

**Title of Student Work: Being Haudenosaunee Then and
Now**

Format: 48" x 24" museum panels

Grade Level(s): Grade 1

School Name: Genesee Community Charter School

City and State: Rochester, NY

Teacher(s) Name: Jolene Walter and Keri Gonzalez

As Displayed at EL National Conference 2018

Haudenosaunee Today

Meet Dave Fahrer



Dave is Seneca and he is in the turtle clan. He only speaks English. Dave is the technology manager at the RMSC and he is really busy! He takes care of all the technology at the museum and the planetarium. He knows about building exhibits, computers, and videos.

Famous Family

Dave's great-great-grandpa was Hut-goh-so-do-neh, also known as Lewis Bennett or "Deerfoot," a famous Seneca runner from the Snipe clan. Mr. Bennett was born in 1830. In 1856, he went to England and set world records for long distance running. He was really fast and his records lasted for 41 years! Mr. Bennett died in 1901 and is buried in Buffalo, New York.



What Does He Do for Fun?

Dave likes to have fun. Inside, he enjoys fixing vintage electronics and he made a website about car racing. Outside, he enjoys the wind, the grass and the sun where he can golf, hike and run. He is amazed by nature. His favorite thing about being Seneca is his love of nature. He learned to have a love for the earth from his mother.



Dave is a professional photographer too! He takes pictures of really cool stuff like special fossils, people and race cars. He has taken pictures of presidents and one of his pictures of a fossil is here at the museum.

What Does He Like to Eat?

Long ago, Haudenosaunee men hunted for meat and went fishing. Today, Dave does not hunt for his food. He buys his food at grocery stores and eats at restaurants.



Dave likes to eat pizza and steak, but not too much. He thinks fruit and vegetables and salad are important too. Being healthy is important to Dave.

Dave also loves to cook. One of his favorite things to cook is a potato casserole with three different kinds of cheese, cayenne pepper, and onions. Spicy!

What Is His House Like?



Dave does not live in a longhouse like the Haudenosaunee of long ago. He lives in a Cape Cod style house with furniture he bought at a store. His house looks like most houses in Rochester. It has a bedroom, a dining room, and a kitchen.

Dave lives with some pet fish. He feeds them every day and he says, "Good morning fishes!"

Haudenosaunee Today

Meet Jamie Jacobs



Jamie is Seneca and in the turtle clan. He lives on a reservation. He works at the RMSC behind the scenes.



At the museum Jamie helps interpret Haudenosaunee culture and brings knowledge back to the Haudenosaunee community. It's important to him to carry on Haudenosaunee traditions and culture and language so when he has children and grandchildren they still have them.

Jamie speaks English and Seneca and he helps teachers on the reservation teach the Seneca language. If you want to greet someone in Seneca you can say *Nya weh sgeno!*

What is Life Like on a Reservation?

Some Haudenosaunee people today live on **reservations**. A reservation is a small amount of land that only native people can own.

Jamie has lived most of his life on a reservation. On the reservation there are stores and houses and roads. There is also a school with grades from kindergarten up to third grade. Jamie enjoys living on the reservation because everybody there knows each other. His family, his traditions, and his culture are all there.



On the reservation Jamie lives in a log cabin that he built himself. It is his dream house! It is in the woods about 500 feet off the road. It has a fireplace, a kitchen, three bedrooms, and a basement with laundry.

Sometimes on the reservation they play traditional Haudenosaunee games like **snow snake**. Snow snake is a fun winter game where you throw a stick in the snow and sees who threw the stick farthest. The one who threw the stick the farthest wins.



What Clothes Does He Wear?

Long ago Haudenosaunee people made all of their clothing. Today Jamie makes some of his own clothing for ceremonies, like a deerskin vest and leggings. But Jamie does not make the clothes he wears every day. He buys most of his clothing from the store. He wears jeans, cotton shirts, a watch, and glasses.



What Does He Like to Eat?



