

Qno6 (2023)

Discuss in detail how the Iroquoian people and their cultural traits are associated with early American history?

Answer:

1. Introduction:

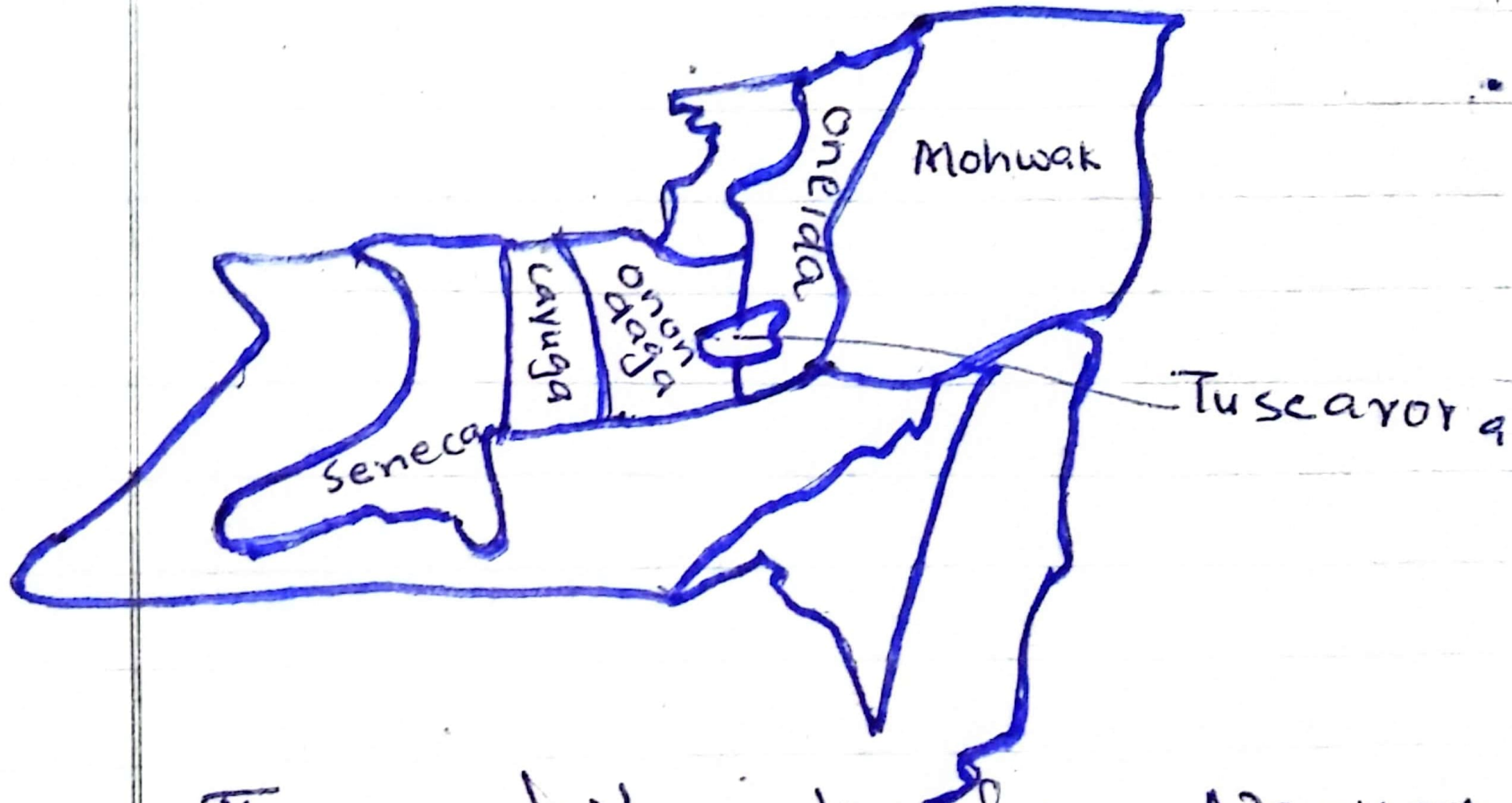
The Iroquois were among early group of tribes that lived in the thick woods of northeastern North America.

They were the farmers, who collectively worked to grow beans, squash and twelve different varieties of maize.

They were also hunters and fishermen.

