

Class:

Name:

Date:

## The Onondaga Lake Watershed Before the Mid-1700s

Name four kinds of fish that once lived in Onondaga Lake:

1. *Atlantic salmon*
2. *Lake Sturgeon*
3. *American Eel*
4. *Onondaga Lake Whitefish*

*Other possible answers: burbot, yellow perch*

How did the loss of these fish in later centuries affect the Onondaga Nation? *Fish were a major food source for the Onondagas. Loss of the fisheries led to severe health, cultural, and economic harm.*

What are wetlands and why are they important? *Wetlands are areas that are covered with shallow water for part or all of the year. They are important because they provide habitat to many organisms. They also help to clean the water and control erosion and flooding.*

Name three kinds of wetlands that once existed around Onondaga Lake and at least 2 organisms (plants or animals) that lived in or visited each type of wetland.

1. *Cedar Swamps*

Example organisms: *cedar, black ash, tamarack, white pine, yellow birch, hemlock, orchid*

2. *Maple and Ash Swamps (Maple-Ash Swamps)*

Example organisms: *maple, ash, oak, American elm*

3. *Inland Salt Marshes*

Example organisms: *deer, elk, bison, rattlesnake, passenger pigeon*



## The Historical Memory Game

As you read each description card in the Memory game, look for examples of species that were harmed by the environmental changes listed in the left hand column of the chart below. In the right hand column of the chart, write the names of the species.

<b>Examples of Environmental Changes Caused by People</b>	<b>Examples of Species Harmed</b>
Increased boat traffic	<i>Atlantic salmon</i>
Construction of dams	<i>Sturgeon, Atlantic salmon</i>
Deforestation (cutting down forests)	<i>Atlantic salmon</i>
<b>Destruction of aquatic and wetland habitats</b> (HINT: A habitat is the place where an organism lives.)	<i>Sturgeon, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Onondaga Lake whitefish, river otter, samphire</i>
<b>Over-hunting / Over-fishing</b>	<i>Sturgeon, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, passenger pigeon, bison, Onondaga Lake whitefish, gray wolf, river otter</i>
<b>Water pollution</b>	<i>Sturgeon, Onondaga Lake whitefish, Atlantic salmon</i>

