

# Iroquois Projectile Point

## ORIGINS

*Date:* Unknown

*Place:* From one of the Six Iroquois Nations which settled in New York Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca, Tuscarora.

*Materials:* Chert

*Donated By:* Tyler collection



Projectile Point, which seems to have the word "knife" written on in when the Cazenovia Public Library got it. Picture taken by Sean Decker.

## DESCRIPTION

This is a projectile point is from one of the six Iroquois Nations. While it is difficult to tell much about use from a projectile point, there are a total of three ways in which it could have been used for: a spear, an arrow, and a knife. The texture of the projectile had a type of glassy feel to it but in some spots also very rough flanking which is the main process of making a projectile point or a spearhead. Flaking is when you take off by layers of the rock to make it have a point. The style for this point is random flaking, which mean there is no pattern when making it. The color is a tan cream, but also has black tiny dots scattered all around it and orange dots, but a hair bigger than the black ones. The projectile point had a sharp point on it which most likely means it was used as a weapon or some type of cutting tool. Starting from the top of the point to the shoulder was very rigid and sharp. The shoulder, which is located across at the two widest points of the projectile. The shoulder seems to be rounded which is the part of the middle which is the point and the bottom of the stem. The projectile point weighs in at nineteen grams. Starting off at the point to the stem measures at ten centimeters. Shoulder to shoulder about four centimeters.



Picture taken by Sean Decker.



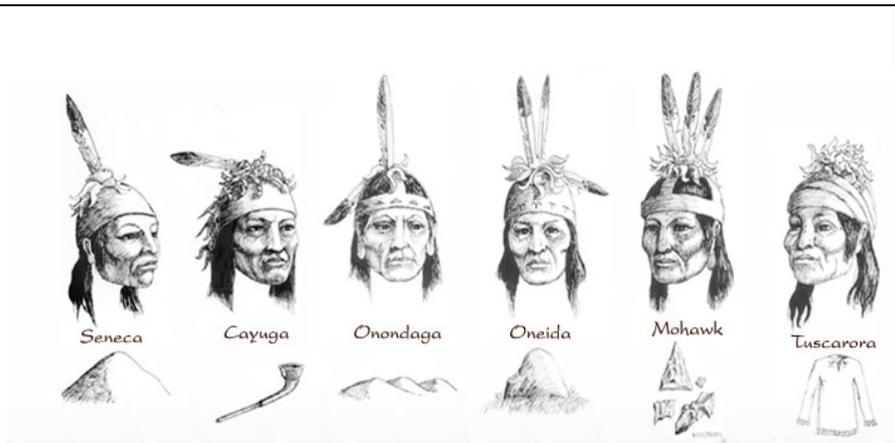
Picture taken by Sean Decker.



Picture taken by Sean Decker.

## CULTURE

**Description:** The projectile point was from one of the six nations of the Iroquois. The original five nations that settled in New York were the Cayuga, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca and Oneida, and another nation, the Tuscarora, came to New York in the 1700s. The French were the first people to give them the name “Iroquois”, they were originally called Haudenosaunee, which meant “People of the Longhouse”. A longhouses is where people lived, which would have doors on both ends, covered in a type of animal skin to keep the cold out, made to fit twenty families, about one hundred meters long, and five to seven meters wide. The Cayuga Nation were mainly known as swamp people and lived along Cayuga Lake, the Onondaga were known as the hills people they mainly lived by Onondaga lake, the Mohawks known for people of flint lived by the Mohawk River. The Seneca people lived by the Seneca River and the Genesee River and were known as the hill people, the Oneida known as the people of the standing stone and lived near Oneida Lake. The Tuscarora people were hemp gatherers and migrated up to New York, but originally were from North Carolina. The way all of these tribes were able to be so close together and not attack each other was by having a democracy and electing a leader for each nation which made a council.



*Caption:*

Each tribe had a symbol or a meaning to their tribe.

Source of picture:

<http://www.sixnationsindianmuseum.com/>

**Use within Culture:** The Iroquois system for food was hunting and gathering. The women were usually the ones who did the gathering and growing crops like corn, beans, squash, in which woman would be the ones farming the crops. The men mostly hunted for wild game such as deer, rabbit, turkey, bear, beaver, but the hunters used mainly bows and arrows. While fisherman generally used either spears or fishing poles. If a stone was a spearhead, the piece that connects the stone is called an atlatl which is a wooden tool with a hollowed-out cup at the end used for hurling spears. It being hollowed out made it lighter and easier for the hunters or warriors to hurl at an animal or human. According to NAIW, most Native Americans knives were made out of sharpened stone, flint, chert and obsidian. Knives were usually made for defense or to cut something.

**Report written by:**

Sean P. Decker