The Tuscarora
The Tuscarora were once one of the largest American Indian nations in North Carolina. They spoke the Iroquoian language.

About 5,000 Tuscarora lived in North Carolina by 1600. Their villages ran from the Appalachian Mountains to the coast, but most lived between the Neuse and Pamlico rivers. Some Tuscarora still live in North Carolina today, but most live in New York and Canada.

The Tuscarora built circular villages surrounded by palisades. They lived in round houses or large longhouses that held many families. They had buildings for meetings in the middle of each village. They lived near rivers and creeks for the fertile soil and good fishing.

Tuscarora families were grouped together in clans. Each clan member had a different job. Women cooked, collected firewood, and sewed. Men hunted using bows and arrows. Sometimes, they made canoes of hollowed tree trunks and traveled to other American Indian nations to trade goods.

The Catawba
The Catawba lived southwest of the Tuscarora in villages on the Catawba River. They were known as "river people." Today, the Catawba live only in South Carolina.

The Catawba spoke Siouan. They were once the largest Siouan nation in the Piedmont region. During the 1600s, 5,000 Catawba lived in the North Carolina area. Their main village was near the border of North and South Carolina.

The Catawba built round or square houses and covered them with mud or bark. Each house had a circle of rocks in the center. The circle was used as a fireplace. Entire families of grandparents, parents, and children lived in the same house. The Catawba held ceremonies at their council houses.

The Catawba grew corn, squash, and beans. They trapped fish in the rivers using baskets, and the men hunted deer and bears. They made clothing from animal skins. Catawba women wove reed baskets and made clay pottery.