

Ancient Athens and Iroquois Confederacy



A Winter Scene Inside a St. Lawrence Iroquois Culture Longhouse, by Roberta Wilson, 2004
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A Winter Scene Inside a St. Lawrence Iroquois Culture Longhouse.

This artist's version of the inside of the St. Lawrence Iroquois longhouse is based upon both archaeological and historical information and shows the sleeping cubicles, which were occupied by individual families, and their relationship to the central fireplaces, each of which were shared by two families. Corn, canoes, and other objects are stored in the upper portions of the house near the smoke-filled rafters.

A Winter Scene Inside a St. Lawrence Iroquois Culture Longhouse, accompanying text
Text © Canadian Museum of Civilization



School of Athens, 1509, Raphael, in the Vatican

This painting by Raphael, a famous Renaissance painter, was completed nearly 2000 years after the golden age of Athens. Although it is not an accurate representation of the Agora (or marketplace) in Athens, Raphael's painting does capture the central place of the Agora in the life of the ancient city.

In the painting we see, at the centre, Plato pointing upward with a finger. Beside him is Aristotle holding his book on ethics (proper behaviour). Pythagoras is shown in the foreground intent on explaining the diatesseron (early form of the Bible). Diogenes is lying on the stairs with a dish, while the pessimist (someone who expects the worse) philosopher, Heraclitus, is leaning against a block of marble. On the right we see Euclid, who is teaching geometry to his pupils, and two other figures—Zoroaster holding the heavenly sphere and Ptolemy holding the earthly sphere. The person on the extreme right wearing the black beret (hat) is a self-portrait of Raphael.