The Peoples of the Americas

Diverse Cultures Emerge

American Indians became culturally diverse & adapted to their locations.

About 375 languages emerged.

Groups subdivided into territories with Chiefs and Elders.

Agriculture Emerges

Wild plants were **domesticated**, & new types of crops were developed!
a) Examples: corn, squashes, & beans

Permanent villages grew to cities

Calendars were developed & astronomy began with peoples such as the **Mayans** & **Aztecs**.

The Southwest Cultures

First farming villages north of Mexico appeared in Southwest.

Agricultural advancements (such as canals) & new governing systems emerged.

New architecture, such as adobes, were built & could reach 3-stories tall!

The Anasazis & Hohokams built large cities & canals.

Famine and drought led to rivalry between the villages

Anasazi became the Pueblo peoples.

The Mississippians

The Mississippi valley contains many
water ways & a temperate climate

The people here built large towns &
mound pyramids made of earth

Largest & wealthiest city was Cahokia

Large populations led to a social   crisis
& cultures moved toward the south

Early People of the Great Plains

Large grasslands supported bison & the people built different house developments

Athapaskan nomads, **Apaches**, were devoted to hunting

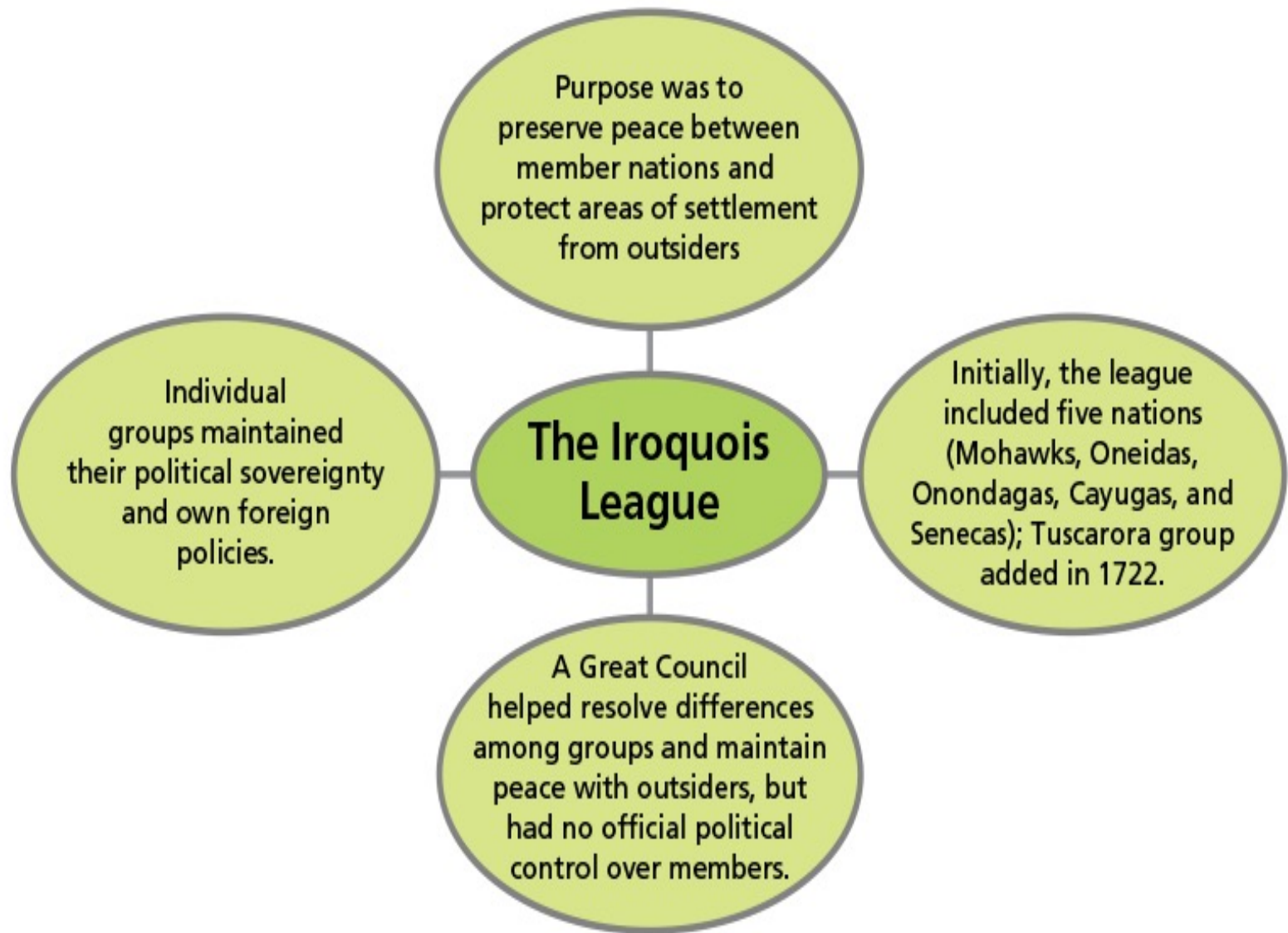Trade practices were developed between villages & nomads

Eastern Woodlands Peoples

The landscape here included massive forests & low range of mountains.

The people were farmers & fished & hunted.

The Algonquians and Iroquoians occupied this region.

The Iroquois League was one of the 1st government authorities in North America

The Iroquois League

Purpose was to preserve peace between member nations and protect areas of settlement from outsiders

Individual groups maintained their political sovereignty and own foreign policies.

Initially, the league included five nations (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas); Tuscarora group added in 1722.

A Great Council helped resolve differences among groups and maintain peace with outsiders, but had no official political control over members.

Eastern Woodlands Peoples

The Algonquians and Iroquoians occupied this region.

The Iroquois League was one of the 1st government authorities in North America

Shared Cultural Characteristics

American Indian groups shared several cultural features.

Resources were shared & equality was seen in societies.