

COMANCHE NATION
Tribal Headquarters: Lawton, OK



A brief history

During the 1700s the Comanche were renowned horsemen who defended their territory in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico from all intruders. Their reputation throughout the Southern Plains led to their being known as the "Lords of the Plains."

By the 1830s westward expansion of Europeans and Americans threatened their way of life. In the 1867 Treaty of Medicine Lodge with the U.S., the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reserved 3 million acres for themselves to live on for the promise of protection and the provision of schools, churches and annuities. In return the tribes granted 38.5 million acres to the U.S., agreed to permit railroads to cross their lands, and to cease raiding.

In 1892, the lands of KCA (as they became known) were further reduced by "allotting" 160-acre parcels to members in return for \$2 million and services to support their changed way of life as farmers and ranchers. Just over one half million acres of tribal lands were reserved in this way. Today there are 13,679 Comanche members, approximately 6,000 of whom live in the Ft. Sill area in Lawton, OK.

About the flag

The Comanche seal featured on the flag is round in the shape of the shield used by Comanche warriors in battle. The horseman represents the Red Man. Comanches are

recognized as excellent horsemen. The curved line dividing the blue and yellow shield represents a snake moving in a backward motion. According to the tribal historians the Comanche People were known as “snakes” in periods past. The yellow color represents the brightness of the sun and a state of happiness. The blue color represents loyalty. The red represents the heart of the Red Man and the blue/red combinations represent the “trade blanket” used by the Comanches in ceremonials. The flag dates back to the early 1990’s.

Educational Activity

How does the Comanche flag represent the tribe’s pre-European past and how is it symbolic of the tribe’s own history?