

## WICHITA & AFFILIATED TRIBES

Tribal Headquarters: Anadarko, OK



### A brief history

The Wichita are a confederacy formed from the Panis, Piques, Taovayas, Guichitas, Tawakonis, Kichais, and Wacos who occupied the southern plains (current day Oklahoma and Texas). They called themselves *Kitikit'sh* (Kirikirish) which means "Raccoon-eyed," most likely because of their tattooed faces. The Wichita lived in unique grass covered, dome shaped houses in villages where they planted corn, beans and squash.

The Wichita first met Europeans when the Spanish explorer Coronado encountered them in 1541 and eventually set up Missions to Christianize the aborigines. During the early 1800s the population of the Wichita dropped considerably from disease, and when Texas became a Republic in 1836 hostilities of the settlers forced the Wichita northward. During the Civil War the Confederate Army forced the Wichita to move toward what is now Wichita, KS. They eventually ceded these lands to the U.S. government in 1872 and moved south into Indian Territory to a new reservation.

Today, the Wichita lands are located in the northern half of Caddo County, as well as parts of Grady, Custer, Blaine, Canadian and Washita Counties in Oklahoma. The tribe serves more than 2,300 members.

## **About the flag**

The new flag of the Wichita has parts of the tribal seal centered in a royal blue field covering three-fourths of the right side. In the center of this part is a traditional Wichita grass house with a campfire inside the doorway. Arching above the house are seven four-pointed yellow stars. Above the stars the word "Kitkit-ees" is also in yellow. Below the house is a sacred brown pipe with a red bowl with four feathers hanging from it. There are five horizontal blue stripes separated by four horizontal red stripes, separated from the blue field to the right by a thin vertical red line. Inside the four red stripes are the four tribes of the confederacy – "Kitikitee," "Waco," "Kechi" and "Tawakoni."

## **Educational Activity**

Describe how the tribe lived and adapted as the country changed. What does the tribe look like today?