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TRIBES, TRAPPERS AND TRADERS

The Iroquois Federation, also called the Six Nations, included the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora tribes. The name Iroquois refers to the language they spoke.

Traders named the river near the Lenape camp "Delaware" after Lord de la Warr, the governor of the colony of Virginia.

By the time the 17th century arrived, wildlife was scarce in Europe since most of the animals had been killed to supply fur hats and coats for the aristocracy. Now these wealthy Europeans needed a new supply of fur. Traders crossed the ocean to the wilderness of North America in search of fresh game and hunters to provide it.

The Indians of the Iroquois Federation—also known as the Six Nations—lived along America's northern Atlantic coast and were happy to trade fur pelts for European goods. In fact, it wasn't long before the Iroquois depleted the animal life in their own territory and needed fresh hunting grounds themselves. They got it the easiest way they knew how, by seizing the land of their neighbors, the Lenape Indians. By the end of the Iroquois-Susquehannock War, the Delaware River Valley was Iroquois territory, and the Lenape, who had lived along the Delaware River for thousands of years, were escorted west. Seneca Indians from the Six Nations led them across the Appalachian Mountains to join the Shawnee Indians in the thick forests along the rivers in the Ohio Valley.

