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Nipmuck

Native people have lived in this area for about 13,000 years. In the beginning, they were small nomadic groups.

1) They subsisted on mostly big game animals. The first big change in their lifestyle was when they learned to make weirs, traps, fishing lure and sinkers.

At that point they were learning to make better tools such as bows and arrows and stone bowls.

2) The next big step was when they learned to fire clay pottery. Making for easier cooking and safer storage of food products.

3) The next really big step was growing of crops. Growing crops changed the way people lived and interacted with other groups. It also created a community.

4) The biggest change was the arrival of the Europeans. Bringing with them new technology, a new world view, and devastating diseases. The people who lived in our area were called the Nipmucks.

Through all of this, the Nipmucks are still here!

- There were three groups of Nipmucks; they lived on the plain between Lake Washakum and Farm Pond, Saxonville and Lake Cochituate.
- The Nipmuck Native Americans living in this area used to winter in Framingham and summer on the Cape (just like people do today!).
- They lived in domed huts called a **wetu**.
- They would fish for eel in Framingham, which resulted in early colonists eating eel as well.
- The Nipmucks would fish at night with torches and the light from the torches would drive the bait fish to the surface and the larger fish would follow, at which point they would be caught.
- Old Connecticut Path was an old Native American path and it does go to Connecticut.

Nipmuck – language and map

Nipmuck - Fresh Water People

Massachusetts–People of Great Hills

Natick - Place of hills

Pequot - the Destroyers

Wampanoag - People of the Dawn

Nope–Place out of Water Martha's Vinyard

Cochituate - Swift River

Washakum - Eel Fishing Place

Raccoon Succotash

Squaw Tomahawk

Papoose

Quahog

Sachem

