



Native American Tribes: Shawnee



Shawnee leader Tecumseh

The Shawnee is a Native American tribe that lived in a large part of the eastern U.S. The tribe lived in areas from Illinois to Georgia and Missouri to New York.

Historians believe the tribe was part of the ancient “mound building” culture, which built large earth hills for important ceremonies and buildings. This culture goes back 1,000 years in the area where the Shawnee lived.

European explorers and settlers first met the Shawnee in the 1600s. The 1700s were a time of movement and war for the Shawnee. Many groups of Shawnee moved west to areas such as Ohio and Missouri. This brought them into conflict with other tribes. The tribe was a

partner in trade with the French, with whom they fought with against Colonial America in the French and Indian War in 1756-1763. By 1811, the Shawnee was in conflict with the government of the U.S. because they opposed American expansion onto Native American lands. They fought the Americans in a series of wars, which included the famous Battle of Tippecanoe. The U.S. eventually overcame the Shawnee. Many Shawnee moved to Texas and later to Oklahoma. Today there are around 14,000 people who claim Shawnee ancestors. Most of the tribe members live in Oklahoma.



Indian mound in the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois



Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811

Secret Code Word

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

____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _
13 15 21 14 4 19

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	

Quick Quiz

When was the famous Shawnee battle?

Where do the Shawnee live today?

Who did the Shawnee trade and fight with during the French and Indian War?

When did the Shawnee and Europeans first meet?