

**OTOE-MISSOURIA TRIBE**  
Tribal Headquarters: Red Rock, OK



**A brief history**

The Otoe-Missouria were once part of a greater nation that comprised what is now the Ho-chunk (Winnebago), Iowa, and the two current tribal entities – the Otoe and the Missouri. As the ancient great tribe was forced further south and west from their original homes around the Great Lakes, they broke apart, slowly forming the current nations. By the time of the white man's appearance, the four distinct nations were in existence.

**About the flag**

The bear, eagle, beaver, bison, deer, owl and pigeon are the clan totems of the Otoe-Missouria of Oklahoma. These symbols comprise the basis of the Seal of the tribe found at the center of their white tribal flag.

The seven creatures ring a prayer feather in the center of the Otoe-Missouria seal. All appear in natural colors. Ringing the totems is a serrated band of inner yellow triangles and outer red triangles. Beyond this in black lettering is the wording "Seal of the Otoe Missouri Tribe." The wording is highlighted by thin black lines forming the outer edge of the seal and running behind the words. At the top of the seal are feather decorations similar to those worn as warrior headdresses. A member of the tribe designed the entire seal, but it is not known whether the flag was adopted via resolution. It has become the de facto flag and seal of the tribe through common usage.

## **Educational Activity**

The animals on the Otoe-Missouri tribal flag are clan totems. What are totems? What is their significance in native tribes?