

Pocket 8

# THE IROQUOIS OF THE NORTHEAST

## CUT AND PASTE

**Pocket Label, Shelter Stamp,  
Picture Dictionary Cards** ..... page 75

See page 2 for information on how to prepare the pocket label and shelter stamp. See page 10 for information on how to prepare the picture dictionary cards.

## FACT SHEET

**The Iroquois** ..... page 76

Read this background information to familiarize yourself with the Iroquois. Share the information with your students as appropriate. Incorporate library and multimedia resources that are available.

## STUDENT BOOKLET

**Make an Iroquois Booklet** ..... pages 77–79

See page 2 for information on how to prepare the student booklet. Read and discuss the information as a class. Encourage students to read their booklets to partners or independently.

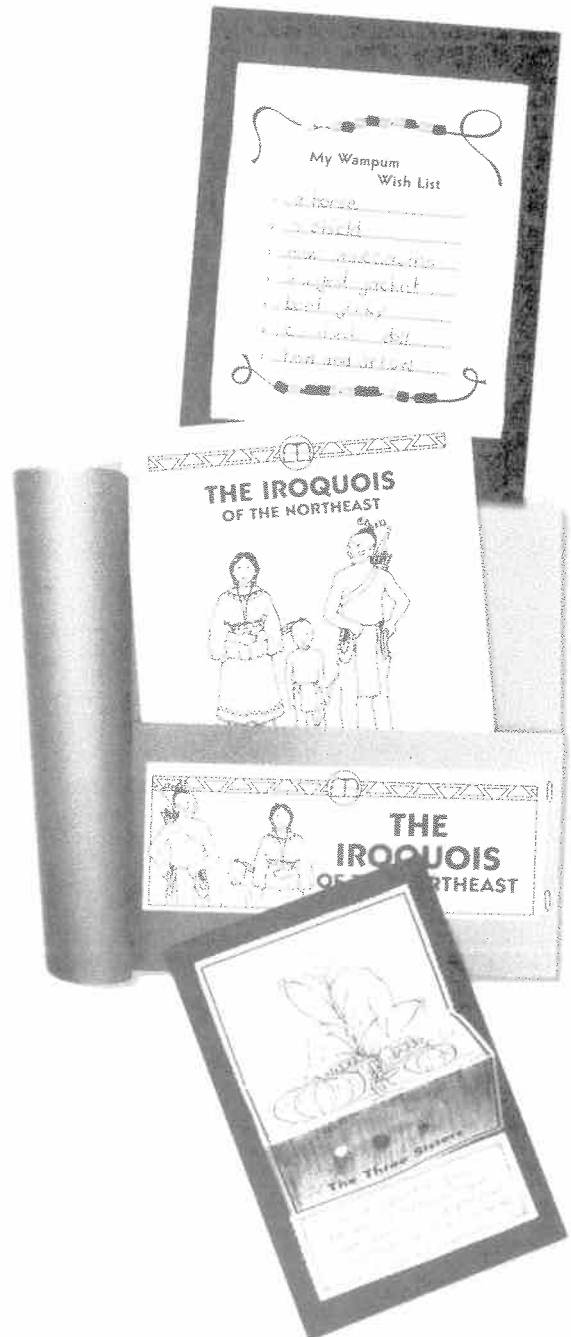
## ACTIVITIES

**The Three Sisters** ..... pages 80 & 81

The Iroquois considered corn, beans, and squash their “Three Sisters.” Recite a poem about them and “watch” the vegetables grow.

