

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: **Mohegan, Mohegan-Pequot, Algonquin**

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **XPQ**

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **upper Hudson River Valley in New York near Lake Champlain (around 44.59N and -73.38W)**

1.4 Brief history: **The Mohegans began around the Thames River and Lake Champlain in northern New York. Small skirmishes between other tribes were all that happened up until the Europeans came. Then the Mohegans ended up siding with the English and fought with them against their fellow tribes. Later on the Mohegans would side with the colonies against the English. As years went on, the Mohegans slowly lost the rights to their land through renting it to settlers, then selling it, and finally just being told it wasn't theirs anymore. Numbers of Mohegan dwindled and finally in the early 20th century, the last fluent speaking Mohegan died.**

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Christianity from the Europeans and alliances with the English against French and their Indian allies; slowly rented out or lost their lands to the colonist**

1.6 Ecology: **The Mohegan are tied to the land. They farm, hunt and gather and use everything they acquire from bones of game for weapons to shells of shellfish for currency.**

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **2000 – 2500 (1643AD)**

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Corn, squash, beans, fruit, soup, cornbread, stews**

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Nuts, deer, turkeys, small game, fish**

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **Weapons made from stone (stone axes), shell, bone, horn, and wood**

2.4 Food storage: **Kept shells with shellfish to preserve the meat**

2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men were hunter and warriors; Women were farmers, cared for children, and cooks**

2.6 Land tenure: **Mohegan lands were held by the community and were worked in common**

2.7 Ceramics: **None, baskets**

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **Food shared between all in the group**

2.9 Food taboos: **None found**

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **Dugout canoes by hollowing out large trees**

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): **No statistics**

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): **No statistics**

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): **No age found**

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **No age found**

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): **No average number is given for family size**

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): **None found**

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **None found**

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **None found; however either spouse has option to get rid of the other if its not working**

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Polygamy only with Sachems**

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: **None found**

4.9 Inheritance patterns: **First recorded 1676; has a European orientation**

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Nothing significant**

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: **None found**

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **No pattern; Marriage was allowed between all peoples within and outside of a tribe by Mohegans standards; during times of low population, exogamy rised**

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? **The biological father is the one who becomes the father of the born children**

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows"): **Other than pregnancy, nothing recorded**

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: **No; or at least no records to show otherwise**

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: **Nothing notable**

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) **Personal choice; in or out of tribe**

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: **Nothing to say they were or weren't**

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: **No evidence**

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **Relative; Was common for relatives to adopt orphaned children**

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: **no statistics**

4.22 Evidence for couvades: **No evidence of couvades**

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): **No evidence of younger girls marrying older men or older men holding younger men back from marrying**

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **Nothing found of any avoidance or specific respect traditions**

- 4.24 Joking relationships?: **Games played between those in the tribes**
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations – **Matrilineally & patrilineally**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: **No evidence of any**
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? **No specific rituals found for Mohegan marriage**
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? **Birth, puberty, first battle and other notable feats**
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Married both in and outside of community**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **No, at least not completely**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: **None found**

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: **No statistics found; however tribal wars before colonies and after arrival, Mohegans took side of English and fought against other tribes and French; significant losses in American Revolution**
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: **No specific incidents found**
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **None found**
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Mohegans split with the Pequots; near the Narragansetts; after arrival of Europeans, trade with English and Dutch**
- 4.18 Cannibalism? **None**

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: **handful of villages but no specific average number for group size**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **Agriculture and living patterns required that no single site be occupied throughout the year**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Chiefs and Sachems, nanus for judicial matters; Council of Elders as a supreme tribal judicial body today**
- 5.4 Post marital residence: **Residences tended to house 2 or more related families**
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): **Between tribes; defenses too, warriors and palisades**
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): **Other than the chiefs and sachems who could be either men or women, no other specific divisions existed; possibly warriors who were male is a different division**
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: **Nothing found but games played between those in villages for fun**
- 5.8 Village and house organization: **2 or more related families in one house**
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **Wigwams; Longhouses**
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **Wigwams**
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **Lineages through family is only found record, possible clans**
- 5.12 Trade: **Wampumpeag, beads made from shellfish which were used as a medium for trade, barter, tribute and ransom**
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **None, leading representative whether chief, sachem or council and then the people**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: **No specific time allotment, and records and accounts don't make it sound like it completely took over their life**
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **Herbal healers – bone setting for colds, mint for fevers, “weecup” (basswood bark) for coughs, sassafras tea for a tonic; herbal cures commons; Pauwau is ancient term for Mohegan medicine person**
- 6.2 Stimulants: **None found**
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **Birth, Puberty, and Death mentioned but no specific rituals explained**
- 6.4 Other rituals: **Carved wooden masks to chase bad spirits away from those suffering from illnesses; Green Corn Festival since ancient times**
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): **Believe that Earth was created atop a giant turtle referred to as Grandfather**
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **Arts – medallions, floral designs, painted objects, dolls**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: **None; Women can be spiritual leaders too**
- 6.8 Missionary effect: **Large number converted to Christianity by Europeans**
- 6.9 RCR revival: **Language died out in early 20th century; 1970s, they founded Mohegan Sun and filled cultural gap**
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Postcontact – fieldstones, situated along rivers, specific burial grounds**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? **None**
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? **No**
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): **Gunche Mundo (the Great Spirit), Weyut Mundo (Fire Spirit), Cheepai Wunxis (Foxfire)**

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: **Extensive face and body paint**
- 7.2 Piercings: **None found**
- 7.3 Haircut: **men – mohawk; women – long hair**
- 7.4 Scarification: **None**
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **earrings, moccasins, beaded- headbands**

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: **Feather headdresses for chief/sachems**

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: **knee-length skirts for women;**

7.8 Missionary effect: **Some Mohegan converted to Christianity**

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: **None**

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: **None**

8.2 Sororate, levirate: **No sororate or levirate spoke of, but orphaned children will be about by parents brothers and or sisters**

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): **None found**

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/algonquian/moheganhist.htm>
2. http://www.bigorin.org/mohegan_kids.htm
3. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Mohegan.aspx>
- 4.