

## Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

*(Oklahoma Social Studies Standards, OSDE)*

**Tribe: Miami Tribe of Oklahoma**

**Tribal websites:** <http://www.miamination.com>

### 1. Migration/movement/forced removal

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.3** *“Integrate visual and textual evidence to explain the reasons for and trace the migrations of Native American peoples including the Five Tribes into present-day Oklahoma, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and tribal resistance to the forced relocations.”*

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.7** *“Compare and contrast multiple points of view to evaluate the impact of the Dawes Act which resulted in the loss of tribal communal lands and the redistribution of lands by various means including land runs as typified by the Unassigned Lands and the Cherokee Outlet, lotteries, and tribal allotments.”*

- Original Homeland - the Great Lakes region where their homelands lie within the boundaries of the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, lower Michigan and lower Wisconsin.
- Location in Oklahoma – Far northeastern Oklahoma in an area which includes the Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Ottawa, Modoc, Peoria, Quapaw, and Wyandotte Tribes of Oklahoma
- In the Miami language they are myaamia – the downstream people. Today you will hear the name pronounced Miami, a derivation of their traditional name. They originate from the Great Lakes region where their homelands lie within the boundaries of the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, lower Michigan and lower Wisconsin.
- They were among the nations exposed to early European contact, first through the Jesuit mission in the late 1600s, followed soon after by the French and British invasion and struggle for control of the Great Lakes region. In those days they numbered into tens of thousands. The following years of struggle toward the establishment of the United States of America is a history that includes, by necessity, accounts of the efforts of their people to retain their homeland and connection to that landscape. Stories of their Chiefs and War Chiefs, their wisdom, victories and defeats, are all recorded in history. They are known.

- The treaty period was devastating, marked by the massive cession of lands required at the Greenville Treaty of 1795. It was the vicious tenacity of the early leaders of this country that led to President Andrew Jackson signing the Indian Removal Act of 1830, an action that set in motion a chain of events that would alter their place and people forever. The Treaty of 1840 called for the removal of the Miami Tribe to regions beyond the Mississippi. After many attempts to avoid this devastating move, in October of 1846 their ancestors, numbering 500 souls, were herded at gunpoint and forced onto canal boats to begin the long journey down the Erie Canal system from eastern Indiana to the Ohio River. The remaining journey called for the use of steam boats to take their people west, down the Ohio River to the Mississippi, up to the Missouri and across to Westport Landing near Kansas City. From that landing their ancestors made their way south by horseback and wagon to a reserve held for them in the land of the Kaw people, near modern day La Gygne, Kansas. Their people remained in Kansas until the Treaty of 1867 called for their removal again, this time to Indian Territory, known today as Oklahoma. Upon arrival in Indian Territory their nation numbered fewer than 100 adults.
- The Dawes Act once again disrupted the communal patterns of the Miami people by dissolving their tribal land base. Following the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, the tribe's first Constitution was enacted (1939).

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider:

<http://www.okhistory.org/research/indianrecs>

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider for Indian Removal information:

<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/i/in015.html>

The Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Indian.html>

Oklahoma Indian Country Guide, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department  
[NIE 2011 OK Indian Country Guide\[\[1\].pdf](#)

## 2. Maps

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.3** *“Integrate visual and textual evidence to explain the reasons for and trace the migrations of Native American peoples including the Five Tribes into present-day Oklahoma, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and tribal resistance to the forced relocations.”*

- Tribal lands after 1830



### 3. Population Past/Present

- Total tribal enrollment: 3,800
- Membership criteria: Membership is restricted to those who are lineal descendants of original tribal enrollees. Unlike most tribes in the nation, the Miami do not list a blood quantum of any amount for tribal members.

### 4. Government; Chiefs vs Chairman; Elected or Paternal

**US Government C3 Standard 3.4** "Summarize and explain the relationships and the responsibilities between national and state governments including tribal and local governments."

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard** "The student will analyze the formation and development of constitutional government in Oklahoma. 1) Compare and contrast the development of governments among the Native American tribes, the movement for the state of Sequoyah. 2) Describe and summarize attempts to create a state constitution joining Indian and Oklahoma Territories including the impact of the Progressive and Labor Movements resulting in statehood on November 16, 1907."

