

At Home on the Earth

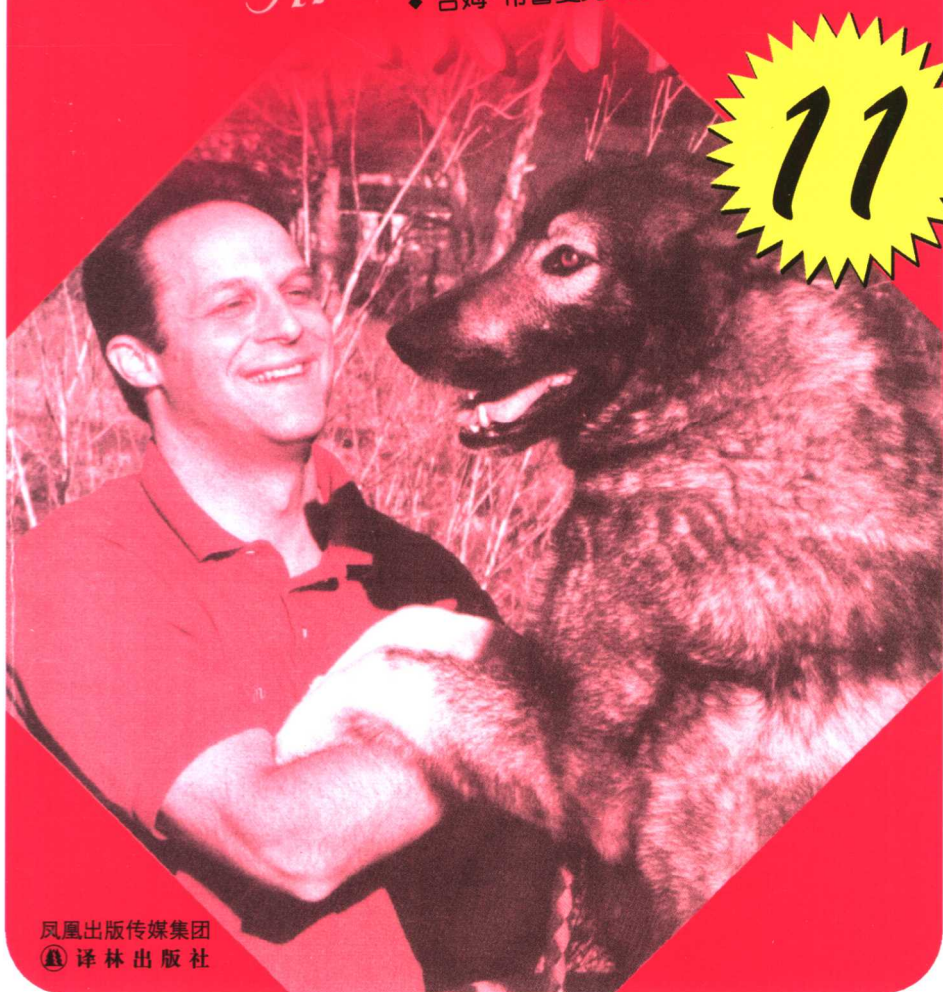
培生
英语阅读

地球我的家

At Home on the Earth

◆ 吉姆·布鲁夏克 约瑟夫·布鲁夏克三世 著

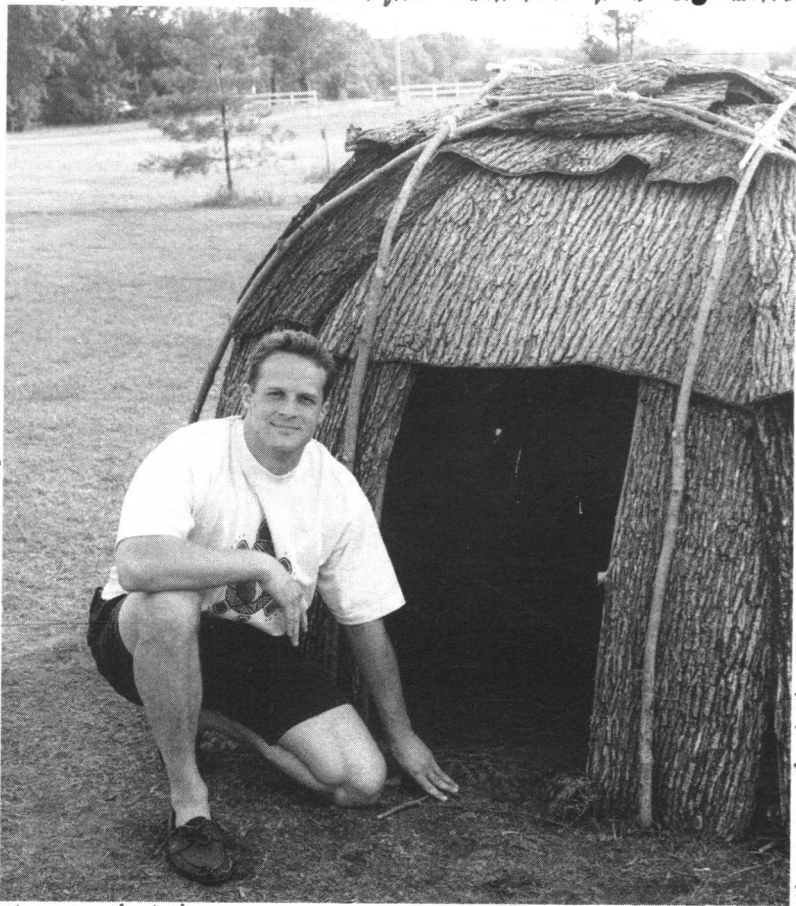
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AT HOME ON THE EARTH



