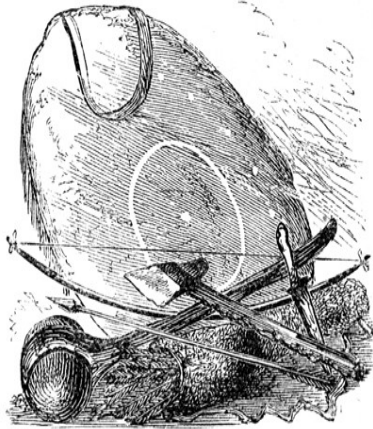


# INDIANS



Tools of death. Kidnapped child with with scalps of her parents and siblings above.  
Huron Warrior

Primitive man lived a survival existence with stone age tools. They were intelligent but did not develop a writing system. Another problem was the lack of a common language. When there are groups of people who do not understand each other it is sometimes difficult to avoid battles. Disputes and problems can be worked out thru discussions if there is a common language. There were over 10,000 languages when most humans lived in separate tribes as each tribe had its own language. His two main specialties were hunting and warfare. This went on for about 12,000 years. **Torture and cannibalism were common.**

**Thousands of innocent people died in needless brutal warfare.**

There is a language that can be learned in  $\frac{1}{4}$  the time of any other language. Learning it helps students learn English better and to learn other languages faster. I have 900 letters from 80 countries and I can understand every one because we used this international vocabulary. You already know hundreds of words in this just by knowing English. But English is difficult to learn as a second language so many people are not learning it. For more information visit **[easiestlanguage.info](http://easiestlanguage.info)**

As the glaciers melted plants returned and the animals moved further North. As the animals moved North ancient man who lived by hunting followed. At that time there was a land bridge between Asia and Alaska. It is believed that that is how man got to North America. These "Indians" are referred to by archaeologists as "Paleo-Indian People". It is believed that they were in Michigan about 12,000 years ago. They followed the herds of animals which they depended on for food and clothing. Later they were primitive hunters living in a boreal lake shore environment later with spruce forest cover. They made stone tools from chert. They also made tools from bone and antlers.

We know this because large spear points have been found along with other primitive tools. These people were followed by a "Late-Paleo-Indian Culture" who hunted deer, wolf, muskrat, black bear, turtles, birds, bison, and fish.

The Archaic Indian Culture existed in Michigan from 7000 to 2000 BC. Their culture adapted to life in a deciduous forest, but near lakes and rivers. They hunted, fished and gathered wild edible plants such as berries and nuts. They brewed vitamin rich teas from leaves of junipers, hemlock trees and other plants. There is some evidence that the climate was changing and they had to adapt. They learned to grind granite stone and polish it into tools with which they could make wooden tools, bowls and dugout canoes.

The Late Archaic Indian culture existed in Michigan approximately from 3000 BC to 2000 BC and had a much more diffuse economy. They used acorns, pines, beech, walnut, butternuts, hickory, and grapes. Their meat was mainly muskrats and fish. This people had contacts with others that mined copper in the Upper Peninsula, and they traded with others in what is now Mexico. What caused their sudden mysterious disappearance is unknown.

The Early Woodland period (1,000 to 300 B.C.) was a period of "firsts." According to the Michigan Historical Library who state "People planted the first gardens, made the first pottery, and built the first burial mounds." Their rough pottery was used to cook and prepare food. So by this time they had mastered the use of fire. (most of above summarized from MHL also check any good prehistory book)

There is some notation in the historical literature about a primitive people who were much taller than other Indian tribes and had a different culture. They traded with other peoples as far south as Mexico. Little is known of them.