**My Wampum Wish List** ..... pages 82 & 83

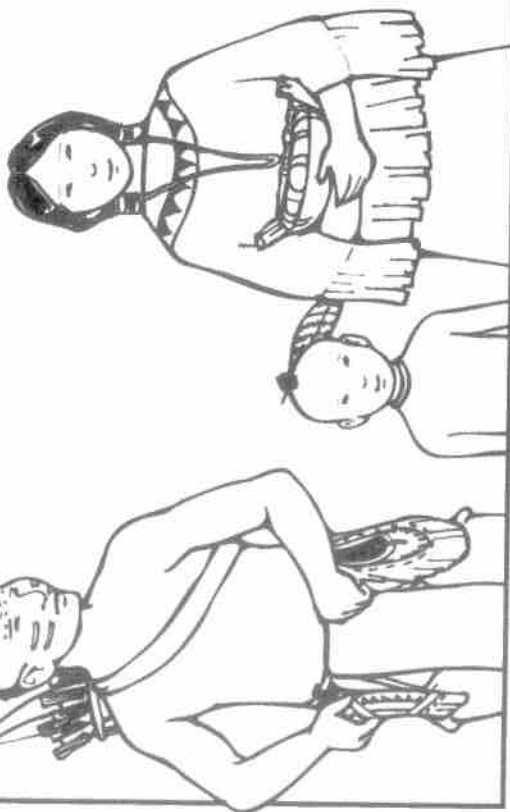
What would an Iroquois boy or girl wish for in life? Have students ponder this question and jot down ideas on a wampum wish list.





# THE IROQUOIS OF THE NORTHEAST

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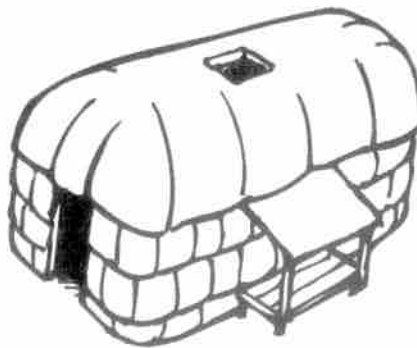
Pocket Label



wampum

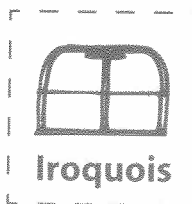


The Three Sisters



longhouse

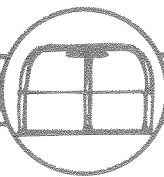
Picture Dictionary Cards



Iroquois



Shelter Stamp



## FACT SHEET

# THE IROQUOIS

### INTRODUCTION

The Iroquois (IHR uh kwoy) Confederacy was made up of five nations: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cayuga. Eventually a sixth nation, the Tuscarora, also became part of the Iroquois Confederacy. The name *Iroquois* means "People of the Longhouse." The Iroquois inhabited the northeastern woodlands of present-day New York and Quebec.

### CLOTHING

Most Iroquois clothing was made from deerskin. Men often wore a pair of loose-fitting leggings and a breechcloth, which was held in place by a long belt. When the weather was cold, Iroquois men wore fringed deerskin shirts. Sometimes men wore kilts and caps covered with feathers. Most Iroquois men cut off all of their hair, except for one section that ran down the center of their scalp. This section of hair, called a roach, is known today as a "mohawk."

Iroquois women wore long deerskin skirts and leggings. In cooler weather, they wore fringed capes as blouses. Women grew their hair long and usually wore it braided. Both men and women wore moccasins. Most Iroquois clothing was decorated with colorful beads and quills.

### FOOD

The Iroquois were primarily farmers, although they hunted game, fished, and gathered fruits and nuts. The three most important crops were corn, beans, and squash, which the Iroquois called "The Three Sisters." The Iroquois were able to grow 15 types of corn, 8 types of squash, and more than 60 types of beans.

In the spring, the Iroquois collected sap from maple trees to make maple syrup. Spring was also planting time. During the summer, as the crops grew, Iroquois men often caught fish. When it was harvest time, women and children picked and preserved corn, while men prepared to hunt in the mountains for deer and moose. Fall was also the time when nuts such as acorns, hickory nuts, hazelnuts, and chestnuts were plentiful. Iroquois women and children wandered through the forest and gathered nuts from the forest floor.

### SHELTER

The Iroquois lived in long, narrow buildings called longhouses. An average-size longhouse was about 100 feet (30 meters) long and 20 feet (6 meters) wide. A longhouse was home to many Iroquois families belonging to the same clan.

A long hallway ran down the center of the longhouse, dividing it into two halves. Along the sides of the longhouse, Iroquois families lived in small areas. The family area was divided into two levels. On the lower level, the entire family slept together under a bearskin blanket. On the upper level, the family stored their belongings.

The Iroquois built their longhouses near riverbanks and surrounded their villages with high fences or palisades. Each day and night an Iroquois warrior guarded the village. After about 10 years, the soil was no longer as rich as it once had been. When this occurred, the Iroquois would leave their villages to search for fertile farmland and build new homes.