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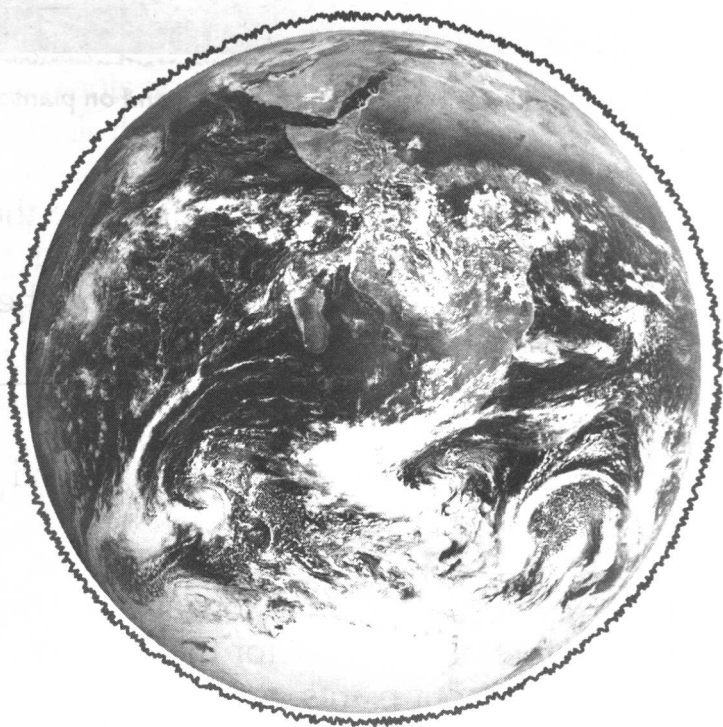
**In memory of my grandmother,
Marion Flora Bowman Bruchac,
for her laughter and friendship**

Chapter

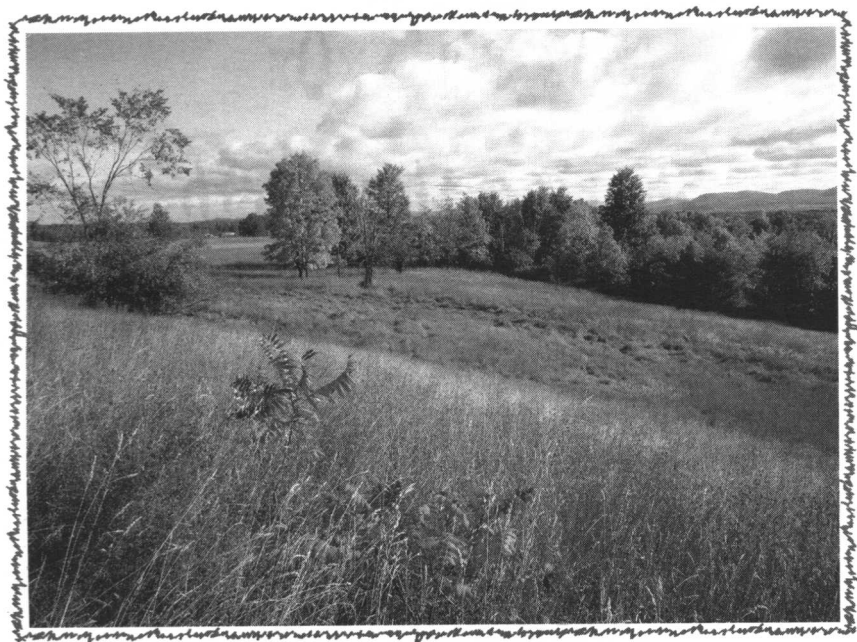


Sharing the Earth

Traveling through the darkness of space is a bright, colorful planet we call Earth. Some people who have seen Earth from space have described it as looking like a blue, green, and brown marble with swirls of white.