Around 300 B.C. to A.D. 500, called The Middle Woodland Period Hopewell peoples moved into Michigan from the south.\* They built large, complex burial mounds which sometimes contained as many as 20 persons. The mounds were built over tombs in which as many as 20 people might be buried. Since they did not have shovels they carried dirt to the site in containers and piled it up. "Oftentimes, people were buried with interesting and unusual objects from far-away places. These objects included such things as copper beads from the shores of Lake Superior, cups made of shell from the Gulf of Mexico and fresh-water pearls from the Mississippi River valley."\* Some of above paraphrased from the State of Michigan historical website. Historians now feel mounds were the work of Indian peoples. (Willis F Dunbar 28 )

Over 1000 mounds have been recorded in Michigan. (Hinsdale) 1,068 (Willis F Dunbar ) Mound Road was named after a mound nearby. Many other Indian peoples, buried their dead in mounds. Sometimes they made these mounds in the outline shape of animals. Some mounds had enclosures in them which were like rooms. Others were large such one at the one at the mouth of the Clinton which had a circular enclosure that contained three acres. The Indians believed in an after life and buried with their dead things they thought they would use. Macomb County had at least 8 Indian villages, 4 burying grounds, 8 circular enclosures, and 1 rectangular enclosure. There were also at least 28 mounds. There actually were more mounds but they were already destroyed by pot hunters and farmers. Even stranger were the mysterious earth work forts and shaped earth designs with 18 inch tall inner and outer designer walls that are called "gardens" which took on geometric patterns. We still do not know what they were used for. See books by Hinsdale and Hubbard. The Hopewell used tobacco and carved beautiful stone pipes, often in the shapes of animals. (Hinsdale)

The Late Woodland Indians (A.D. 500 to 1,650) were the ones who first had a true agricultural base. They planted corn, squash, melons, and beans. They also were gatherers of berries and nuts, rice and other wild edibles and they hunted mainly hunted deer, elk and small mammals. They also were good fishers sometimes using fish nets. They tapped sugar maple trees for sap and made maple sugar. The Indians that the Frenchmen found here were living in the new Stone Age. That is they had learned to use stone as tools such as hammers, axes and arrowheads. These Indians were in two large groups The Iroquois, and the Algonquians. The Warren area was part of the hunting-gathering grounds of the above peoples. Many times in the past this area was part of a no-man's land between warring groups. Many innocent people were needlessly slaughtered over the centuries. Many also died of injuries, disease, lack of food and exposure in winter. (Viola see works cited)

## The Indians of Warren

Approximately 100,000 Indians or about ten percent of the total Indian population north of Mexico lived in the Great lakes region in the 1600s. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 2). “The most numerous and influential were the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi.” They called themselves the “Three Fires.” (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 2)

The Algonquians depended on gathering, fishing, hunting and limited agriculture. They lived in wigwams which were shelters made from bent saplings covered with bark or skins. For the most part they lived further north but our area was part of their range. (Viola)

The Iroquois were more advanced than the Algonquians. They lived in long shelters made of young trees stood in two rows bent toward each other tied in the center then covered with bark. Several families lived in each shelter. They often built a stockade around their villages for protection. They gathered, hunted, fished, grew corn, pumpkin and vegetables.

Our area appears to have been mainly inhabited by the Hurons also known as the Wyandottes who were from the 1600s on at war with other Iroquois especially with those to the South. The Clinton River was originally called the Huron River because of these Indians.

They had a village where Detroit is now. The name Huron comes from the French word for boar "hure" as the Hurons kept their black hair short and bristly like a boar's hair. They hunted deer, bear, muskrats, beaver, birds and fish. When the French arrived in the early seventeenth century, the Huron were at the height of their power. The Huron population varies, but as many as thirty thousand people lived in about twenty-five villages. Michigan History magazine stated “The Huron were sedentary, living in large villages with a high degree of community Raids from the Iroquoian tribes in New York destroyed the Huron. Survivors were adopted into other tribes or became refugees.” (Perkins)

The Michigan tribes were not highly organized. “Leadership in their classless society was based on an individual's hunting or fishing skill, physical prowess, warring abilities, or eloquence in speech. Leaders had no delegated power but maintained influence through acts of kindness, wisdom, generosity, and humility. Positions of leadership always were earned and could not be passed from generation to generation as a hereditary right.” (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 4) Marriage was between clans.

