

Shawnee Tribe

(Oklahoma Social Studies Standards, OSDE)

Tribe: Shawnee Tribe (shaw-nee)

Tribal website(s): www.shawnee-tribe.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 Shawnee tribe originally inhabited lands across nearly all of the woodlands of the eastern states. Historical records them living as far north as Pennsylvania, in the Virginian colonial areas, into the woodlands of the Ohio River valley as well as deep into the southern states of Georgia and Alabama. The Shawnee called over twenty states “home”.

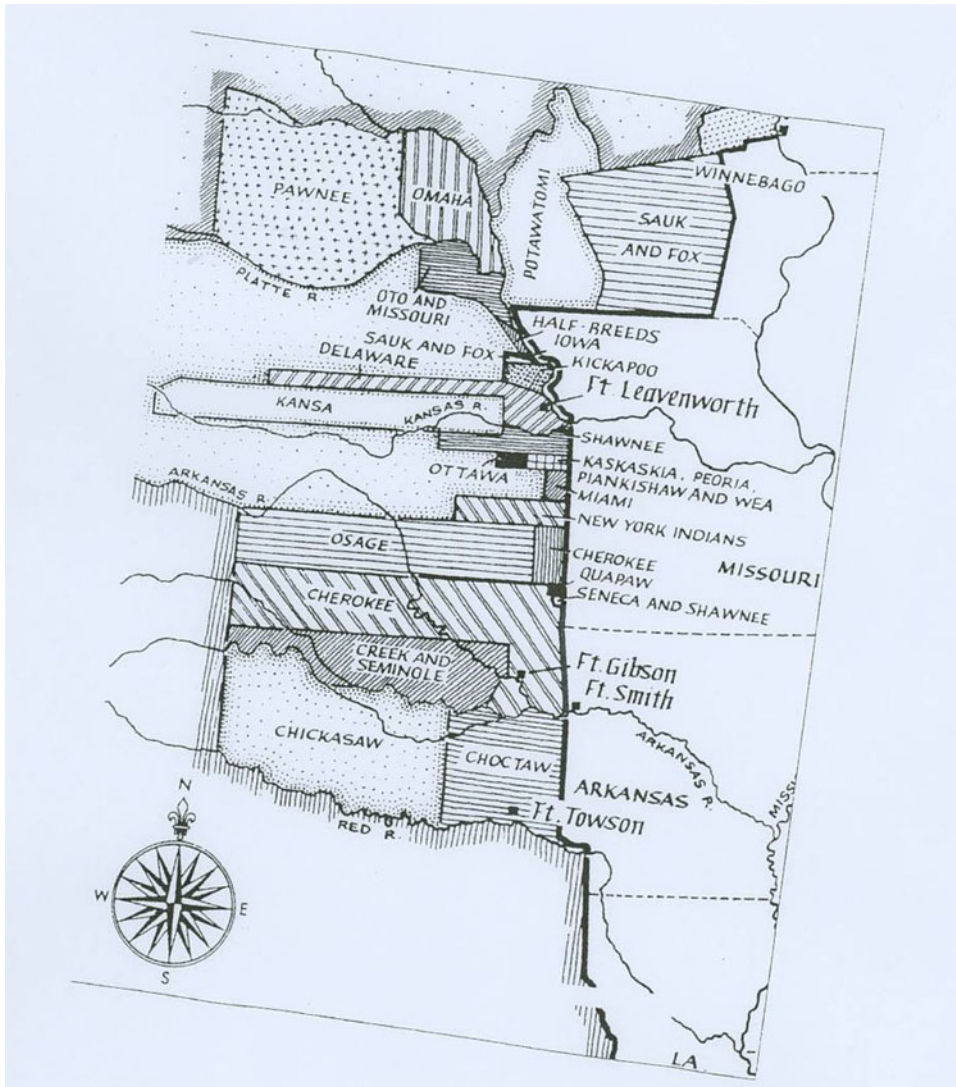
The Iroquois drove them out of the western Pennsylvania woodlands in the 1600s. They scattered deep into the Carolinas, Tennessee’s Cumberland Basin, eastern Pennsylvania, and southern Illinois. By 1730, most of the Shawnee had moved back to their original lands within the Ohio valley and woodlands.

