Which is more important?

Analytical/Persuasive Essay

Name _____

In *The Sign of the Beaver*, the men in Attean's tribe were hunters. They went on great hunts and brought back animals to feed and clothe the tribe. It was the women, or "squaws," who had the task of cleaning, preparing, preserving, cooking the meat, and utilizing the rest of the animal. The squaws also grew, picked, and stored vegetables and fruits. They made clothes, shoes, mats, and blankets for the tribe.

Attean considered "squaw work" to be unimportant and rather menial. It was the work of the hunters that he admired and considered to be of prime importance. Matt, living alone, did "squaw work" each day. Although Attean looked scornfully upon him as he did these daily activities, Matt realized these chores were critical for his survival. When Matt had the chance to visit Attean's village, he looked on with admiration at the efficiency and ingenuity at which the squaws performed their work. Attean did not share this same admiration.

Which role do you think is more important? The hunters who brought back meat or the squaws who grew, picked, cleaned, and prepared the food and utilized the rest of the animal? Are the roles equally important? Think about the roles men and women played in Attean's tribe and write an essay to share your opinion. Use ideas and information from the book and your own experiences to support your opinion.

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