

KICKAPOO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Tribal Headquarters: McLoud, OK

A brief history

The Kickapoo come from the large prehistoric Algonquian group and are closely related to the Sauk and Fox with whom they share similar language and customs. Their beginnings were in modern day Wisconsin and Michigan. The tribe moved in the 16th and 17th centuries into Illinois and Indiana, and with the influx of white settlers in the 1800s, and as a result Black Hawk's War, they were forced by the U.S. to move to Missouri and then to Kansas following a treaty with the U.S. in 1854. From here two bands left for Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and Mexico. They called themselves *Kiikaapoi* (pronounced Ki-we-ga-paw) which means "He moves about standing now here, now there."

The Kickapoo came to Oklahoma in 1873. Today there are 3,360 enrolled members with land holdings totaling 6,200 acres just east of Oklahoma City. They formed a government under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1937. To this day those in Oklahoma maintain regular contact with the Kickapoo of Texas.

About the flag

Because of its traditional religion the Kickapoo disapproves of the public display of the symbols on their flag. Their flag is not flown at their tribal offices or at the State Capital's tribal flag plaza. The pole representing the Kickapoo remains bare. This is why their flag is not pictured here. The flag may be seen inside the tribal offices in McLoud, OK.

The flag consists of the Kickapoo tribal Seal centered on a buff field. The black seal consists of a round outer-band on which the words "Great Seal of the Kickapoo Nation" appears around the top with "Oklahoma" across the bottom. In the center of the Seal is an oval shield featuring a traditional tribal meeting house. Three black and white eagle feathers hang from it representing the three tribal subgroups. Behind the shield is an arrow with the head facing left.

Educational Activity

The Kickapoo Nation does not put their flag on public display. Using the description above, draw what you think the flag looks like.