The Great Lakes Indians “believed that the most important social custom was reciprocity. This was basically the idea of doing something for someone, or giving them something, with the expectation that they would do something in return.” (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 6) “Reciprocity and sharing was the heart if Indian economic and social organization. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 7) Indians felt that the land belonged to everyone. Although there was communal property that everyone shared. Even the concept of personal property was limited. It was unsatisfactory for a person to have two of something when another had none. They all lived in the wilderness and were subject to the weather and seasons. The Indians of Michigan had roles for each member of their society. Men did hunting, fishing, trading and defending. Women cooked, prepared clothing, did all of the camp duties and raised children. Children were taught respect and responsibility and were expected to learn everything about the culture. They were conditioned not to cry or make loud noises. The Indians had strong family ties because they were raised in an atmosphere of love and respect. Indians often did not punish their children at all.

### Indians and Warfare

The Indians lived in a land of relative abundance yet groups often starved in the winter. And how does one explain the ongoing tribal wars? It appears that just as the grass often appears greener on the other side of the fence the hunting grounds of other tribes looked better. Then young men seem to at times have the urge to fight. Most of the Indians were young. There was very high infant mortality. The Indians for the most part were very superstitious. They were loving within their family but extremely vicious and savage in war.

The Iroquois slaughtered the Huron Indians who had lived in southern Michigan. This forced other tribes to move further west. Even French missionaries suffered torture and death. For example father Jean de Breboeuf **a peaceful man suffered extremely horrible torture needlessly.** “The Iroquois sling red-hot tomahawks over his neck and fastened a bark belt around his waist and ignited it.

When the priest continued to pray, his lips and tongue were cut off. He was then scalped while still living, and after his death his heart was cut out and devoured in honor of his bravery. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 23)

There were **many battles fought here. Hundreds of arrowheads and other weapons were found.** Not all for hunting animals. From the stories and legends of the Indians it has been discovered that there was a lot of warfare between tribes. And this was before white man came here. Then looking at the record of how the Indians treated others and treated their captives demonstrated how cruel they could be. They often tortured captives and took slaves. Scalping was practiced before white man entered but when white men gave the Indians scalping knives and paid them to bring back scalps they excelled at this butchery. They even dug up newly killed persons and scalped them to sell the scalps for goods and fire water. Thousands were killed and scalped including women and children. When archaeologist dug up burial sites in Macomb County it became obvious a **lot of people died in cruel warfare.** We also know that the Indians were even cruel to child captors.

#### Purity

The Air was pure, The Water was pure and the land was pure The St Clair River was so clear one could see the bottom. The same was true of Lake St Clair and the Detroit River in the 1700 and early 1800s. The same was true of all of the rivers and streams in our area. Lake St Clair had clear blue water. (Silas Farmer p4) The well water was pure except for natural gas. The fish that were caught were wholesome. Now the fish have poison in them and the lakes and rivers are sewers. The land in Macomb County is poisoned in several places. There are places in Macomb County with deadly chemicals under where people live and children play. One big toxic site is in East Pointe. Families are now living on these sites which are many times more toxic than safely allowable for humans to live on. Yet to show you how ignorant many present day people are they are still living there putting their children at risk because they are ignorant of current issues. They can tell you who won American idol or an oscar but news reports of the tests on their properties they have ignored. Schofield School was built on a Detroit dump. The Detroit area had many wind and water powered mills. Some were used to pump water like in Warren and some were to grind grain. In 1830 there was a mill at Gratiot and Jefferson.

