

# Indiana – Land of the Indians

## Key Objectives

In this unit students will learn about American Indian tribes in early Indiana and explore the causes of removal of three American Indian groups from Indiana, their resettlement during the 1830s, and what life is like today for these tribes.

## State Parks and Reservoirs Featured

- Pokagon State Park [stateparks.IN.gov/2973.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2973.htm)
- Tippecanoe River State Park [stateparks.IN.gov/2965.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2965.htm)
- Prophetstown State Park [stateparks.IN.gov/2971.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2971.htm)
- Mississinewa Lake [stateparks.IN.gov/2955.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2955.htm)

Activity:	Standards:	Benchmarks:	Assessment Tasks:	Key Concepts:
Home and Language	SS.4.1.2	Identify and describe historic Native American groups who lived in Indiana before the time of early European exploration, including ways that the groups adapted to and interacted with the physical environment.	Be able to name the various American Indian tribes who called Indiana home and where in the state they lived.	Indiana Indian tribes Indian removal Indiana rivers “Home” and what it means Indiana Indians today
	SS.4.3.9	Explain the importance of major transportation routes, including rivers, in the exploration, settlement and growth of Indiana, and in the state’s location as a crossroad of America.	Identify important rivers in Indiana and explain their value to people and parks across time.	
	ELA.4.RV.2.5	Consult reference materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and clarify the precise meanings of words and phrases.	Understand that the way we write and pronounce Indian words is different than how they may have originally been spoken.	
Disruption of Tribal Life	SS.4.1.5	Identify and explain the causes of the removal of Native American Indian groups in the state and their resettlement during the 1830s.	Be able to describe the reasons why the American Indians were removed and where they ended up settling, and understand the lifeways and landscape that were so important to American Indians living in Indiana before (and after) removal.	
What I Remember	ELA.4.W.3.3	Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that establish an introduction, with a context to allow the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience, organize events that unfold naturally, using meaningful paragraphing and transitional words and phrases, use dialogue and descriptive details to develop events and reveal characters’ personalities, feelings, and responses to situations, employ vocabulary with sufficient sensory (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) details to give clear pictures of ideas and events, provide an ending that follows the narrated experiences or events.	Understand what “home” means to different people, and be able to write/speak descriptively to share the significance of a place	

## Key Resources

### General Information

- The Ways: Great Lakes Native Culture and Language ([theways.org/about](http://theways.org/about)). This source can provide a view of contemporary life for native cultures today.
- “Historical Indians of Indiana” ([www.in.gov/dnr/kids](http://www.in.gov/dnr/kids))
- Ernest Spybuck, [www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections/results.aspx?hl=396](http://www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections/results.aspx?hl=396)  
This Shawnee artist created paintings and drawings in the early 1900s. His works give us a glimpse of Shawnee life after being removed to Oklahoma.

### Potawatomi

- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi History ([www.pokagon.com/our-culture/history](http://www.pokagon.com/our-culture/history))
- Potawatomi Trail of Death ([www.legendsofamerica.com/na-potawatomitraildeath.html](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/na-potawatomitraildeath.html))

**Miami**

- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma History ([www.miamination.com/newsite/?q=node/11](http://www.miamination.com/newsite/?q=node/11))
- A Cultural Exploration of the Myaamia Removal Route ([http://myaamiacenter.org/?page\\_id=235](http://myaamiacenter.org/?page_id=235))

**Delaware**

- Removal History of the Delaware Tribe
- (<http://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/historic-preservation/removal-history-of-the-delaware-tribe/>)

## Activity 1: Home and Language

### Activity Summary

Students will examine an online map that illustrates the general locations of American Indian tribes in the Northwest Territory before Indiana's statehood, and will compare those locations with where Indiana's state parks and lakes are located today. They will look at state park and lake names to identify local connections with the Indians who lived in those locations.

**Activity Length: 45 minutes**

### Background

Indigenous peoples, or Indians, have been in what became Indiana since 8,000 BCE, when the Ice Age ended with receding glaciers. These Paleo-Indians were nomadic hunter-gatherers. They used stone tools to hunt and prepare food and perform other daily tasks. Beginning in 5000 BCE we see the emergence of the **Archaic period**, characterized by advances in the use of tools. Next, we enter the **Woodland period**, characterized by the use of **pottery** and the beginnings of **agriculture**. Following the end of the Woodland period in 1000 CE we have the **Mississippian** culture making an appearance. The Mississippians built upon the advances of their predecessors and began to establish metropolitan areas. They are also the first peoples in the area to grow maize, a staple food crop.

Europeans first arrived in Indiana in the late 17th century. The first to arrive were French fur traders. The Beaver Wars were happening at this time, which was a conflict primarily between Algonquian and Iroquois over the trade in beaver pelts, trade in general, and ascendancy in the territory. This series of wars was brutal and bloody. The natives fled the area during the war and only returned after the war ended in 1701. The primary inhabitants were Miami and Potawatomi. But this period also witnesses the arrival of the Lenape

(or Delaware) from the east coast. They began being forced westward as more Europeans began to arrive.

