



**Name:** Hiawatha

**Years:** Unknown; Ranging from 1000- 1500

**Residence:** Northern New York

**Biography:** Not much is known about Hiawatha and his early life. He was born into the Mohawk Nation and he eventually joined the Onondaga Nation, where he became a tribal leader. Hiawatha had several daughters, all of whom were murdered. He sought solace in the forest, where he met Deganawida, The Great Peacemaker. The Great Peacemaker had a vision to unite all the warring nations- Cayuga, Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, and Seneca. Together they traveled through New York preaching to tribal leaders about the peace that would come with the unity of the five nations. Upon agreement, the Five Nations met under the Tree of Peace, where the Iroquois Confederacy was created.

**Major Accomplishments:** Hiawatha is most known for uniting the five nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. He is also known for the creation of the Wampum belt.

**Resources:** New World Encyclopedia, <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Hiawatha>

**By Elizabeth Wasserman**