#### Indian Life

Indians lived in families. Most of their daily activities centered on getting food clothing and shelter. The men hunted and or farmed and the women and children prepared the food and did most of the other tasks. In Michigan hunting gathering and fishing provided them more food than farming. They were skilled at hunting and fishing. They knew which plants were good for food and which for medicine. Marriage was for survival not love at ages 12-15 for the girls and 15-20 for the men. The relatives chose the partners. The boy's family usually gave presents to the bride's family. The young couple then moved in with relatives. This was called extended family. Everyone shared the daily work and raising of children. If the woman died her family would probably be expected to give her husband another unmarried daughter to replace her. Most Indian families were small because many babies died young. Indian children did not go to school they helped with the work thereby learning how things were done. To be recognized as a man the teenage boy usually had to prove that he could live along in the wilderness. Family groups were often larger than the extended familiar. Families with a common ancestor were part of a clan.

Members of the clan helped each other. When an Indian was, hungry s/he just went to the local wilderness for food. A pointed stick would spear fish and the bow provided venison. The wilderness provided many wild plants for food some of which were really good to eat such as wild berries and nuts Maple sap was sweet and could be used to make maple sugar. Tea was made from sassafras and wintergreen. The oak tree provided acorns from which flour was made. Meat was preserved by drying it. Trail snacks were made from dried foods such as pemmican which consisted of dried meats grease and berries. Most North American animals are edible so if a deer wasn't found there were rabbits, squirrels possums raccoon, beaver etc. The main crops were corn, beans and squash. Wild rice grows in places. There was wild honey in the woods and maple sugar from sugar maples.

Clothing consisted of all natural materials such as animal skins which had been tanned. For men deerskin shirts leggings and breech cloths were most common and for woman simple aprons or skirts. Bird feathers were often used for decoration. The beads and wampum came mostly from trading. Wampum consists of beads of polished shells strung in strands, belts, or sashes and used Indians as money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments.

Jesuit missionaries who came to live among the Indians reported to their superiors in France. These reports are noted in "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents by R. G. Thwaites (ed)." Many of the missionaries stated that "the Indians were handsome and well-proportioned, and that their health and stamina were better than that of the Europeans, and that their senses were highly developed. The liberality and hospitality of the natives also received frequent comment. Parental love was carried so far that children were not disciplined. They reported. Among the characteristics of Indian life that shocked the Jesuits were sexual immorality, promiscuity, and lewdness. The Indian's lack of cleanliness, his gluttony, and his barbarity also were noted and condemned by the Jesuits. On the other hand, the stoicism of the natives and their capacity for suffering pain without wincing often excited the admiration of the missionaries. In his natural state the Indian seemed to be capable at once of high nobility and abysmal depravity." (J. H. Kennedy, Jesuit and Savage in New France p 131 quoted by Willis F Dunbar 37)

Shelters consisted of dome shaped huts made of saplings fixed into the ground bent over and tied covered with barks, wood and skins. (Willis F Dunbar 29) Others made large rectangular dwellings called long houses which several families shared. Their tools consisted of shaped stones, clubs, spears, bows, arrows, hooks, traps nets, chemicals and hand tools of bone or shell. Often the villages had tall stake fences around them called palisades for protection against enemies. And at night there was howling of the wolves outside the palisade.

#### Savages then and now

Wars occurred frequently. "War was a common occurrence in Indian life." "The Indians were often cruel in inflicting torture upon their captives." "Scalps were sometimes collected as trophies of war." (Willis F Dunbar 33) Indians not only killed and tortured even child captives but they often ate them. Thousands of settlers were cruelly tortured, killed and scalped. The use of the word savage is certainly fitting for these low lifes. Savage meaning: lacking the restraints normal to civilized human beings also uncivilized fierce, ferocious criminal malicious, fierce, barbarous, wild, uncultivated, ignorant. We have a bunch of criminals today that fit this description. They injure, torture and sometimes kill innocent animals and people. Some walk our streets today. Many are found in Detroit the Murder Capital. Why is this comment here? Because it is recent history. The 12 year old son of the Center Line band director was killed for his pocket change at Cobo Hall. Who but a savage would do this? General Cass related an experience of James May "During the American Revolutionary war, when the Indian war-parties approached Detroit, they always gave the war and death whoops, so that the inhabitants, who were acquainted with their customs, knew the number of scalps they had brought and of prisoners they had taken...Soon after I arrived in Detroit, the great war party which had captured Ruddle's Station in Kentucky, returned from that expedition. Hearing the usual signals of success, I walked out of town and soon met the party. The squaws and young Indians had ranged themselves on the side of the road, with sticks and clubs, and were whipping the prisoners with great severity. Among these were two young girls, thirteen or fourteen years old who escaped from the party and ran for protection to me and to a naval officer. I found the naval officer, who was with me the preceding day, already there." Later both he and the naval officer were **severely reprimanded for helping the poor children. Those poor children had probably witnessed their parents being killed and scalped and were cruelly and severely being whipped and beaten just because they were captives.** (Farmer p262) If one has any doubt about the reason Indians were referred to as savages this should make it very clear. **Even the squaws and Indian children were participating in this totally unnecessary cruelty.**

