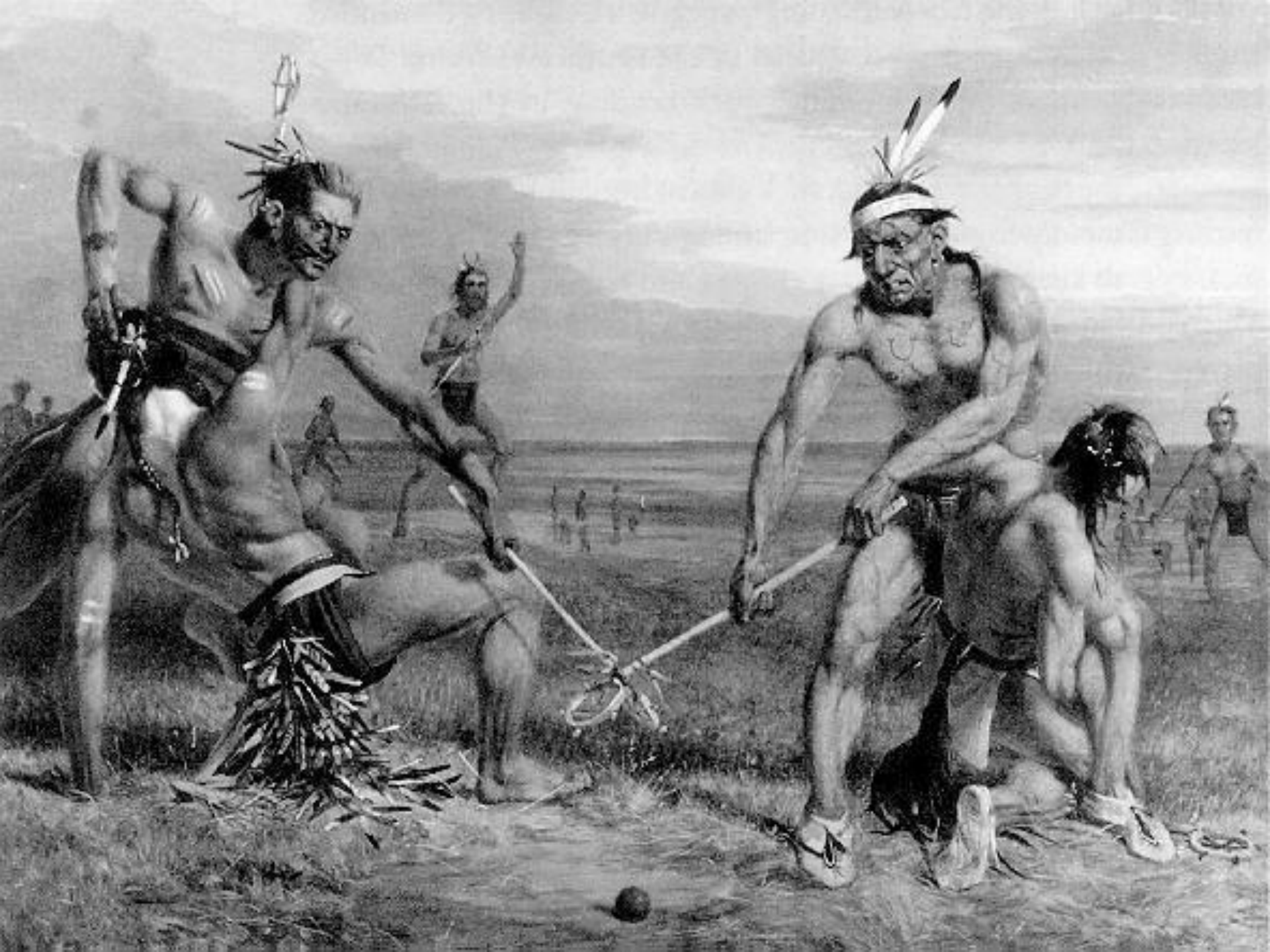
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12 Feet



Games

- They admired strength and liked to compete with one another in contests and games.
- Running fast was an important skill, and races were often an important event.
- Boys tried their skill with the bow and arrow.
 - Lenape kids did have dolls and toys such as miniature bows and arrows.
- Both men and women enjoyed team games...lacrosse was a favorite.
- Lenape games for teenagers and adults included lacrosse, which was played only by boys and men
- A kicking football game, which both genders played together was also popular.



Warfare

- As the Lenni-Lenape was a very peaceful tribe, they did not participate in war.
- They often acted as the intermediary's in resolving conflict and were more often than not shunned because of their pacifistic views.

Where They Live Today

- Most of the remaining Lenape tribe today live in Oklahoma after being driven out of their land in the late 1700's.
- They were officially recognized as a tribe and recorded and given reservation land in 1906.
- They live very normal lives similar to everyone else's, but they practice and participate in their heritage regularly and attempt to keep it alive in today's modern culture.

