

Native American Tribes: Choctaw



Sketch of Choctaw men in 1853 in Indian Territory

The Choctaw are a Native American tribe originally from the southeastern U.S. The tribe are descendants of earlier tribes in the area. They developed into a separate tribe in the 1700s. The Choctaw organized themselves into different clans, lead by chiefs. These clans aligned themselves with certain totems or spirit animals, such as Panther, Wolf, and Deer, Bird, Raccoon, and Crawfish. The Choctaw owned valuable land in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama.



P.P. Pitchlynn
Choctaw delegate to the U.S. government

In 1830, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit, the U.S. took the Choctaw lands away and left them with a choice. They could stay in the U.S., become citizens and receive a piece of land or they could move to Indian Territory and keep their tribal traditions. Almost 15,000 Choctaw chose to move. The movement to Indian Territory is called the Trail of Tears, since many Choctaw died along the way. Today, around 160,000 Choctaw live in Oklahoma, the former Indian Territory. The Choctaw used a game, called Choctaw stickball, to solve problems between different communities. A game of stickball might have up to 200 players. Choctaw stickball is North America's oldest field sport.



Painting of a Choctaw village in 1869

Q&A

List some of the Choctaw totem animals?

What was the movement of the Choctaw to Indian Territory called?

What game did the Choctaw play?

What state do many Choctaw live in today?



Secret Code Word

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

20 18 5 1 20 25

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	