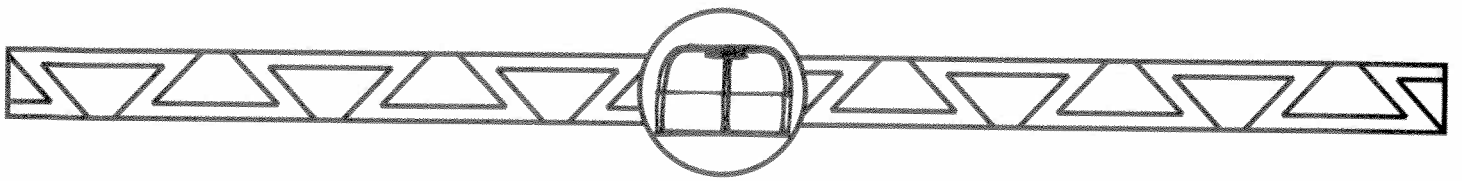
### FAMILY LIFE

The Iroquois formed a Great Council in which all of the members were male. However, the men chosen for the Great Council were picked by the women. The purpose of the Great Council was to discuss the needs of all nations and make important decisions together.

Leaders were notified of Council meetings when strings of wampum were sent to their villages. Wampum was a collection of small beads made from shells and woven into belts.

Special ceremonies were also an important part of Iroquois life. Each August the Iroquois held the Green Corn Ceremony in order to give thanks to "The Three Sisters" for a plentiful harvest.

Children were important to the Iroquois. Babies were kept safe in cradleboards until they were two years old. Iroquois men and women often made toys for their children, such as toy birch bark canoes and cornhusk dolls dressed in deerskin clothing. Boys learned how to hunt, trap, and fish for food. Girls learned how to plant seeds, harvest crops, cook, and make clothing.

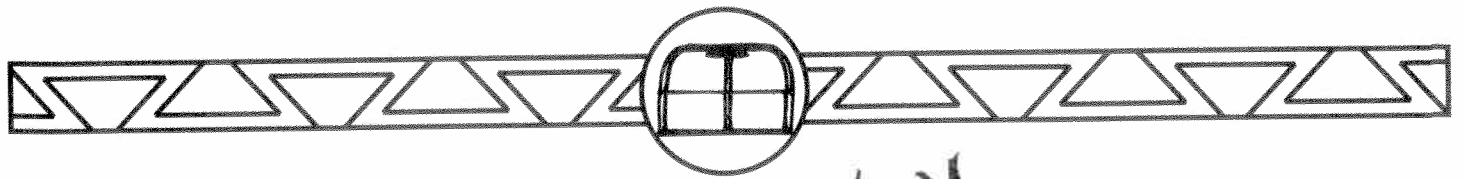


# THE IROQUOIS OF THE NORTHEAST

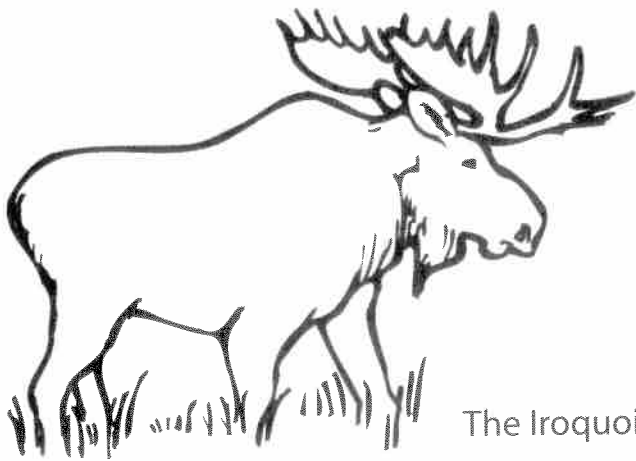
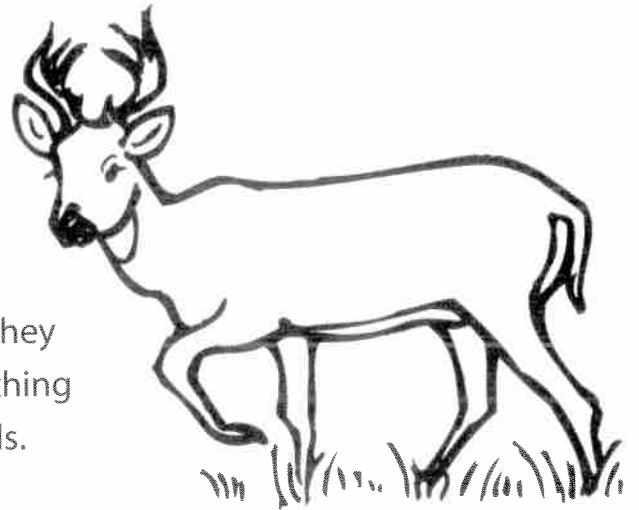


