

# Susquehannock Indians

The Susquehannock Indians were given their name because they lived along the Susquehanna River. A rough translation of the name is given as “people of the Muddy River”. The Susquehannock Indians were, most likely, the first visitors to *Indian Echo Caverns*<sup>®</sup> – using the caverns for shelter from the weather. Around the time of Europeans coming to this area, the Susquehannock were one of the more dominating tribes. They have been referred to as heroic, noble, aggressive, and imperialistic.

Captain John Smith remarked on the impressive size, deep voices, and variety of weaponry the Susquehannock used. They resided in large villages that stretched along the Susquehanna River from southern New York to as far south as the Chesapeake Bay region. The Susquehannock were involved in many battles in these areas, using canoes for transport.

As seen in the image to the left, they were formidable and ornamented with pride.



Adorned with animal skulls<sup>1</sup> and feathers<sup>2</sup> – (1) the Susquehannock traded fur with all the European powers and gained firearms and even a cannon; (2) as is the case with many Indian tribes the Susquehannock earned their feathers for honor and bravery and wore them with dignity and pride.

The Susquehannock were also skilled farmers – planting maize, beans, and squash. When planting season was over, some moved south to the Chesapeake to fish and returned when it was time to harvest their crops.

Image courtesy:  
[www.american-native-art.com](http://www.american-native-art.com)

To review this information and to learn more about the Susquehannock Indians, click on the links below.

<http://www.lenapeprograms.info/Teacher/Susquehannocks.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susquehannock>

<http://www.portdeposit.com/History/Susquehannocks.htm>

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/susquehanna/susquehannahist.htm>

[http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/environmental\\_center/sunbury/website/HistoryofSusquehannockIndians.shtml](http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/environmental_center/sunbury/website/HistoryofSusquehannockIndians.shtml)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/native\\_american\\_archaeology/3316/contact\\_period/407008](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/native_american_archaeology/3316/contact_period/407008)

<http://www.american-native-art.com/publication/susquehannock/susquehannock.shtml>

<http://www.indianechocaverns.com/history.htm>