

Laws Braided into Belts

Understanding wampum belts

Discussion Questions

Two-Row wampum belt

1. What is the symbolism of the two purple rows on the Two-Row wampum belt, and how do they represent the relationship between the Haudenosaunee and European settlers?
2. In what ways does the Two-Row wampum belt reflect the Haudenosaunee principles of peace, friendship, and non-interference in each other's affairs?
3. How does the design of the Two-Row wampum belt illustrate the concept of parallel paths and the importance of maintaining separate identities and autonomy?
4. What can we infer about the historical context of the Two-Row wampum belt based on its imagery and symbolism?
5. How can the Two-Row wampum belt serve as a reminder of the treaties and agreements made between Indigenous Peoples and European settlers in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Watershed?

Hiawatha belt

1. What is the significance of the tree symbol in the center of the Hiawatha belt, and how does it represent the unity and strength of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?
2. How do the white and purple beads in the Hiawatha belt symbolize the unity and peace among the five nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?
3. What historical events might have influenced the creation of the Hiawatha belt, and how does it reflect the principles of unity and cooperation among Indigenous Nations?
4. What can we infer about the role of Hiawatha and the Peacemaker in Haudenosaunee history based on the imagery and symbolism of the Hiawatha belt?
5. How does the Hiawatha belt contribute to our understanding of the governance structure and diplomatic relations within the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?

Dish with One Spoon

1. What is the symbolism of the dish in the Dish with One Spoon treaty, and how does it represent the shared responsibility for caring for the land and resources?
2. How does the concept of the "spoon" in the treaty reflect the idea of collective stewardship and sustainable use of natural resources among Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations?
3. What historical events or cultural practices might have influenced the creation of the Dish with One Spoon treaty, and how does it reflect Indigenous principles of reciprocity and cooperation?
4. How does the imagery of the Dish with One Spoon treaty emphasize the importance of harmony and balance in maintaining ecological health and social well-being within Indigenous communities?
5. What can we infer about the ongoing relevance of the Dish with One Spoon treaty in contemporary discussions about land rights, environmental conservation, and Indigenous sovereignty in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Watershed?