

Learning about Indians in Fairfield



A Photo Story

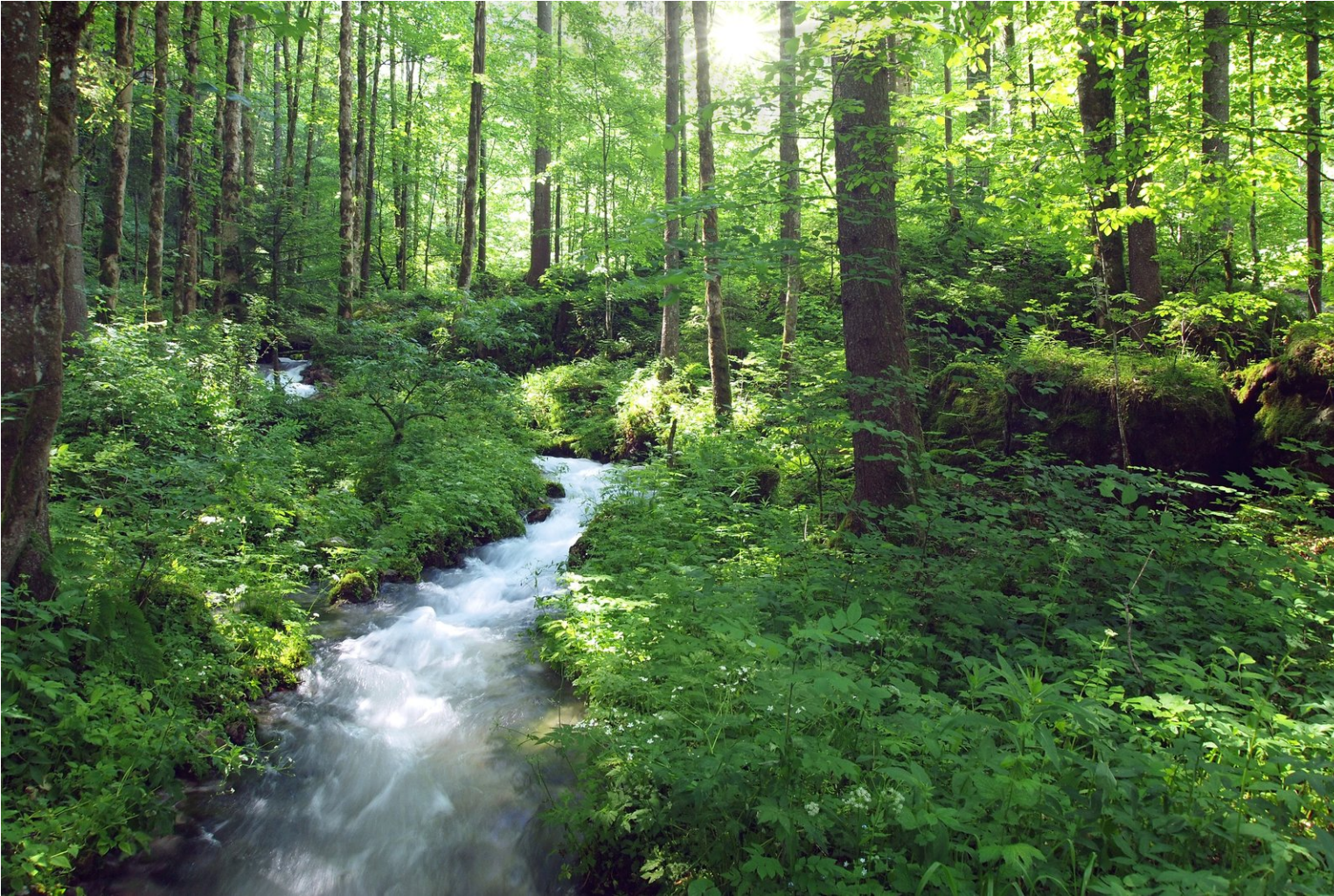


Fairfield Museum

EXPLORE *the past*, IMAGINE *the future*

370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT | 203-259-1598

www.fairfieldhistory.org



**A long time
ago** your town
had no
houses, no
stores, and no
roads or cars.

There were
only woods
and rivers.



The people who lived here had a very different life from ours.

Today we call this group of people Native Americans or Indians.



