

Technology and Tactics Among the New England Indians

The New England Indians were a diverse group of Native American tribes who lived in the northeastern United States. They included the Abenaki, Algonquin, Iroquois, and Wampanoag tribes. These tribes developed a variety of technologies and tactics to help them survive in their environment and to defend themselves from their enemies.

Technology

The New England Indians were skilled craftspeople who made a variety of tools and weapons from the materials available to them in their environment. These included:



The Skulking Way of War: Technology and Tactics Among the New England Indians by Patrick M. Malone

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- **Stone tools:** The New England Indians used stone to make a variety of tools, including arrowheads, spear points, knives, and axes. They also used stone to build houses and other structures.

- **Bone tools:** The New England Indians used bone to make a variety of tools, including needles, awls, and fishhooks. They also used bone to make jewelry and other decorative items.
- **Wood tools:** The New England Indians used wood to make a variety of tools, including bows, arrows, canoes, and snowshoes. They also used wood to build houses and other structures.
- **Animal skins:** The New England Indians used animal skins to make clothing, blankets, and other items. They also used animal skins to make canoes and other watercraft.

The New England Indians also developed a variety of agricultural techniques to help them grow food. These techniques included:

- **Slash-and-burn agriculture:** The New England Indians used slash-and-burn agriculture to clear land for farming. They would cut down trees and burn them, and then plant crops in the ashes.
- **Raised-bed gardens:** The New England Indians also used raised-bed gardens to grow crops. These gardens were made by building raised beds of soil and planting crops in them.
- **Irrigation:** The New England Indians also used irrigation to water their crops. They would dig canals to divert water from rivers and streams to their fields.

Tactics

The New England Indians were skilled warriors who developed a variety of tactics to help them defend themselves from their enemies. These tactics included:

- **Guerrilla warfare:** The New England Indians used guerrilla warfare to fight their enemies. They would attack their enemies in small groups, and then retreat to the forest. This made it difficult for their enemies to defeat them.
- **Ambushes:** The New England Indians also used ambushes to attack their enemies. They would hide in the forest and wait for their enemies to pass by, and then attack them from surprise.
- **Fortifications:** The New England Indians also built fortifications to defend themselves from their enemies. These fortifications were made of wood and earth, and they were often surrounded by a moat.

The New England Indians were a resourceful and adaptable people who developed a variety of technologies and tactics to help them survive in their environment and to defend themselves from their enemies. These technologies and tactics helped them to thrive in the northeastern United States for centuries.



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