



Long before the first Europeans arrived the Lenape inhabited the region they called Lenapehoking, which stretched from southern New York all the way through Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey down to Delaware. “**Lenape**” – properly pronounced “Leh-NAH-pay” – means “Indian” or “man.” These were the residents William Penn encountered when he arrived in 1682. They farmed and hunted here for millennia before Europeans forced most of them into Ohio and then further west. They left a number of their place names behind. These are some of those names and what they mean.

**ARAMINGO** - The now-vanished stream in modern Northern Liberties “Tumanaraming,” or “wolf walk,” for wolves that thronged the area.

**CONSHOHOCKEN** - The borough beside the Schuylkill River was once known as “Gueno-sheiki-hacking,” which means “pleasant valley.”

**KINGSESSING** - The Lenape called this part of Southwest Philly “Chingsessing,” or “the place where there is a meadow.”

**MANAYUNK** - “place where we go to drink.”

**MOYAMENSING** - An early village south of what was then Philly proper either means “place of judgment” or “pigeon excrement.”

**NESHAMINY** - The mall and the creek take their names from the Lenape “Nischam-hanne,” meaning “double ream.”

**PASSYUNK** - This neighborhood took its name from that Lenape village “Pachsegink” meant “in the valley” or “place between the hills.”

**PENNYPACK** - The park, the creek and the neighborhood are from the Lenape word pēnēpēkw, for “downward-flowing water.”

**PERKASIE** - A creek and a town, it was originally “Poekskossing,” or “where the hickory nuts were cracked.”

**PERKIOMEN** - Township, creek, trail, bridge – all from “Pakihmomink,” or “where the cranberries grow.”

**POQUESSING** - “The place of the mice” is now a creek and a street.

**SHACKAMAXON** - “Place of the council.” now in Fishtown, is home to Penn Treaty Park, where William Penn signed his peace agreement with Lenape chief Tamanend.

**SKIPPACK** - A creek, a pike, a township, all with a name that was originally “Skappeu-hacki,” or “wet land.”

**SUSQUHANNA** - The river takes its name from “Siskēwahane,” meaning “mile wide, foot deep.”

**TULPEHOCKEN** - A creek and a SEPTA station, and street in Germantown means “land of the turtles”; a Lenape clan was the Turtle Clan.

**WISSAHICKON** - The valley, avenue and creek all take their name from “wisameckham,” meaning “catfish stream.”