The Native Americans in the Fairfield County area were a group of small tribes sharing a similar language and culture called

ALGONKIAN. These small tribes or villages were:

The **Saugatuck** lived mainly in the area of Westport

The **Maxamux** lived in the area of Greens Farms

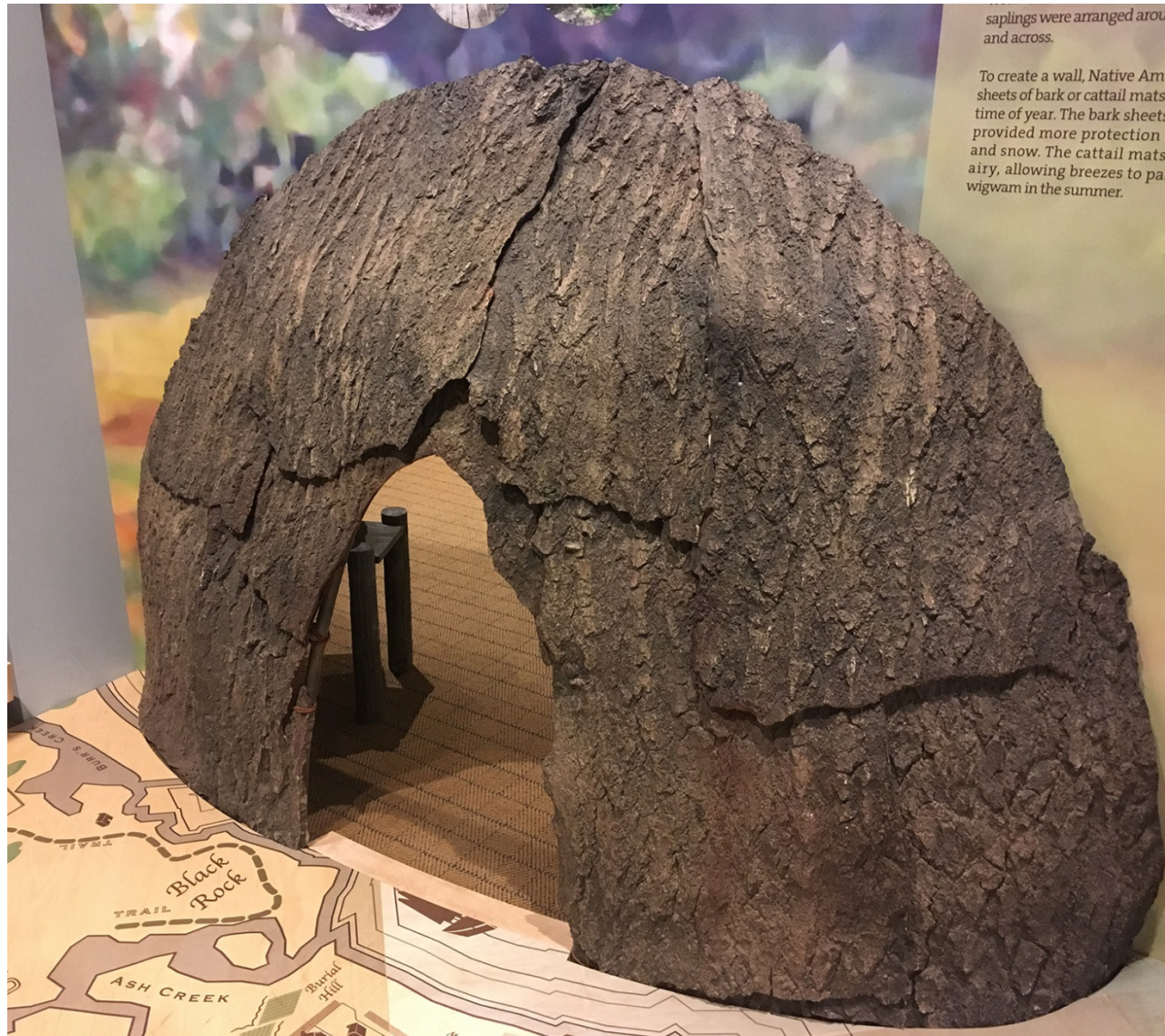
The **Sasqua** lived in the area of modern Southport

The **Unquowa** lived in the area of Fairfield

The **Pequonnock** lived in the area of Bridgeport

The **Aspetuck** lived in the area of Easton, Weston, and Fairfield

Indians had to find or make everything that they needed.
They made these things out of trees, plants and animals of the woods.



saplings were arranged around and across.

To create a wall, Native Americans used sheets of bark or cattail mats, time of year. The bark sheets provided more protection against rain and snow. The cattail mats were airy, allowing breezes to pass through the wigwam in the summer.