The name **Iroquois** means "People of the Longhouse." The Iroquois were actually six nations combined together. The five original nations were the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cayuga. Later on, the Tuscarora joined. The Iroquois lived in the area we know today as Quebec and New York.



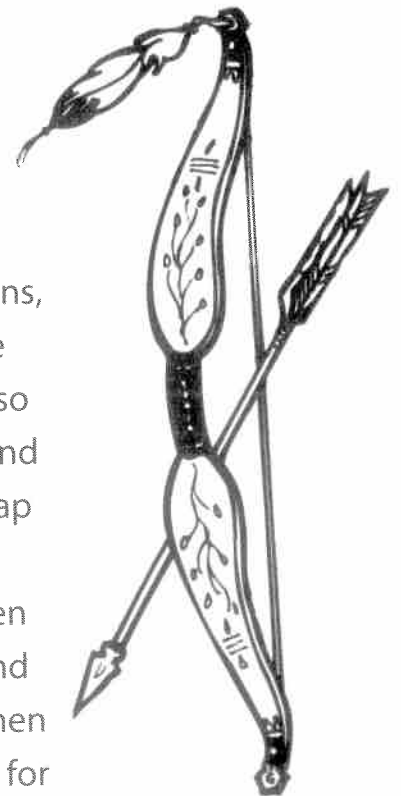


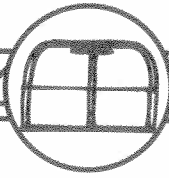
Most Iroquois clothing was made from deerskin. In the winter, they wore fringed deerskin shirts. Sometimes men wore kilts and caps that were covered with feathers. Iroquois women wore long deerskin skirts and leggings. In the winter, they wore fringed capes as blouses. Iroquois clothing was decorated with colorful beads and quills. Both men and women wore moccasins.