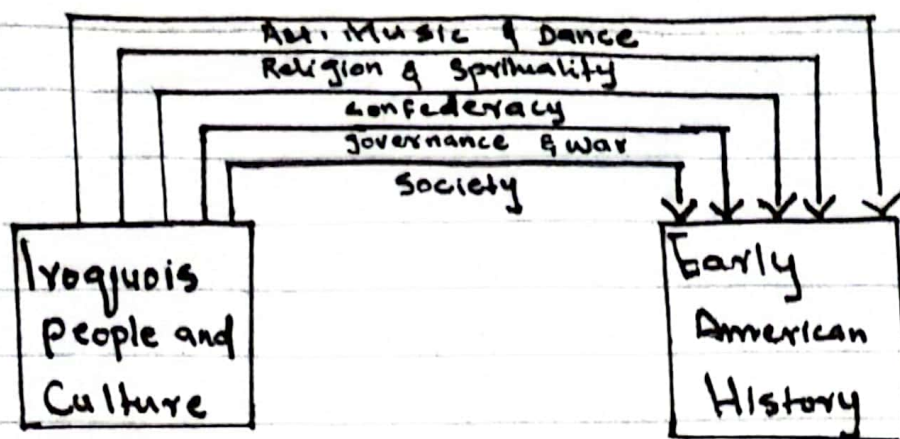
They were among civilized nations of their time, who lived in huts of bricks. They were Iroquois who made America enchanting for Europe and people migrated for agricultural lands and better life. But they also proved to be the most persistent military threat the European settlers would face.

2. Where the Iroquois lived?



These tribes lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and Hudson river.

3. Association of Iroquoian people and their cultural traits with early American history:



3.1: Iroquois Society and its link to early American history:

The Iroquois Society was known as Haudenosaunee (people of longhouses) had a significant impact on early American history. Agriculture was main source of their food. They had a legend about the three sisters: corn, beans and Squash. The crops were considered sacred. Their language is still spoken by people in America. Their society was Matriarchial, in which women

played a significant role in social political life of tribes. The family was traced from woman. The society was a persistent military threat to European settlers. It was the reason that Dutch and Spanish lost their colonies while natives killed many settlers as the first colony of UK Roanoke was lost. The founding father of USA Benjamin Franklin, was impressed by Iroquois system. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton also took inspiration from Iroquois women so led women rights movement.

Q.2: American democracy has its heritage from Iroquois governance system:

The five tribes of Iroquois designed quite an elaborate political system. This included a bicameral (two house) legislature, much like US congress. The representatives, or Sachems, from the Seneca and Mohawk tribes

tribes met in one house and other tribes met in second house. One of them (Onandaga) broke ties and had power to veto decisions made by the others. There was an unwritten constitution that described the proceedings at least as early as 1590. That constitution guaranteed right to property and women's special representation.

"In Iroquois Society, leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people."

- Wilma Mankiller -

The US constitution was also made on the basis of their constitution

8.3: Iroquoian war and defence a motivation factor behind American war of Independence:

"The fortified towns of

of the Hurons were all on the side exposed to Iroquois incursions."

: - Francis Parkman -

The tribes of Iroquois people worked together and fought and captured native tribes as well as wave after wave of European immigrants who presented themselves. They fought the early French and British settlers. During French and British wars they remained officially neutral, but would join either side to exploit advantage. Both sides courted Iroquois support during the revolution. These warriors were known for guerilla warfare tactics, which involved ambushes, sabotage, and raids. These tactics were adopted by American colonial forces during revolt war particularly: Boston Tea Party. They also developed sense of national identity.

and patriotism" in colonists
to fight wars.

3.4: Iroquois Confederacy: An inspiration for Americans:

Iroquois fought years
within tribes than to bring
peace developed Iroquois
confederation in 1500s. Similarly
when US got independence,
the debate was to which
form of government US should
adopt because it had get
rid of European system. So,
US took inspiration from Iroquois
confederation of bicameral
house. The proofs links to
John Adams's writings. This
confederacy inspired colonial
leaders to seek unity and
formation of the Continental
Congress and eventual declaration
of independence. Also Americans
developed confederation during
civil war to preserve slavery
and state rights. Thus, Iroquois
confederacy had potential

Impact on American Confedera

3.5: Association between religious doctrine of both Iroquois and Americans:

"Congress shall make no law representing an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise of thereof ---"

- 1st Amendment, US Constitution.

United States of America guarantee religious freedom in its constitution. Immigrants from Britain migrated to US for religious freedom due to harsh Catholic practices in mother country. The new land was religiously free for everyone due to native tribes' liberal ideologies there. Similarly, in Iroquois tribes religious ceremonies of each religion were protected under constitution (Article - 1) of Iroquois nations.

4. Conclusion:

The Iroquois were six native tribes that are assimilated to early American history with respect of their culture. These tribes defended native lands and formed constitutions and confederacy, which motivated colonial americans to build their own independent country. America not only took influence but ^{also} represented Iroquois culture in their history. Thus, the cultural traits and people of Iroquois are assimilated to early American history.