Just like us, the Indians needed a place to live. They used the branches and bark from the trees to make their houses.

Each house had one room and was round. In the center, they had a small campfire. Indian houses were called wigwams.



Just like us, the Indians needed to cook and to keep warm.
They gathered logs from the woods to make a campfire.



Just like us, the Indians needed vegetables and fruit to eat.

They went into the woods to forage for food, like blueberries. They grew corn, beans and squash. These were called the “Three Sisters” because they grew well together.



Just like us, the Indians needed fish to eat.
There were rivers in the woods. The rivers were filled with fish.
They caught the fish, carried them home and cooked them.



Just like us, the Indians
needed clothes.

Deer lived in the woods.
Indians caught deer and carried them home.
They used the skin to make their clothes.



Just like us, the Indians needed to carry their things.
Corn grew in the woods. The Indians gathered corn, carried it home,
and used the corn husk to make baskets.



Just like us, the Indians needed bowls and things to store food.

They grew squash and made bowls out of the dried squash, or gourds.



Just like us, the Indians
needed pots for cooking.

There were rivers and marsh
in the woods. Here they found
clay.

They shaped it into pots and
let it dry.

The pots were used for
cooking and storage.



The Indians gathered branches and bark to make wigwams.

The Indians gathered wood to make a campfire.

Indians gathered vegetables and fruit to eat.

Indians caught fish to eat.

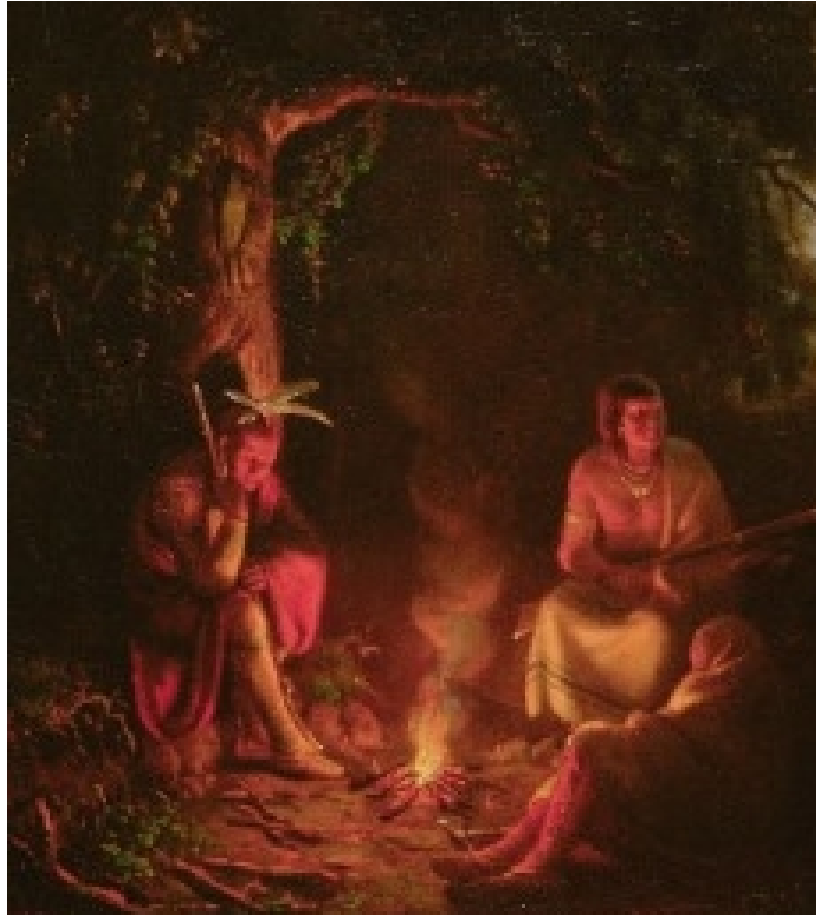
Indians caught deer to make clothes.

Indians gathered corn husks to make baskets.

Indians gathered squash to make bowls.

Indians collected clay to make bowls.

Indians worked very hard all day long.



Just like us, Indians liked to have fun when their work was done. In the evening Indians would sit around the campfire. Indians made jewelry, played games and sang songs. They also danced and told stories.



Indians lived in your town a very long time ago.

Just like us, they needed a place to live, food, clothing and fun.

Unlike us, Indians had to find or make everything that they needed from the trees, plants and animals of the woods.