A photograph of Earth, taken from outer space



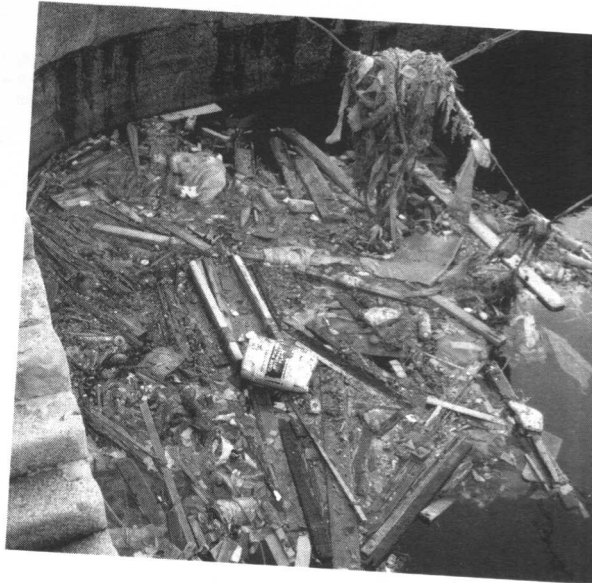
In a meadow and elsewhere, all living things depend on plants.

Earth is the only home we know. It is also the home we share with thousands of plants and animals of all kinds. All the living things on the earth are connected. We need each other to survive.

Plants are especially important. They help clean the air by **taking in** carbon dioxide and **giving off** oxygen. They help make the ground rich and fertile. Plants hold down the soil so that it doesn't wash or blow away. They also provide food and shelter for many other living things. Without plants, animals and people could not live.

Earth's plants and animals also need clean air and water to stay healthy. More and more people are realizing that these necessary things are not as easy to find as they used to be. In many places the air and water are dirty, and plants no longer grow. In many places the number of animals has decreased. Some kinds of plants and animals have disappeared from the earth forever. People are beginning to see how important it is to take care of our home.

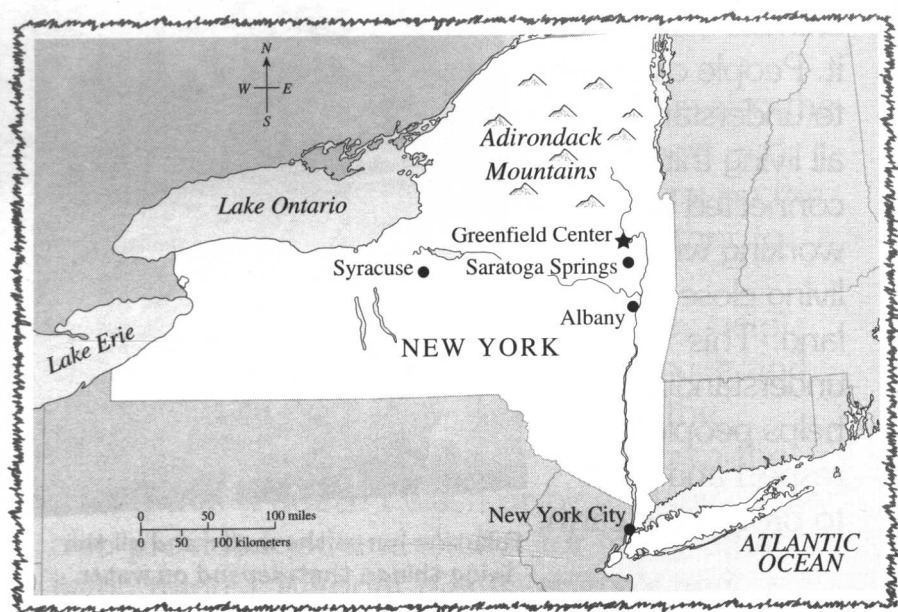
Taking care of a whole planet is not easy. First, you have to learn all about the land and the plants and animals that live on it. People can begin to understand how all living things are connected by working with and living close to the land. This understanding helps people to respect and want to protect the earth.