The Miami are in the Algonquian language family. Indiana was home to several bands of Miami, including Wea and Piankashaw. Their territory included most of the northern portion of what is now Indiana. The Potawatomi came to Indiana by way of the Michigan territory, but migrated to Indiana at some point following the Beaver Wars. The Lenape sought refuge in Indiana from the Chesapeake Bay after intrusion on their land by Europeans. They found a new home in what is now Central Indiana. The Shawnee migrated to northeast Indiana from Ohio in the late 18th century. From there they found their way to the Vincennes area in search of better hunting opportunities. The Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa led a **confederation** of natives to try to win back their land and existence from the encroachment of Europeans. Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa took inspiration from the confederation that resisted the Americans in the late 18th century. These conflicts with Europeans eventually came to a head, resulting in the forced removal of the indigenous peoples of Indiana who had called this land home for thousands of years.

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### Vocabulary

**BCE:** this is an abbreviation for Before the Common Era, which means before year 1 of the Common Era. This designation corresponds with BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini).

**Archaic period:** this period in North America occurred from 8000 BCE to 2000 BCE. This designation for this period came from archaeologists in the 1950s.

**Woodland period:** this period corresponds to pre-Columbian North American cultures from approximately 1000 BCE to 1000 CE.

**Pottery:** items of artistic value and/or practical everyday use that are made from clay and baked in fire to harden.

**Agriculture:** the purposeful growing of plants for use as food and other products that support human life.

**Mississippian culture:** a culture of mound-builders who lived in North America from 900 to 1500 BCE.

**Confederation:** an organization that consists of a number of parties or groups united in an alliance or league.

### Materials Required

- The Peoples' Place Online Resources from The Eiteljorg Museum ([thepeoplesplace.eiteljorg.org/](http://thepeoplesplace.eiteljorg.org/))
- Map of present-day Indiana with state parks and lakes and key cities/ rivers identified. ([dnrmapping.dnr.in.gov/apps/sites\\_spr.htm](http://dnrmapping.dnr.in.gov/apps/sites_spr.htm))
- Matching game with American Indian words used in state parks and lakes

### Focus Questions

- How did Indiana get its name?
- Who lived here before Europeans arrived?
- What was daily life like for the people who lived in Indiana during this period?

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### Step-By-Step Directions

1. Review the online resource from The Eiteljorg Museum called "The People's Place." Ask students to each select one of the three periods identified and transfer the general locations of tribes to a present-day map of Indiana that shows all state parks and lakes. Which parks and lakes are located in or near the homelands of an American Indian tribe?
2. Ask each student to select one state park or lake property located in or near the homelands of an American Indian tribe and use that site's property map ([www.stateparks.IN.gov/2392.htm](http://www.stateparks.IN.gov/2392.htm)) to see if there are words or references to the Indians who lived

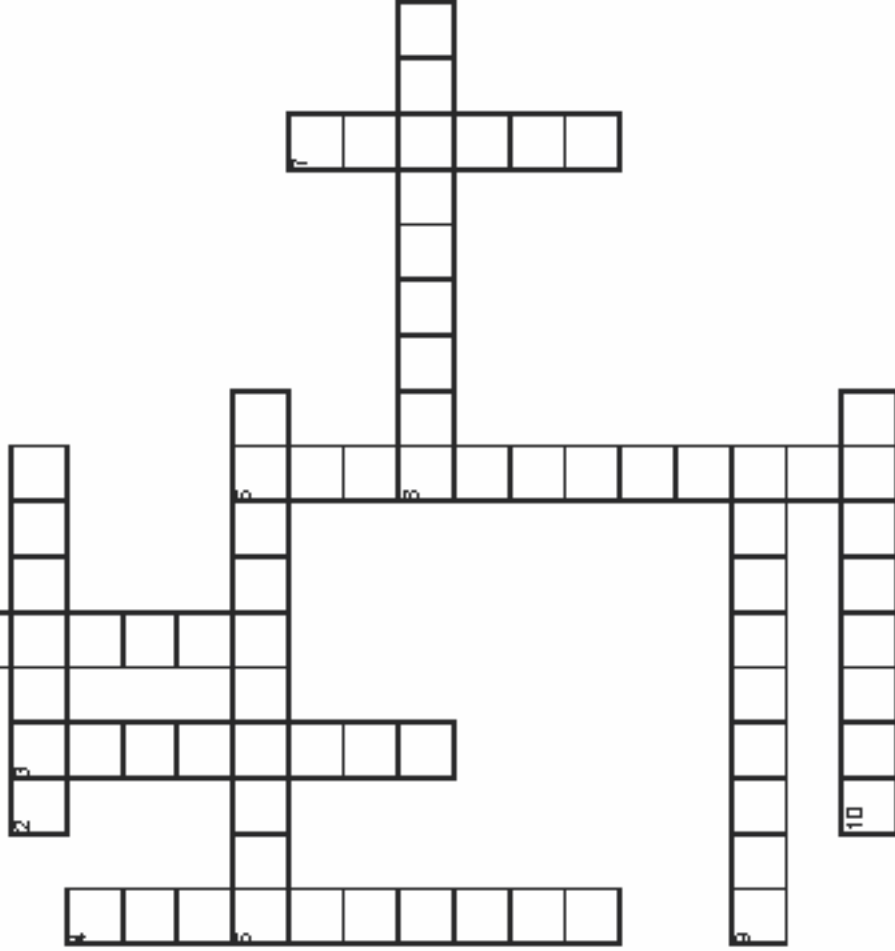
in that region of the state. Ask each student to write a short description of the property and what it might have looked like during the time that Indians lived there.