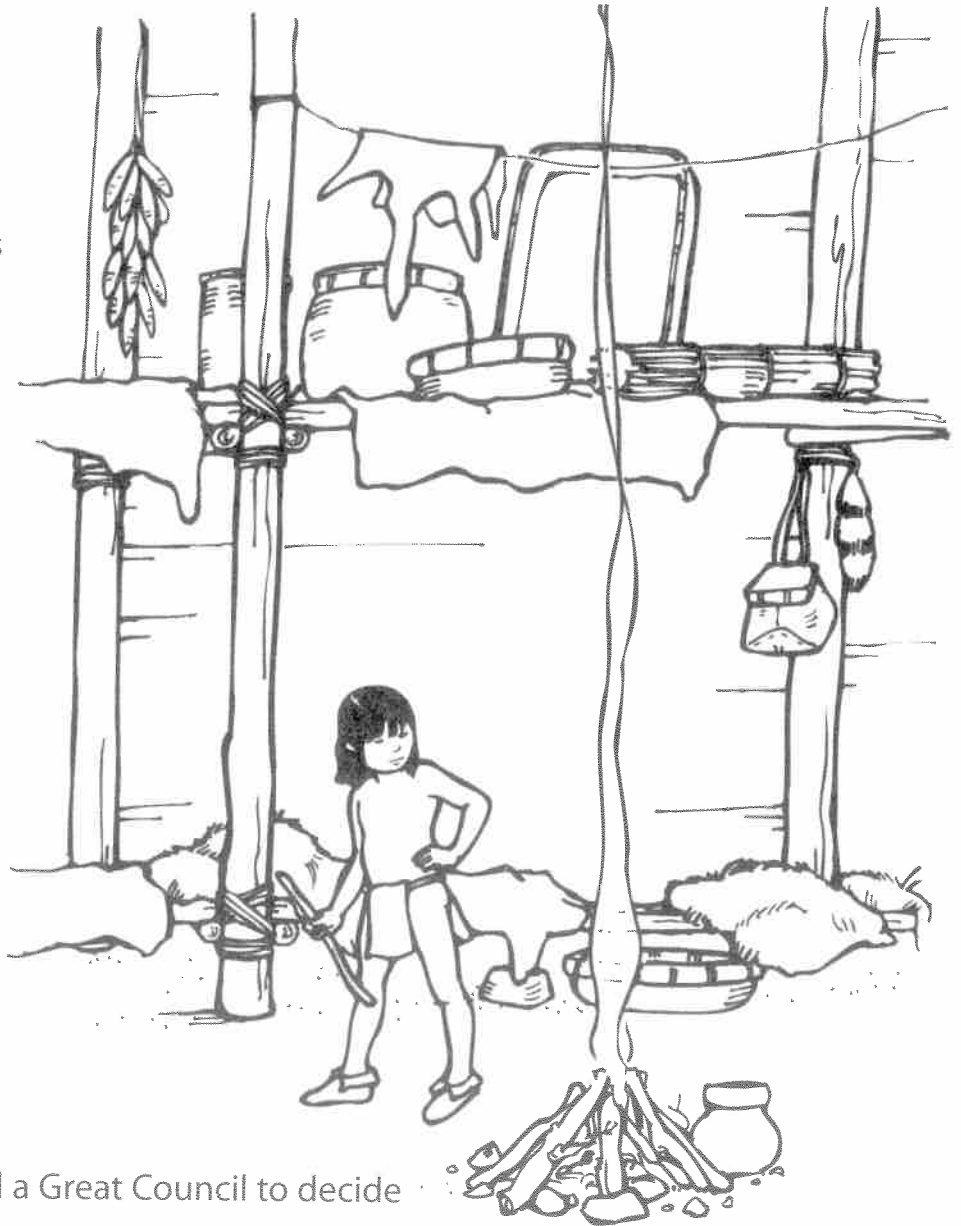
The Iroquois were mostly farmers. The three most important crops were corn, beans, and squash. The Iroquois called these three crops "**The Three Sisters.**" The Iroquois also hunted game, fished, and gathered fruits and nuts. In the spring, the Iroquois collected sap from maple trees and made maple syrup.

When it was harvest time, women and children picked corn and gathered nuts. Iroquois men hunted in the mountains for deer and moose.





The Iroquois built long, narrow buildings called **longhouses**. A long hallway divided the longhouse into two halves. Each family lived in a small area divided into two levels. On the upper level, they stored their belongings. On the lower level, the family slept.



The Iroquois formed a Great Council to decide important matters. Iroquois women were in charge of the village. They chose the men who would be on the Council. The women owned the property. They farmed and took care of the children. The men hunted and were good fur traders. They used beads called **wampum** for trading. Boys learned how to hunt, trap, and fish. Girls learned how to plant seeds, cook, and make clothing.



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# THE THREE SISTERS

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Many Native American groups planted what they called “The Three Sisters,” which were corn, beans, and squash. These crops were often planted together. Not only could “the sisters” be eaten fresh, but they could also be dried for future use and the corn could be ground into meal for making bread.

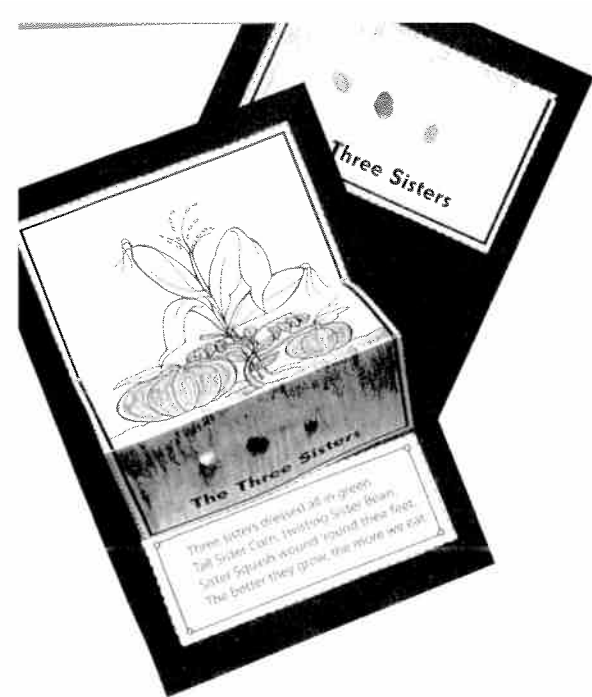
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## STEPS TO FOLLOW