After the War of 1812, Shawnees were forced to move into “reserves” in Ohio’s northwest. This lasted until forced removal into the Kansas Territory in 1830. The people that would become the tribe now known as the Shawnee Tribe settled in the Shawnee Mission area of Johnson County, Kansas. The Shawnees of northeast Kansas became conscripts in the Union’s Civil War armies and upon arriving home found their lands filled with white settlers squatting on their property. By 1869, the resulting tensions eventually forced the removal of the Shawnee into the Indian Territory that would become the state of Oklahoma.



Location in Oklahoma:

The Shawnee Tribe is located in the upper northeast part of Oklahoma. Their tribal offices located in Miami, Oklahoma.

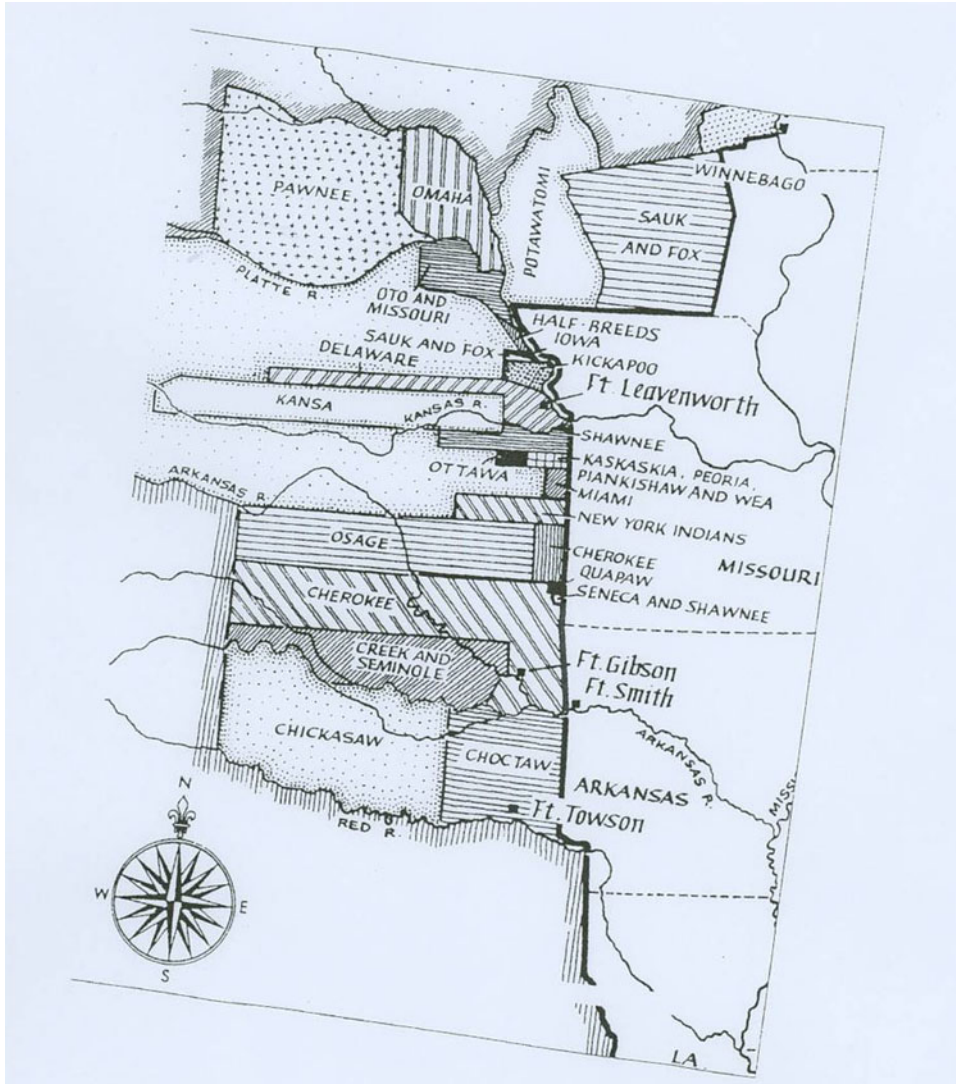


2. Maps

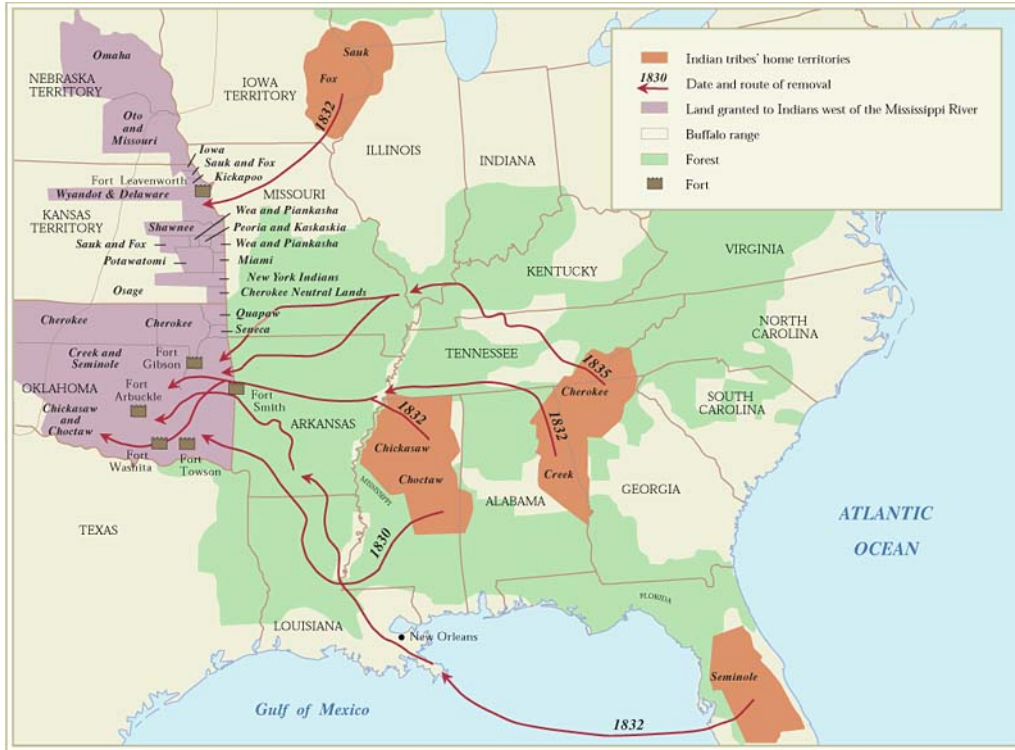
Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.3 “Integrate visual and textual evidence to explain the reasons for and trace the migrations of Native American peoples including the Five Tribes into present-day Oklahoma, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and tribal resistance to the forced relocations.”

Map of tribal hometowns before 1869

The United States removed the Shawnees Kansas and given 2 million acres to live upon. The United States later reduced the Shawnee allotment to a much smaller parcel that eventually led to their removal from Kansas to Cherokee lands within Oklahoma in 1869.



