

# Lacrosse Ancient Haudenosaunee Game



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The Iroquois call lacrosse "Tewaarathon", or "the little brother of war". Preparations for the game were much the same as those undertaken by warriors as they prepared to go to war. Warfare was one of the most important ways in which young men were readied for their roles in the community. It was believed that playing lacrosse could instill these same valuable lessons.

For many Native communities, the game was a gift from the creator. It was to be played in order to "bestow honour and respect to these members [of the community] living on Mother Earth." The players were taught that playing the game was a gift, which contained the lessons of courage, strength, honour, respect, generosity and fairplay.