“William McVey related the following observation to Judge Witherell which occurred Sept 15, 1814. “David and William Burbank and myself were sitting down [near the fort] Mr McMillan and Archy passed us. We spoke to them about some apples they were eating. They passed on towards some cows that were feeding” nearby ...When they approached within gunshot of some bushes we saw three of four guns fired, and Mr McMillan fall. The Indians instantly dashed upon him and took off his scalp. Archy, on seeing that his father was killed, turned and ran towards us with all the speed that his little legs could supply. A savage on horseback pursued him...The savage sprang from his horse, seized the boy and dragged him off to the woods,” (farmer 285)

“After the massacre at the Raisin, the few who were judged able to march were taken to Malden and Detroit, but when any of them gave out they were tomahawked without mercy. Those who could scarcely walk on account of wounded and bleeding feet were compelled to dance on the frozen ground for the amusement of the savages.” (Farmer 280)

**American Scalps were paraded daily thru Detroit. In 1790 scalps of American soldiers were paraded daily thru the streets of Detroit accompanied by the demoniac scalp-yells of the warriors who had taken them.** (Farmer p265)

Historian Wesley Arnold adds that the word savages also includes the French, British, Germans, Spanish, Dutch and Americans who participated in cruel and savage acts against peaceful men women and children back then and by others even in the 21st century. Truthfully, historically this is the human story, wars, killing, cruelty, on and on. This is why mankind needs a code of conduct agreed on universally and enforced universally. And it may actually happen in the lifetime of my grandchildren when intelligent machines may be given the power to enforce disarmament and prevent wars. Of course that remains to be seen.

In the late 1500's five tribes the Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Seneca formed the Iroquois nation under Chief Hiawatha. Indians believed in spirits. Complicated ceremonies were common. They also wore ugly masks during disease curing rituals. (Viola and National Geographic)

### Bloody Invasions

The Hurons told many tales of invasions by tribes from the North such as the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies. Many of them were slaughtered by the other Iroquois during the cruel Indian wars from 1600-1820. The French set the Algonquians and Hurons against the English and Iroquois. The English set the Iroquois against the French, Americans and Hurons. The French explorer Champlain around 1612 and a company of Frenchmen while cultivating friendship with Algonquin tribes and the Huron Indians who lived in the vicinity of Quebec accompanied these Indians on a war party against their dreaded enemies the Iroquois. “The fire arms used by the French in the ensuing struggle threw the Iroquois into panic-stricken flight and incurred their lasting enmity. (Willis F Dunbar 49) This resulted in the Iroquois fighting the French and their Indian allies severely for the next 200 years. The Iroquois later slaughtered the Hurons and the few survivors fled Michigan. Then around 1650 the Iroquois attacked other tribes. “Lower Michigan was almost entirely depopulated. (Willis F Dunbar 53) “The Lower Peninsula of Michigan continued for many years to be a kind of no man's land between the fierce Iroquois warriors of the East and the tribes that inhabited what is now Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. (Willis F Dunbar 64) About 1689 St Lawrence settlements were repeatedly raided, “and on one of these forays the bloodthirsty Iroquois slaughtered two hundred people in the little village of La Chine.” (Willis F Dunbar 77)

If all of the above time was on a regular clock face, the last fraction of the last second would be when mankind appeared in Michigan several thousand years ago. I rediscovered a mound that was built by them while working on hiking merit badge as a scout. It was taller than I was and pyramid shaped. The top was round. American Indians spoke hundreds of different languages. There were countless tribes over time, most of which are unknown.

