

THE ABENAKI ARE PART OF THE ALGONQUIN LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL FAMILY.

They are also referred to as the Wobanaki or Wabanaki. Their name is rooted in two words from their own language—*w8bAn* meaning light and *aKi* meaning land—and may be translated as *people from the dawn land*.

Originally from contemporary Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, Abenaki groups settled permanently on the territory that would become known as Québec between 1676 and 1680. They cultivated the land in semi-sedentary villages along the major rivers and relied on the territory to access wildlife resources. In their villages, the Abenaki grew corn, beans, squash, potatoes and tobacco. On their land, which they called *Ndakinna*, Abenaki groups went hunting, fishing and trapping and gathered berries. The forests also provided the American black ash and vanilla sweetgrass needed to make the baskets used to collect small fruits. The crafts played a significant role in the communities' economies. The Abenaki weaved baskets in winter and sold them in summer across the United States, where demand grew throughout the 19th century.

Around 1700, the Abenaki settled more permanently along Rivière Saint-François and Rivière Bécancour on sites that would become the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak, respectively. Today, there are over 2,000 Abenaki community members across Québec, and the Odanak and Wôlinak communities welcome residents and tourists. Odanak is home to the Musée des Abénaquis, the province's first Indigenous museum, and Kiuna College for Indigenous students.