

Who was Aionwathe or Hiawatha?



What is Hiawatha's belt?



Glue this to your page.

Cut out and triple fold.

Read and research and add you own information or add the information on the next page.

If you use the facts on the next page, glue them prior to cutting on the solid line to form two tabs that open from left to right.

Note: The text boxes on the next page take up the whole space when you open the tab from left to right.

Aionwathe Hiawatha



Peacemaker's Helper

This belt is a national belt of the Haudenosaunee. The belt is named after Hiawatha, the Peacemaker's helper. In this belt, it records when 5 nations; the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk, buried their weapons of war to live in peace. Each square represents a nation and the line connects each nation in peace.

Wampum is sacred to the Haudenosaunee because of its original intent and the fact it comes from shell that grows in water, thereby making it pure. Hiawatha first located and used wampum in a Condolence Ritual during the time of the formation of the Confederacy. The Peacemaker prescribed the use of wampum to maintain the sanctity of the Great Law. Wampum belts were woven by the original Chiefs to document the laws and traditions of the people.

The Peacemaker (Deganiwidah) was the primary founder of the original Five Nations Confederacy/Haudenosaunee. One story that suggests that the Peacemaker won over Hiawatha from his warring ways. However, most versions don't have Hiawatha portrayed in that manner. In most of the oral tradition Hiawatha is portrayed as a man of peace with a family with daughters. He struggled against the warlord, Atadaho, unsuccessfully. With the arrival of the Peacemaker that changed. The first to see the wisdom of confederation was Jikonsaseh. In a sense she was the first clan mother. Then, the Mohawk were the first nation to "grasp the tree" (of Peace), then the others joined the movement.

Finally the Peacemaker with Hiawatha, Jikonsaseh and the others approached Atadaho who was won over, thus the League was formed.