

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Tribal Headquarters: Okmulgee, OK



A brief history

The Muscogee (Creek) people are descendants of a remarkable culture that spanned the southeast region of the United States. They were not one tribe but a union of many which some historians have described as “the most sophisticated political organization north of Mexico.”

Member tribes were called “tribal towns.” Within this political structure each tribal town maintained political autonomy and distinct land holdings. The confederacy was dynamic in its capacity to expand as populations increased, as other tribes were conquered, or fragment groups devastated by Europeans were incorporated. Within the confederacy the language and culture of the founding tribal towns became dominant.

Early 19th century U.S. Indian policy focused on the removal of the Muscogee and other southeastern tribes to areas beyond the Mississippi River. The U.S. Army enforced the removal of more than 20,000 Muscogee (Creeks) to Indian Territory in 1836-1837. The American Civil War was disastrous for the Muscogee. Their desired neutrality proved impossible and many citizens fought on both the Union and Confederate sides. In the Treaty of 1866 the Muscogee ceded 3.2 million acres to the U.S.

The Muscogee adopted a written constitution in 1867 and established their capital on the Deep Fork of the Canadian River at Okmulgee, OK. In the 1970s the Muscogee adopted a

new constitution and revitalized their National Council supported by U.S. Supreme Court decision that affirmed the nation's sovereign rights to maintain a national court system and levy taxes. Today there are more than 52,000 tribal members.

About the flag

The Muscogee flag features the current rendition of the tribal Seal centered on a white field. An outer green band surrounding a shield is edged in a thick yellow cord on the outside with a thinner yellow border inside with "Great Seal of the Muscogee, I.T." featured around the shield. Featured in full color at its center is a plow in rich farmland, a sheaf of wheat and a background of green and gold fields. The background features a typical late afternoon Oklahoma sky – billowing with a reddish cloud edged in white.

Educational Activity

The American Civil War led to the removal of the Muscogee. Their desired neutrality proved impossible, and many citizens fought on both the Union and Confederate sides. Use the newspaper to find current events similar to the Civil War happening across the world. What groups of people are being affected?