



Native American Tribes: Pawnee



Pawnee earth lodge

The Pawnee are a tribe of Native Americans from the Great Plains. They originally lived near the Missouri River, in Nebraska and Kansas.

The Pawnees traditionally lived much of the year in villages of large earth lodges. These lodges were built with wooden frames and could hold 30-50 people. While living in the villages, the women of the tribe would grow crops of corn, beans and squash.



A Pawnee camp in Nebraska



Pawnee Chief Petalesharro about 1822

During hunting season in the summer and winter, the Pawnee would leave the lodges and go on buffalo hunts. While on a hunt, they would live in hide tents, called tipis.

Because of their location, the Pawnee did not have much contact with Europeans until about 1830. After that time, however, the tribe had a difficult time. They were often attacked by the neighboring Lakota and Cheyenne tribes. The tribe also was exposed to European diseases, such as measles and smallpox. The tribe lost many members to war and disease.

In 1874, after being located on a reservation in Nebraska, the tribe asked to be moved to the Oklahoma Indian territory. Today there are about 3,200 Pawnee members who live in Oklahoma.



Quick Quiz

What were the two types of houses that the Pawnee lived in?

Earth lodges and tipis

What did the Pawnee farmers grow?

Corn, beans and squash

Where do the Pawnee live today?

Oklahoma

What were two diseases that affected the Pawnee?

Measles and smallpox

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about the Pawnee. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

N E B R A S K A
14 5 2 16 1 19 11 1

Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	