

1. Description

1.1 Name of society: Fox, Mesquakie, Meshkwakihug, Meskwaki, Meskwa'ki'ag

Language: Mesquakie-Sauk

Language family: Central Algonquian

1.2 ISO code: 639-3

1.3 Location: **Latitude = 41.9704, Longitude = -92.5653**

1.4 Brief history: At first European contact in 1698, fought against the French for more than three decades (1701–1742) to preserve their homelands, The Sauk and Meskwaki allied in 1735 to fend off the Europeans and other Indian tribes. In 1829 the US government estimated there were 1,500 Meskwaki (along with 5,500 Sauk). President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830. They refused and many were murdered by Lieutenant Jefferson Davis and militia volunteers in 1830. After 1832 the United States officially combined the two tribes into a single group known as the Sac & Fox Confederacy. In 1857, the Meskwaki purchased the first 80 acres (320,000 m²) in Tama County. Twenty-seven Meskwaki, then 16% of Iowa's Meskwaki population, enlisted together in the U.S. Army in January 1941.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: War, disease, famine, cultural trade, high resource stress/competition

1.6 Ecology: Aboriginal subsistence/hunting (fall/winter) dependent on seasons, growing maize and collecting wild plant foods (spring and summer).

1.7 Population size: at 1st contact ~1,500 + 5,500 Sauk

Mean village size: 40-50 lodges home range size, density: ???

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Corn/Maize, Potatoes

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Deer, Raccoon, Bear, Beaver, Fish, Buffalo

2.3 Weapons: Bows and arrows, spears, daggers, clubs, tomahawk

2.4 Food storage: Based on seasonality, most food storage is through fall/winter

2.5 Sexual division of production: Women took care of cooking, planting and gardening. Men hunted, bartered/traded, managed horses

2.6 Land tenure: Seasonal rotation, Sedentary in the Spring and summer, nomadic hunters in the fall/winter.

2.7 Ceramics: Various kinds, highly decorated and textured, many shapes and sizes.

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos: Fungi, stomach of any animal (men only; after losing virginity)

2.10 Canoes/watercraft: dugout canoes and flatboats

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): n/a

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): n/a

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): ?

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): ?

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): ?

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): ?

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): ?

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: no statistic, but was common practice

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: no % recorded, polygyny was common among the warrior class.

4.8 Bride purchase: Bride service and dowry

4.9 Inheritance patterns: belongings passed down to next of kin (father -> son, mother->daughter)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: ?

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: accepted, not uncommon, "Berdache"

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): preferred exogamy

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible: males plant the incremental seed.

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? receptacle in which the fetus grows.

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process: yes, after sex a tiny fetus is placed, the more frequent the sex the more fetuses "pile up" and then are compressed into one normal sized fetus.

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: not common, highly looked down upon

4.17 Preferential category for spouse: ?

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms: yes

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children: extended family members or nearest female relative

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

4.22 Evidence for couvades: no

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers: decided by parents, based on most favorable features like, personality, wealth, strength (warrior)

- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect: (avoid) during pregnancy, after death of spouse, during 1st menstruation, (respect) adults, leaders, older family member
- 4.24 Joking relationships: yes
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Patrilineal
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: n/a
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony: no
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name: Patrilineal descent/ named by family
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community: Preferred to be within community
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged: yes, not always, arranged by father/mother
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Yes, sometime arranged marriages can involve the same suitors

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:?
- 4.15 Out-group vs. in-group cause of violent death: Out-group, usually violence toward tribes or competition over some resources; In-group, usually tribal laws being broken
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: in-group- adultery, biting of noses, cheating; out group- declaration of war, violence, rape, theft
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies: Sauc tribe (for sure), extensive other groups 20+
- 4.18 Cannibalism: None

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: ?
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Winter/fall Nomadic hunter gatherers spring/summer sedentary agriculturists
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
- 5.4 Post marital residence: with husband, with parents or alone
- 5.5 Territoriality? (Defined boundaries, active defense): defined boundaries, but did cross them commonly, only active defense during war times
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions (age and sex):
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: n/a
- 5.8 Village and house organization: formed around central chief's wigwams/barkhouses
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- 5.12 Trade: yes, common among surrounding tribes and later fur trader
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies: yes

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): had doctors, war chief, peace chief
- 6.2 Stimulants: Tobacco, Peyote, Aquilegia Canadensis seeds,
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): boy to man- must have sex with female, girl to woman- must have 1st menstruation
- 6.4 Other rituals: Snake ritual, Tobacco ritual, peyote ritual etc.
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): "Wisaka" created the 1st humans out of red clay.
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): pottery, ceramics, various musical traditions, dances, games with weapons, balls, competitions
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: yes, but not extremely different, followed gender divisions
- 6.8 Missionary effect: n/a
- 6.9 RCR revival: Still being practiced on reservations today
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Believed in two "heavens" the underworld and the overworld. Death was considered unclean, and could cause extensive damage to people who come into direct contact with the bodies of dead and anything that is around the individual.
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people: no
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy: no
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: extensive, white clay, black coal, various colors of paints
- 7.2 Piercings: yes, both men and women
- 7.3 Haircut: yes, warrior top not
- 7.4 Scarification: n/a
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): feathers, beads, ear jewelry, bone jewelry, fur, bear claws, animal masks
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: costumes that depict different animals, bears, snakes, dogs, eagles
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: yes, based off of "stereotypical" sexual division
- 7.8 Missionary effect: n/a
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: still practiced today, maybe lack of eagle feathers

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: sister, brother, cousin all could also be in-laws

8.2 Sororate, levirate: neither

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): n/a

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Scalped enemies

“Bury” the dead in a sitting position on top of the ground.

After 1 menstrus women were considered the lowest social status, same level as anyone who had a miscarriage, or did committed minor crimes.

Many warrior class were polygynous and preferred marrying the sisters of 1st wife, decreased the chance of disagreement between the women.

Loved to smoke tobacco, and commonly ate peyote “buttons.”

Believed they were made out of red clay.

Different parts of a pregnant woman, when touched, would cause the baby/woman to be unhealthy: sex while pregnant made the baby unclean, if a pregnant woman touched her hair or teeth they would fall out. If a man touched a pregnant woman’s sacrum the baby would come out feet 1st.

Sex caused a buildup of small fetuses into a pile, then eventually after so many fetuses where there they would be condensed into one baby and it would be born.

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