Removal Route – Shawnees did not experience a single removal, but rather consistent pressure from encroachment to move further and further west. Politically well-connected land brokers were selling lands that had been protected by treaties resulting in tensions between Shawnees and settlers. Ever land hungry, the United States policy towards native lands continued to pressure Shawnees out of the Virginia and Carolina woodlands, the Cumberland, and Pennsylvania. Following the Shawnee involvement in a failed pan-Native uprising during the War of 1812 led by the war-chief Tecumseh, the Shawnee were located into reserves in northwest Ohio. In 1830, the Shawnee people that would eventually become known as The Shawnee Tribe, were forced into Kansas. Kansas would be home only for a short period. By 1869, Shawnees were forced into Oklahoma onto lands belonging to the Cherokees.



Tribal lands after 1869

3. Population Past/Present

- Total tribal enrollment – 2,500
- Tribal enrollment in Oklahoma – 1,500

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

- Elected Tribal Business Council
 - Council Members
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Second Chief
 - Chief

Government

www.shawnee-tribe.com/History.html.

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.”

The Shawnee tribe language comes from the Algonquian dialect. It is closely related to Mesquakie-Sauk (Sac and Fox) and Kickapoo. While some historians have commented that the Shawnee refer to the Delaware as their Grandfathers, linguistically, the Delaware is an eastern Algonquian dialect sharing only some resemblance to Shawnee. The linguistic and historical background for the Shawnees is presented in the “Absentee Shawnee” entry. Some Shawnees remained in Ohio but moved during the 1830’s to Kansas after the passage of the Indian Removal Act. In 1869 the Ohio Shawnees formally joined the Cherokee Nation in northeastern Indian Territory.

