

CULTURES IN COMPETITION GALLERY | FIRST CONTACT | 2ND - 5TH GRADES

The Delaware Lenape occupied New Jersey for thousands of years. In that time, they created a social structure of three bands or tribes - the Minsi, the Unami, and the Unalachtigo - with three different language dialects. Throughout the hallway exhibit, *Cultures in Competition*, you will see many objects, illustrations, and letters that detail how the Delaware Lenape were living at the time of first contact.

The following objects tell the story of what happened after first contact with the Europeans.

The Beaver. Early explorers were especially interested in getting beaver pelts from the Lenape. Why were these pelts so prized? Find two things Europeans made with the pelts:

Copper Kettle pieces. Europeans provided trade goods in exchange for pelts and other items. Cooking pots made of copper were traded to the Lenape but were not used for cooking. What did the Lenape do with the copper from these pots? Find three things the Lenape used the copper for:

As you explore the hallway, can you find any other items that the Lenape traded with the Europeans? Talk with a classmate about how the Lenape culture changed after Europeans made first contact.

A MUCH MOVED PEOPLE GALLERY | COLONIZATION |

2ND - 5TH GRADES

The Delaware Lenape have been called “a Much Moved People” because of how many times they have been displaced and denied access to their lands. In the exhibit, *A Much Moved People*, you will see how the Delaware Lenape adapted to colonization.

The following objects tell the story of what happened as the Lenape continued to interact with European colonizers.

Wampum Beads. The Lenape made wampum beads from local shells and used them to decorate many items. Colonists brought colorful glass beads to trade and those soon replaced wampum. Can you find two items with glass bead embroidery? What are they?

Block Stamped Baskets. The Lenape made these baskets to trade for food and other necessities as they lost access to land. The beautiful block stamped designs on the baskets are made using root vegetables and natural dyes. What materials were used to make the baskets themselves?

Take a look at the items the Lenape brought with them as they were forced to move from place to place. If you had to move from your home, what items would you bring with you? Do you see any similar items in the exhibit? Share what you see with a classmate.