

## Skawennahawi

My name is Skawennahawi. I live with my husband, children and grandchildren, along with my sisters and their families. We all live together in one building, called a longhouse. It has this name because it is very long, but I suppose it has to be, to fit all 40 of my family members in! Our longhouse is made of wood and we all cook, eat and sleep in there together. I am the head of my longhouse family because I am the oldest woman who lives there.

We live near other longhouse families and together we are called a clan. Different clans are named after different animals. I am the head of the Bear Clan. My role is to share my wisdom and give my clan lots of advice. I also make very important decisions and decide who our chief will be.



## Akule

My name is Akule. I am the chief of my clan and I am in charge of keeping the peace. My clan mother chose me to be chief because she believes I am kind, honest and fair. Even so, I don't consider myself any more important than the rest of my clan. We all have important roles and work together as a community.

We also enjoy celebrating festivals together. We share stories, pray, dance, sing, laugh, play games and carry out traditional ceremonies for different festivals throughout the year. Our festivals are a chance to give thanks to the spirits who look after us and to teach our children about Iroquois beliefs and history.

The older and wiser members of our group tell our stories. The storytellers never write stories down or read them out – they remember all the stories by heart.



## Wakiza

My name is Wakiza. I spend most of my days with my father and uncles. They teach me how to hunt and fight, so I can look after my family. I have to be brave in case we are ever attacked by other tribes or animals. I watch my elders carefully and hope to be a great warrior like my father, when I am older.

When I'm not hunting or working, I love playing games. My favourite game is called dehonchigwiis. It's a fast-paced bat and ball game, which keeps me really fit. My older brother is a brilliant dehonchigwiis player and he recently played in a competition against another clan. We even compete against other nations!



## Kahente

My name is Kahente. I am the daughter of Skawennahawi, who is the head of our longhouse. I work with the rest of the women from our village to grow crops for everyone to eat. We mainly grow squash, beans and corn, but we also gather nuts, fruits and mushrooms. The men in our village hunt for meat and fish. They use bows and arrows to hunt animals including bears, rabbits and deer, and trap birds such as turkeys. They also fish using nets and spears. All of the food is prepared and cooked by the women.

We make the most out of everything we hunt. For example, we make our own clothes from animal skins and use animal brains and intestines to prepare the skins. We use deer jaws to scrape corn and make weapons out of bone. Nothing is wasted.