The French came to Detroit and built a fort in 1701. Not very long after that is when the killings accelerated. They bought scalps. They offered the Indian things he could not get except from them. Scalping knives, tomahawks, guns, good blankets, metal pots, fire water (whiskey). This was in trade for furs including human fur (scalps). As a result eventually thousands were savagely murdered.

The Dutch also furnished muskets and the English furnished scalping knives, guns and bought scalps in SW Michigan. Innocent settlers were killed as well as neutral Indians.

**The area of Warren** was covered with thick forest of Oak, Beech, Maple, Black Walnut, Pine and other trees. There were also semi damp areas and marshy areas. Bear Creek and Red Run had pure water then. However it may have been named Red Run because occasions of the blood in the water resulting from children and families who

lived on the banks of this creek being needlessly butchered by killers. This happened because there was no "Rule of Law", rather it was rule of brute force.



This area was a hunting ground and home for thousands of years, long before our direct ancestors came over on boats from Europe. The Indians did not have written laws. Tribes had traditions they sometimes followed but varied from them at the whim of the ruling chief or warrior. Most of the time they were kind. Some prepared for war. Some practiced war. They had to in order to survive against other war-like people. They practiced slavery and extreme cruelty at times including torture. On the other hand they often lived in harmony with others and with nature. The Indians have interesting traditions. They got to know nature by living in it and using it. They got to know the local plants and what they were good for. Some like cattails were good for many things such as food, mats, baskets, bedding, baby diapers, and fire starters. These peoples did not write or read. They kept their history as oral traditions in the form of stories told at campfires. Their dances tell stories. Most of our ancestors also were in tribes and lived like the Indians did. There are interesting books about their way of life in the Library. You can still visit a real Indian pow-wow, see their dances and talk to real Indians. For more information see South Eastern Michigan Indians 26641 Lawrence Street Center Line, Michigan 48015 semii@mail.com POW WOWS are held almost year round.

To the early pioneers the Indians were mostly deadly enemy. Some Indians such as the Delawares were Christians and were very friendly and kind. Others like the roving bands of paid scalpers hired by the English would butcher an entire family just for the scalps. There was much needless violence practiced by the English, French, American settlers and Indians. We must learn that there are better ways to settle disputes than brute force. We need a standard of conduct for Humans. It should be "Don't do to others what you would not want done to yourself."



Not all Indians were killing crazy savages. In fact many were peace loving. There were some peaceful Indians that refused to participate in the killing of settlers. Clarence M. Burton the prominent historian stated "A band of Moravians went to Gnaden-huetten" (a settlement just west of Mt Clemens on the bank of the Clinton River) "in the spring of 1782 to collect corn they had planted the previous fall." They were collecting this to feed their starving families in Sandusky Ohio when they were taken prisoners by a band of Americans, then taken to Fort Pitt where they were allowed to send for their families. These peaceful Christians were no threat to anyone, "When they had all collected together they were told they must all die. They begged for mercy. They fell upon their knees in prayer and while thus engaged one of their captors picked up a cooper's mallet and with a hasty stride forward he dashed out the brains of the nearest Indian, whose eyes were closed and hands uplifted as he still knelt in prayer. Not an Indian stirred as the murderer proceeded down the line. Again and again he performed the act of murder until a row of fourteen ghastly corpses marked his bloody path. Breathless with the awful work, he tossed the mallet to a companion, saying: "Go on with the glorious work. I have done pretty well." this was but the opening of the tragedy. The flood-gates of murder were open. The tide would have its way. Old men and young men, loving mothers, gentle maidens, and nursing babies, innocent in the sight of earth and Heaven, meek and unresisting as lambs led to the slaughter, were massacred outright. Ninety Six persons were put to death within half an hour." This was done by the Americans. The British, were also incensed against these Christian Indians because it was part of the Moravian creed to be friendly with all people and to take no part in war. The British could not get the Moravian Christians to make war against the Americans. Isn't it ironic that the Americans committed this act against a group of people that would never have hurt them? Historians feel that those Americans acted in haste without thinking out what would have been best. Some historians feel that the language barrier was partly to blame. If some of the parties could have spoken a super simple language such as Esperanto perhaps they could have had better understanding and settled the matter with discussion rather than brute violence. There is a memorial to these peaceful Indians in Gnadenhütten Ohio. (German: huts of grace, which was founded as a settlement of German Americans and Lenape Native Americans affiliated with the Moravian Church. This community remained neutral during the American Revolutionary War, but ninety-six Lenape were massacred in 1782 in the Gnadenhütten massacre by American militia in retaliation for raids carried out by other bands. (Wikipedia)

