

## PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS

Tribal Headquarters: Miami, OK



### **A brief history**

The Peorias began as a band of the Illinois Indians who are descendants of those who created the great mound civilizations in the central U.S. two to three thousand years ago. During the 1830s the Peoria's were forced from their traditional lands in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri by the spreading tide of Europeans and Americans. In 1854 the tribe joined with the Kaskaskia (another Illinois band) and the Wea and Painkashaws (two Miami bands) to form one tribe.

The four bands originally relocated to Missouri to escape the encroaching settlers. The bands moved to Kansas and formally united as the Confederated Peoria. Due to increased pressure by settlers in the 1840s and 1850s followed by the Civil War most of the Confederated Peoria decided to move to Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma functions under a constitution revised in 1997 and serves over 2,600 members.

### **About the flag**

The flag of the Peoria features a red disc or circle at the center which symbolizes the suffering their ancestors withstood. Five white feathers with black tips hang from the bottom of the disc, representing the five elected members of the Peoria Tribal Business Committee. Inside the red disc is a large white arrowhead which is pointing downward symbolizing peace.

Laying over the disc and arrow are four different colored arrows in the shape of an overlapping X. The top arrow pointing up and right is turquoise for the "Painkasaws" and the soil; the bottom arrow pointing up and right is red for the "Peorias and the sun; the top arrow pointing up and left is a darker blue for the "Weas" and water; and the bottom arrow pointing up and left is green for the "Kaskaskias" and the grass and trees.

### **Educational Activity**

The Peoria's are descendants of the peoples who created the great mound civilizations in the U.S. two or three thousand years ago. Research where these mounds are located. What were they used for?