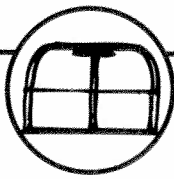
1. Color and cut out “The Three Sisters” pattern. Be sure to color the “dirt” as well.
2. Fold the pattern in thirds as shown.
3. Put glue on the back of the top section of the pattern. Affix it toward the top of the construction paper.
4. Glue the bean, corn, and pumpkin seeds to the dirt just above the title.
5. Cut out the poem and glue it onto the bottom third of the construction paper.
6. Optional: Have students write about “The Three Sisters” and glue the writing paper onto the back of the construction paper. Have students learn to recite the poem.

## MATERIALS

- page 81, reproduced for each student
- 6" x 9" (15 x 23 cm) construction paper
- one bean, one corn, and one pumpkin seed for each student
- crayons or marking pens
- scissors
- glue
- Optional: 5" x 8" (13 x 20 cm) writing paper







# THE THREE SISTERS



Three sisters dressed all in green.  
Tall Sister Corn, twisting Sister Bean.  
Sister Squash wound 'round their feet.  
The better they grow, the more we eat.

## The Three Sisters



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# MY WAMPUM WISH LIST

The Iroquois often traded wampum for things they wanted or needed. Wampum was small beads made from shells and woven into strings or belts. Because purple shells were more difficult to find, purple wampum was considered to be more valuable than white wampum. Have students jot down a wampum wish list and embellish it with wampum beads.

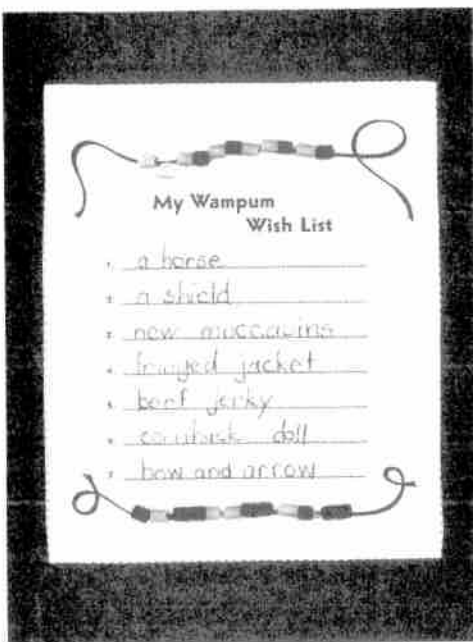
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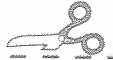
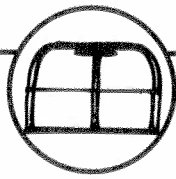
## STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Making the beads
  - a. Pour 2 Tbsp. (30 ml) of rubbing alcohol into a plastic bag. Add several drops of red and blue food coloring and blend.
  - b. Pour the desired amount of macaroni into the bag. Hold the bag tightly closed and shake until the macaroni is well coated.
  - c. Spread out the macaroni on paper towels to dry for about 10 minutes.
2. Making the wish list
  - a. Ask students to think about what an Iroquois boy or girl might want to have. Students write down ideas on a wampum wish list (page 83).
  - b. Make a design by gluing non-dyed macaroni and purple macaroni to the top and bottom of the list.
  - c. Allow the glue to dry.
  - d. Cut out the list and glue it to the construction paper.
  - e. Share the list with classmates.

## MATERIALS

- page 83, reproduced for each student
- 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) construction paper
- uncooked macaroni
- rubbing alcohol
- red and blue food coloring
- plastic bag
- paper towels
- glue
- pencil
- scissors





# My Wampum Wish List

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_