



Impact Statement

Ariana Yaelis Vasquez Rosete, Grade 9

The Mother of Nations, 2026

Graphite, marker on paper, 17 x 12 inches

James M. Steele Early College High School, Roanoke, TX

Unsung Hero: Jigonsassee

I chose Jigonsassee because she brought people together and planned for all the tribes to unite and be welcoming. I always try to be a person who is welcoming to others and makes them feel like they are cared for. I admire Jigonsassee because she brought together different nations and gained their trust. She has kindness, wisdom, and courage and that led her to being respected by others for being such an affectionate person.

Jigonsassee is part of the Iroquois tribe and was honored with the name of “The Mother of Nations,” for bringing together different nations. She always welcomed people and gave them resources to survive even though they were not a part of her people. Her dream was to end the wars between the different nations and make a united confederacy. After she gained the people's trust, she convinced the people to create a confederacy, which was the most important political and economic power in North America. The confederacy that was made from her inspiration, also inspired the creation of the United States constitution. The certain research ideas that inspired my project was the title she gained, “The Mother of Nations” and how she united the nations and cared so much about the people around her.

I drew Jigonsassee holding a baby to express the fact that she is called “The Mother of Nations. On the blanket wrapped around the baby you can see the symbols/shapes of the Haudenosaunee people; she cared for all the nations and not just her own. She is nurturing the baby, like how she gave resources to people in need and had so much kindness in her heart to help everyone. In the background of my art piece there is a circle in the shape of a turtle, and you can also see a bear, eel, a bird, and lastly, humans. These are the animals that represent the different characteristics of the Haudenosaunee tribes, the turtle is for supporting earth, the bear for protection and leadership, the eel for water and reaction and humans for peace and unity. The circle shape shows a sense of unity and the fact that Jigonsassee wanted to bring people together and that is exactly what she did. The earth and the people on it were the most important things to her so I made sure to incorporate a big turtle and people. I also added some tribal patterns in the back because she cared so much for her tribe and being able to bring them together.

Researching Jigonsassee made me realize that even if people are different in many ways, we should always love and care for each other. Caring for everyone brings us all closer together and a step closer to peace. When others look at my art piece, I want them to feel how much Jigonsassee cared for everyone around her and that she achieved her goal of unity. I also want

the world to know that we should not ignore the past and bring back the peace that once was there.

References:

<https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/arteffect/artwork/jigonhsasee>

<https://meherrinnation.org/culture/regalia/>

<https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/symbols/>