

The Meskwaki Tribe – Also known as the Fox Tribe

The Meskwaki Tribe are a Native American people, often known to outsiders as the Fox Tribe. In their own language the Meskwaki call themselves 'Meshkwahkihaki' which means 'The Red Earths'. This comes from their creation myth where their hero *Wisaka* created the first humans out of red clay. The name 'Fox' came from a French mistake applying a clan name of 'fox' to the entire tribe. Their homelands historically were in the Great Lakes Region in the St Lawrence River Valley in Ontario which is in Canada. They are part of the Algonquian (al-gonk-weean) peoples from Woodlands areas. The Meskwaki language is a dialect of what the Sauk and Kickapoo tribes speak.

The Meskwaki fought against the French, in what are called the Fox Wars, for more than three decades to preserve their homelands. The Meskwaki resistance to the French rule was so effective that the King of France signed a decree commanding the complete extermination of the Meskwaki- the only document of its kind in French history. The Sauk and the Meskwaki allied in 1735 to fight off the Europeans and other Indian tribes. In the Second Fox War, the French increased their pressure on the tribe to gain access to the Fox and Wolf rivers.

Sources:

1. Wikipedia
2. www.meskwaki.org
3. Encyclopaedia of Native American Tribes by Carl Waldman – page 159