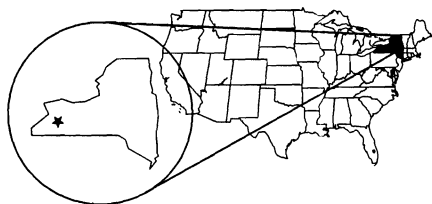


## SENECA



Originally called *Sen Uh Kuh*, or the “Great Hill People”, the name “Seneca” derived from the similarity in sound to the Latin name familiar to European ears. The Seneca, the most powerful of the tribes in the Iroquois League, served as the “guardians of the western door”

[see Iroquois Confederacy]. The Iroquois viewed their confederacy as one huge long house, their traditional dwelling (ENAT, 215-216). It fell to the Seneca to protect the western gateway to the heart of Iroquois land.

The three state-recognized Seneca reservations in western New York—the Cattaraugus, the Oil Springs, and the Allegany—all fly the same flag. It is white with the seal of the tribe in blue, white, and red (flag provided by Advertising Flag Co.). The seal contains maps of the three reservations in blue across the center. Above and below the maps are silhouettes in blue of eight animals—Deer, Heron, Hawk, Snipe, Bear, Wolf, Beaver, and Turtle—the totems, or emblems, associated with particular Seneca clans (ENAT, 216). For the Seneca, the clan is a group of families descended from a common ancestor. Around the outer white ring, which is banded by thin blue lines inside and out, appears “SENECA NATION of INDIANS” at the top and “Keepers of the Western Door” along the bottom, all in red. 🍄