A long time ago Jamie's ancestors hunted deer for food. They also harvested fresh corn in the autumn and dried it to eat in the winter. Jamie still makes corn soup with his family the same way that his ancestors did. However, he gets most of his food from the grocery store. His favorite foods are soup, corn, pizza, lobster, and french fries.

Haudenosaunee Today

Meet Ronnie Reitter



Ronnie is a Seneca woman and is part of the wolf clan. Before she retired, she used to work at Kodak, the RMSC, and Ganondagan.

She lives in a gray two-story house with an attached garage. Her sons are all grown up so now she lives by herself.

What Does She Do for Fun?

Ronnie has many things that she likes to do for fun. She likes to go to the movies, hike, and spend time with her grandchildren.

She also likes to make traditional art like the Haudenosaunee of long ago. She makes corn husk dolls with no faces just like her ancestors did and she weaves baskets. She also does beadwork. She made all of these!



Does She Make Her Own Clothes?

Making your own clothes is hard work! The Haudenosaunee of long ago had to make everything. Today Ronnie wears everyday clothes like jeans and shirts that she buys from the store.



Ronnie chooses to make some clothes for fun. She started sewing clothes when she was eleven. First she made everyday clothes, then she made traditional ribbon clothes, and then clothes for corn husk dolls.

Does She Grow Her Own Food?



Long ago Haudenosaunee people had to grow all of their own food. Like her ancestors, Ronnie grows plants, too, but only some. She grows native tobacco for ceremonies and she grows native beans in containers.

Ronnie also shops at Wegmans. She enjoys blueberries, strawberries and blackberries, turkey and chili. She likes to eat almost everything except lima beans.

Remembering Traditions

Ronnie thinks remembering traditions is important. She goes to a longhouse for ceremonies just like the Haudenosaunee of long ago. She doesn't go to a bark longhouse, though. She goes to a modern longhouse. At ceremonies Ronnie eats special foods and listens to speakers and there is dancing!



Haudenosaunee Today

Meet Tsoianiio Galban



Tsoianiio (jo-ya-nee-oh) is 17 years old. She is Mohawk and she is in the bear clan. She goes to high school just like any other teenager would.

One thing that is important to her about being Haudenosaunee is giving thanks. She is also learning to speak Mohawk outside of school. *Nya-weh* means thank you in Mohawk.

What is Her Family Like?

Tsoianiio lives with her sister, her brother, her mom, her dad, and her dog Oieri (oh-yay-lee). They live in Farmington.

Her mom works at Ganondagan giving tours. Her brother runs track and cross country at their high school. Her dog can do tricks and follow Mohawk commands.



Some of Tsoianiio's extended family lives on a reservation. Her uncle owns a pizza shop on the reservation!

What Does She Do for Fun?



Tsoianiio loves to make art! She enjoys painting and making sculptures. Her favorite color is orangey-yellow. She also likes to draw with pencils and take photographs. After she graduates from high school she wants to go to college so she can study art.

How Does She Remember Traditions?

Once a year Tsoianiio goes to ceremonies in a longhouse on a reservation. She just made her first **ribbon dress** so she could wear it to ceremonies. Ribbon dresses are traditional clothes for Haudenosaunee women and girls.



At ceremonies Tsoianiio does traditional shuffle dances and eats special food. One of the special foods is corn soup, which has white corn, pork, kidney beans, and other delicious veggies. There is also a drink made from strawberries!



A Day in the Life of Tsoianiio

6:00 a.m.	Wake up Get dressed Put on makeup
6:15 a.m.	Eat breakfast
6:30 a.m.	Get on the school bus
7:30 a.m.	Arrive at school Go to classes
12:00 p.m.	Eat lunch with friends
3:30 p.m.	Volleyball practice
5:30 p.m.	Get home from school Draw
7:00 p.m.	Eat dinner with family
8:00 p.m.	Homework
10:00 p.m.	Go to bed