6. Cultural Identifiers - ie. 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-1940s) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”*

The Shawnees continue their traditional ceremonies on an annual cycle, centered at White Oak, Oklahoma. In the spring, women and men participate in ritual preparations at their camps as a part of the Bread Dance. Women select the date for the encampment and make the bread for the Bread Dance. A social dance commonly referred to as a “stomp dance” concludes the activities.

In midsummer, the Shawnee celebrate the Green Corn Dance as part of their ceremonial season. The Green Corn Dance is not performed at the other Shawnee grounds.

In autumn, the Shawnee again gather for the last Bread Dance of the annual cycle. It is much like the spring dance. The Shawnee also have many ceremonial and social dances that they continues to practice such as a Buffalo Dance, “Go Get’em” Dance, Stirrup Dance and many others.

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

The Shawnee Tribe have Green Corn Dances, Bread Dance, and Buffalo dances, which have singers at a water- drum singing traditional songs. The singers may also accompany the drum with gourd rattles.

Art

Historically, Shawnee constructed many items that we would consider art today. Silverwork, stonework, weaving were all known to the Shawnee. Shawnee baskets were known for their tight weave with some boasting they could hold water.

There are a great many contemporary artists among the Shawnee. Some examples are:

Ruthe Blalock Jones – renowned, award-winning painter and printer maker

Heidi Bigknife – sculptor and jeweler

Yvonne Chouteau – world famous prima ballerina, one of Oklahoma’s “Five Moons”

8. Significant events (i.e. 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.”

The United States signed a treaty with the Shawnees in October 1868 and consented to pay them for livestock and other property that soldiers had seized during the war. The Shawnees and Delawares left Kansas and moved to northeastern Oklahoma after the Civil War. The Shawnees settled near White Oak and Vinita in Craig County, Oklahoma. Both tribes signed a June 7, 1869, treaty placing themselves under the jurisdiction of the Cherokee Nation, within whose boundaries they resided. The Cherokees pledged to include the Shawnees in allotments. The Shawnees paid \$50,000 to the Cherokees to be able to reside within the Cherokee allotment. The federal government hoped that the incorporation would reward the Shawnees for fidelity while punishing the Cherokees for Confederate sympathies. In spite of legal incorporation in the Cherokee Nation, the Shawnees maintained their own cultural traditions and political identity.

The 145 Shawnees received a federal payment in the early 1930s for their tribal losses during the Civil War. They finally won a judgment in 1959. After that effort, the Shawnees formed the “Loyal” Shawnee tribal business committee as their official tribal entity in a December 1960.

Beginning an official resolution to the Cherokee Nation in 1996, Loyal Shawnees sought separation from the Cherokee Nation. The state of Oklahoma recognized the Shawnee Tribe in 1999 and Public Law 106-568 (Title VII) at the end of 2000 granted federal acknowledgement. After 132 years within the Cherokee Nation, the Loyal Shawnees were once again an independent tribe.

The Shawnee Tribe became a separately federally recognized tribe when Congress enacted the legislation known as Public Law 106-568, or the Shawnee Tribe Status Act of 2000, and President Clinton signed it as one of his final acts in office on December 28, 2000. The Congressional Act recognizing the Shawnee Tribe formally acknowledged that Shawnee Nation would no longer be referred to as the “Loyal” Shawnee, “Cherokee” Shawnee, “Kansas” Shawnee, or the “Ohio” Shawnee, names that had been earned from their during their multiple forced migrations.

Oklahoma Historical Society: <http://www.okhistory.org/research/indianrecs>

9. Current Information on tribe

www.shawnee-tribe.com

10. Other information (ie. Elder testimonials; Guest speakers; Literature; Famous Tribal members...)

Ruthe Blalock Jones, long time Indian art instructor at Bacone College in Muskogee.

Tecumseh, Shawnee War-chief (1768-1813)

Tenskwatawa, Shawnee Religious leader (1768-1836)

Black Hoof, Shawnee Chief (1731-1831)

Blue Jacket, Shawnee Chief (1745-1810)

Cornstalk, Shawnee Chief (1720-1777)

“Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.”

~Chief Tecumseh

Resources

- www.digital.library.okstate.edu
- www.shawnee-tribe.com
- www.Britannica.com
- www.touring-ohio.com

Clark, Blue. Indian Tribes of Oklahoma. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman. 2009

Sources:

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](#)

Oklahoma Historical Society

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

Shawnee Tribe website

The Library of Congress