

# IROQUOIS FAMILY LIFE

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## Clan Family

Every Iroquois family belonged to a larger group of relatives. The larger groups were called clans. All the families who lived together in a longhouse belonged to the same clan. The clans had animal names. For example, there's Turtle, Bear, Wolf and Beaver. Families were very important to the Iroquois Indians. There were strong ties between parents and children. The Iroquois tribes were divided into groups called clans. Clans were family groups. It was forbidden to marry someone in your own clan. When a man got married, he would move into his wife's clan. A clan mother had a great deal of power. She selected people in her clan to be council members. When the kids were born, they were part of their mother's clan.



## Fireside Family

A fireside family is your real mother and father that gave birth to you. A clan family is still part of your family, but you are closer with your fireside family. Your fireside family looks after you, they teach you, they feed you. You and your fireside family, clan family and your longhouse family are all one big family.



## Long House Family

Did you know that the Iroquois had a long house family? You are probably wondering what a longhouse family is. Well its kind of like you live on a floor in your building for example say you live on floor eight all your neighbors would be your longhouse family. Did you know that all the people on your floor would live with you and look after you? The head of the longhouse family was always the oldest woman. So, say if you were the grandmother, you would be in charge, or the leader of the longhouse. Members of other longhouse families, like your father, would in your mother's long house. However, the longhouse family belonged to an extended family. You would owe all your loyalty to your mother's longhouse all your life.