Pollution hurts the water and all the living things that depend on water.

There is a place where **people of all ages** can go to learn about the earth and its plants and animals. This place is in Greenfield Center, New York, in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. It is called the Ndakinna (ihn-DAH-kih-nah) Education Center and Nature Preserve.

Run by members of the Bruchac family, the Center offers many programs. Visitors can learn how to travel through the woods without getting lost. They can learn how to find edible plants and safe drinking water. All of the programs are based on traditional Native American ways.

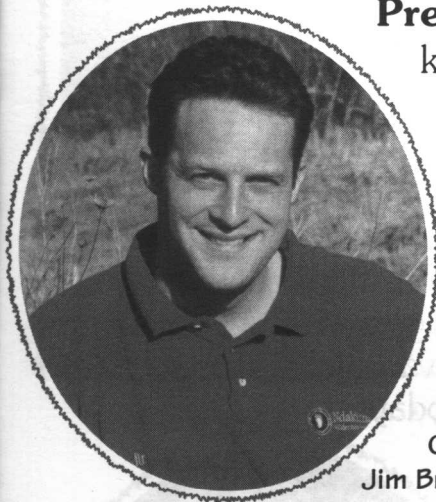


Map of New York State

Hello, my name is Jim Bruchac, and I am going to tell you about this wonderful place. The Ndakinna Education Center and Nature

Preserve is a place that I know well, not only because I am one of the founders. It is a place my family has called home for over a hundred years. Both the teachings and the history of my family are deeply rooted in this land.

Jim Bruchac



Nature Notes

Ndakinna is an Abenaki word. It is the name for the northeastern part of the United States. It simply means “our land.”

preserve

A an area of private land

B protected area for animals, plants, etc.

Key: B

Chapter

2

The First People

The first people who lived on the land I now call my home and in nearby Saratoga Springs were Native Americans. They included the Mahicans (mah HEE kunz). These people were part of a larger group called Algonquins (ahl GAHNG kee unz). The Algonquins shared a similar culture and spoke variations of the same language. Many people today believe that the Mahicans lived in this area for over 10,000 years.

About a thousand years ago, another group of people called the Iroquois (IHR uh kwoi) moved into this area from the west. These people later became known as the Mohawks.



Mohawk Chief
Joseph Brant



A wigwam

Mahicans and Mohawks **had a strong respect for** the land. Everything they used came from the forest. They did not take anything from the land that they did not need. Their clothing and tools were made from the animals they hunted for food. They also grew crops such as corn, beans, pumpkins, sunflowers, and squash. In fact, Native American people were the first to develop these crops.

The people made houses that were rounded on the top and covered with tree bark. They called their homes *wigwams* or *wigomak*. The word *wigwam* means “house” in the Algonquin language. Larger wigwams are sometimes called longhouses. Several families could live in a longhouse.

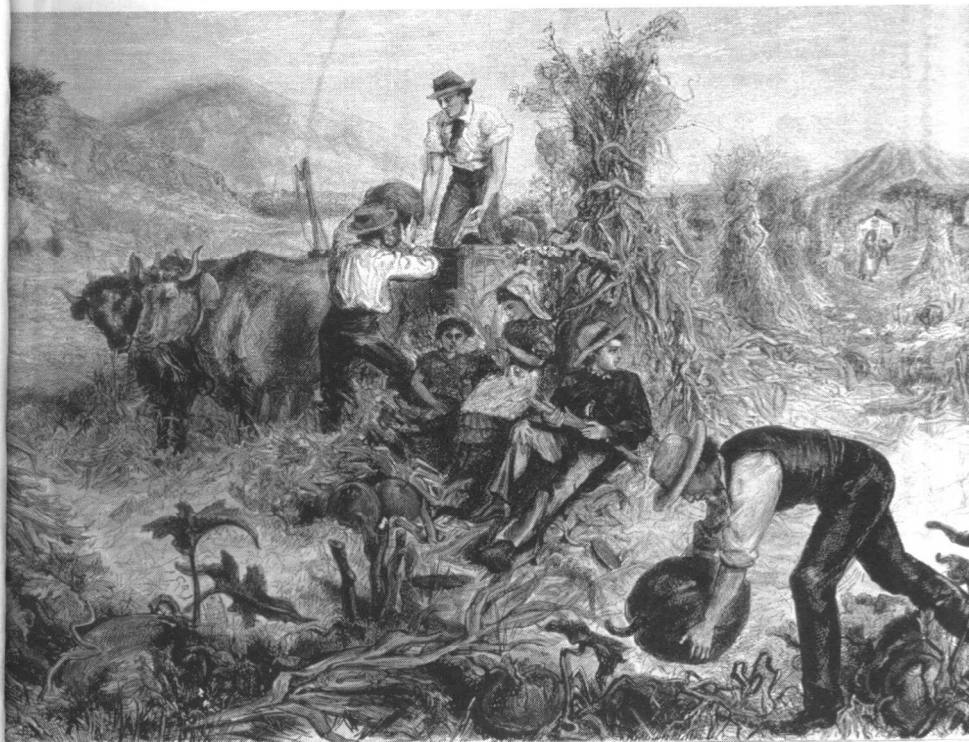
Both Algonquin and Iroquois people thought of the area surrounding Saratoga Springs as **sacred** or **spiritual**. This was because of the **mineral springs** that many people believed were healing waters. It was considered an area of peace to be shared by all.