- Tribal Government leadership

*Aacimwaki- Elected leaders* The General Council is the governing body of the Nation and that Council, under authority of the Miami Constitution. They elect five Tribal members to serve as the Tribe's Business Committee, conducting the day to day affairs of the Nation on behalf of their citizens. These positions are akima (Chief), niisonaminki akima (Second Chief), aacimwa (Secretary-Treasurer), aacimwa (First Councilperson), and aacimwa (Second Councilperson)

## 5. Language Group

***Oklahoma History C3 Standard 4.1*** “Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the United States policy of assimilation of the Native Americans in Oklahoma including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the effects of the Indian Boarding Schools (1880s-1940s) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”

### **Miami language**

The Myaamia language is blessed to have highly proactive leadership in terms of its revitalization amongst community members. The Myaamia Project [www.myaamiaproject.org](http://www.myaamiaproject.org) is led by Miami tribal member Daryl Baldwin. The Myaamia Center is located on the campus of Miami University of Ohio and is funded by the tribe. Numerous Miami citizens attend the university where they are immersed in Miami language instruction and culture. The tribe also offers numerous community classes and camps in Oklahoma for tribal members. The extensive language website is a large support piece for all tribal members.

## 6. Cultural Identifiers – i.e. Mound Builders; Plains

***Oklahoma History C3 Standard 4.1*** “Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the United States policy of assimilation of the Native Americans in Oklahoma including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the effects of the Indian Boarding Schools (1880s-2013) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”

Like many tribal communities across Oklahoma and the United States, some members of the Miami attended Indian boarding schools. The nearby Seneca Indian School included members of the Miami Tribe within their student population.

The Miami people subscribe to the following value system:

Miikinki – Give of yourself for the benefit of our people and the future generation. Recognize your gifts may not be realized until after you leave this place.

Kweehsitoonki – Respect those who have been here on this earth longer than you. Recognize the Creator made us all unique individuals and placed us here to walk our own individual yet intersecting paths.

Kihkeelintaakinki – Knowledge is strength and responsibility and meant to be used in ways that help others become strong. Recognize and respect the knowledge you hold as it was carefully handed to you from ancestors long ago. Take good care of that knowledge.

Teepaalitiinki – Love your family, your relatives, and your people – love yourself and those who gave you life.

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider for Boarding Schools:  
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/a/am012.html>

## 7. Fine arts

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 4.1** *“Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the United States policy of assimilation of the Native Americans in Oklahoma including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the effects of the Indian Boarding Schools (1880s-1940s) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”*

- Music -
- Art –

## 8. Significant events (ie. Massacres, Battles, Supreme Court cases...)

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.4C** *“Summarize the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction Treaties on Native American peoples, territories, and tribal sovereignty including the a) Required enrollment of the Freedmen, b) Second Indian Removal and the role of the Buffalo Soldiers, c) Significance of the Massacre at the Washita, d) Reasons for the reservation system, and e) Establishment of the western military posts of Fort Sill, Fort Supply, and Fort Reno.”*

From the end of the 1860s into the 1870s, many Myaamiaki were forced to leave their homes in Kansas and move to new lands to the south in Indian Territory (current-day Oklahoma). In northeastern Oklahoma, Myaamiaki were graciously allowed to find a new home on lands that the Osage and Quapaw people had called their own for generations. In addition to living with the Quapaw and Osage, the Myaamia found

themselves living next to other tribes who were originally from the Great Lakes region: the Wyandot, Peoria, Ottawa, Seneca-Cayuga, and Shawnee. This relocation brought the Miami people back full circle amongst those who prior to the disruption of their lifestyles, were once their trade partners, allies, and even relatives.

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider:

<http://www.okhistory.org/research/indianrecs>

## 9. Current Information on tribe

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma currently publishes Atotankiki Myaamiaki (Miami Nation Newspaper), runs the Miami Business & Regulatory Commission (MBRC) (which includes car tags), an education office, childcare development program, community health initiatives, elder food program, environmental office, housing and social services departments, tribal historic preservation office, a tribal court system, as well as various economic development initiatives. The tribe is located in their namesake of Miami, Oklahoma.

## 10. Other information (i.e. Elder testimonials; Guest speakers; Literature; Famous Tribal members...)

Miami Literature Examples:

- *Myaamia Language Dictionary- Daryl Baldwin*

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is one of two Miami tribes in the United States. The other, the Miami Nation of Indiana, can be found at [www.miamiindians.org](http://www.miamiindians.org)

Famous tribal members

Daryl Baldwin (language advocate/professor)- Daryl, along with his wife and children, have been highly instrumental in the revitalization of the Myaamia language amongst his tribal community.

### Sources:

[www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)

Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma Indian Country Guide, OK Tourism and Recreation Department *One State, Many Nations*

The Library of Congress