What was the Indians crime? None. They were just gathering corn that they themselves had planted to feed their starving families. Why would the Americans do this terrible thing? You will have to look in other history books to find this one. Look into Indian raids. Again it was rule by brute force instead of rule by law that we call law and order. In our society (until 2004 when our Bill of Rights was negated by the Military Commissions Act) they would be entitled to a trial.

### What did we learn from the Indians?

First we learned from them where things were like the lakes, streams and other resources. Then we learned the use of corn, potatoes, tobacco, squash, beans, pumpkins, melons, maple sap, maple sugar, tobacco and uses for many other native plants. Corn was unknown to Europeans and was a lifesaver food crop as wheat did not do well until after the ground had been tilled several times. We learned how to make birch bark canoes, shelters, hunting and fishing techniques and that people can live off of the land without modern conveniences. We learned that primitive man can be very intelligent very kind, or very cruel. They could also do things we couldn't like make fires by twirling a stick and going for days on next to no food. The Indians also introduced Europeans to their sacred plant tobacco.

### What did the Indians learn from the White Man?

They learned to use European tools, clothes and culture. They learned that the white man would take over their land by moving in, making treaties with promises then breaking those promises. The Indians were primitive people with no concept of land ownership. Michigan belonged to everyone and each was to take from it only what they needed. The land belonged to all and was for the use of all. Before the white man came all tribes were virtually self-reliant. (Willis F Dunbar 31) The Indians were promised lands by sacred treaty then the white man would come in with armies and modern weapons and kill or remove the Indians from the land that was already by law given to the Indians. And Europeans brought diseases such as measles, smallpox and tuberculosis to which the Indians had no resistance at all, So thousands died

Another quirk was that the Indians for the most part adopted and used European items. They liked metal tools because they were more efficient. Metal pots were superior than earthen pots. Guns were more effective for hunting and killing enemies. Non Indian clothing and blankets were better and more comfortable. The Indians adopted white man's items and tools and within a generation seemed to forget how to be self sufficient. By the mid 1700s Michigan Indians were almost dependent upon Europeans trade goods. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 8) By the 1700s most Indian bands were more driven to get furs than to hunt or raise crops for their own families. The introduction of whiskey to Indian culture resulted in many Indians selling personal and family possessions and neglecting getting food for themselves and their families. That and with the white-induced diseases accounted for gradual Indian population decline to around 8,000 by 1900. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 9) Of course some of this was due to warfare. The Indians learned that the white man was not looking out for their welfare rather was cheating them in every way possible. "The worse curse was the white-man's fire-water. The Indians were utterly unable to control their desire for rum, brandy, or whiskey once they had had a taste of it, and untold numbers were completely debauched by its use. The Indians became pawns in the white-man's wars." (Willis F Dunbar 36) And the Indians were denied both moral and legal justice. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 11)