The first European to visit the area was an Englishman named Sir William Johnson. Sir William first traded with the Mohawks during the late 1700s. He later became the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for New York State. Sir William also became a friend of the Mohawks. They called him *Warrahiyagey* (WAH-rahg-ee-YAH-gay). This name meant "The One Who Does Much Honest Business With Us."

Sir William found out for himself how wonderful the mineral springs were when he became sick. His Mohawk friends brought him to bathe in the springs and drink the mineral water. Afterward, Sir William said he felt much better.

Soon after Sir William visited the area, other Europeans came and settled there. English **colonists** bought some of the Mohawk's land. The place where the Ndakinna Center now stands was a part of the land the colonists bought.

The first European **settlers** were farmers. In some ways the land was very different from what they had been used to in Europe. Many of the animals and plants were new. The weather was also different.



Painting of English colonists living on the land in New York

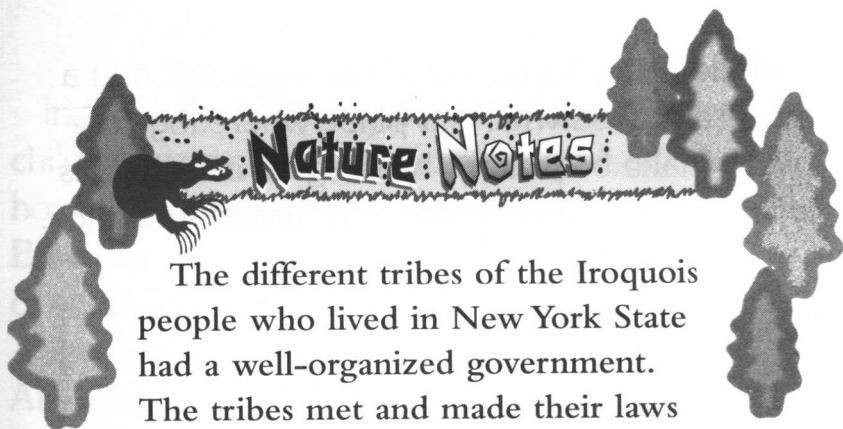
Once they understood the land better, the settlers lived as the **Native Americans** had lived. The land provided them with everything they needed for food, shelter, and clothing.



Sheep need the land to graze. Then they can provide people with wool.

In their gardens the English farmers grew corn, beans, and squash, just as the Mohawks had done. They hunted for game such as deer and rabbits in the forests. They also raised cows, pigs, chickens, geese, and sheep for wool to make clothing. They planted hay and oats to feed their animals. They used the same plants **Indians** used for medicine when they were sick. They also grew other plants they had brought from England.

Unlike the Mohawks, the settlers **cleared away** much of the forest to plant their crops and make their homes. They built their houses from whole trees that they cut. They also cut down many trees for **firewood** for heat and cooking. More trees were cut down as more people moved into the area. Within the next two centuries, most of the area's forests were gone.



The different tribes of the Iroquois people who lived in New York State had a well-organized government. The tribes met and made their laws together.

clear away

A remove sth

B make sth empty

C make sth clean

Key: A

Chapter 3

Family Ties

By the 1800s most of the Greenfield Center land was owned by the Dunham family. The Dunhams were my great-great-grandparents. They bought the land for farming and for wood cutting in the forest areas that were left.

While living there, they built a sawmill and a cider mill. A sawmill is a place where logs are cut to make boards for building. A cider mill is where apples are pressed and turned into juice.



My great-great-grandparents with my
great-grandmother Marion Edna Dunham