3. Several tribes are working to reclaim and teach their languages to young people today. Use the matching game to learn the meanings of several property names that have their roots in American Indian languages

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Land of the Indians

Read the meanings of the Indian words to fill in the crossword puzzle.



### Indian Words

- Mississinewa
- Patoka
- Pokagon
- Shakamak
- Lenape
- Tippecanoe
- Potawatomi
- Wyandotte
- Salamonie
- Ouabache

Created on [The Table is Corn Game Crossword Maker](#)

### Across

- Last name of Potawatomi tribal leaders (7 letters)
- Keepers of the Fire--tribe name (10 letters)
- Yellow paint made from the bloodroot plant (9 letters)
- Dwellers on a peninsula-- Iroquois word (9 letters)
- River of the long fish-- Kickapoo word (8 letters)

### Down

- Log on bottom (6 letters)
- Water over white stones-- Miami word for Wabash (8 letters)
- Buffalo fish place-- Miami word (10 letters)
- Water on a slope (12 letters)
- Men among men (6 letters)

## Activity 2: A Disruption of Tribal Life

### Activity Summary

Students will look at what happened to three Indian tribes who lived in Indiana, how they were removed and what their lives are like today.

**Activity Length: 60 minutes over three to four days**

### Background

Over a period of about fifteen years beginning in 1830 indigenous tribes were forcibly removed from Indiana to territories further west. Indian removal was happening on a national scale with the passage of the Indian Removal Act by the United States Congress in 1830. The Wea and Shawnee saw the direction that things were headed and left the state voluntarily, leaving the Miami and the Potawatomi the two remaining tribes. The Wea and Shawnee experienced great hardships from pressures on hunting and land use directly related to American settlement. These groups escaped by moving west.

The Potawatomi village led by Chief Menominee resisted as long as possible. He and his village were removed along what is called the Potawatomi Trail of Death in 1838. Of the nearly 900 people removed around forty of them died along the journey. After the Trail of Death, the only natives left in the state were the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, having gained special permission from the government to remain in the Great Lakes. . In 1846, many of the Miami were removed by force. However, many stayed on land that they owned privately.

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### Vocabulary

**Indigenous:** to belong to a particular place by birth or origin; occurring naturally in a particular place.

**Indian Removal:** in the 1800s, the United States government systematically and forcefully removed native peoples living east of the Mississippi River to areas west of the river.

**Native:** this word is a synonym of indigenous

**Treaty:** a formally concluded and ratified agreement between independent groups or nations

### Materials Required

- Present-day maps of Indiana ([dnrmapping.dnr.in.gov/apps/sites\\_spr.htm](http://dnrmapping.dnr.in.gov/apps/sites_spr.htm))
- Maps and historical information explaining general removal routes from Indiana for the Potawatomi, Delaware and Miami Indians (see Key Resources)

- Weblinks to present day Miami ([www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)) and Myaamia Center ([myaamiacenter.org](http://myaamiacenter.org)), Pokagon Band of Potawatomi ([www.pokagon.com](http://www.pokagon.com)) and Delaware ([delawaretribe.org](http://delawaretribe.org))
- Butcher paper, markers, crayons

### Focus Questions

- What is a typical day like for you? Do you have favorite things that you like to do? What would it feel like if someone told you to pack up everything you own that you could carry and walk from where you live to another state where you'd never been? What if your grandparents and great grandparents had to walk with you, or your baby sister or brother or little cousin? Often small children would have been carried.
- Did American Indian children who lived in Indiana experience something like this?
- What is a treaty?

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### Step-By-Step Directions

1. Divide students into three groups and assign each group one of the three tribes (Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi) to research about their tribal removal using a KWL Chart <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/kwl.pdf>. Students may also work individually or in pairs.
2. Have students identify generally what they know about the tribe and write that in the first column.
3. Each student or group of students should write the following questions in the second column and answer them in the third column:
  - Identify on your map where this tribe lived in Indiana (it may be multiple locations).
  - Identify five important things about the way this tribe lived while here in Indiana in the early 1800s.
  - What happened that resulted in the tribe being removed from Indiana? (Look at treaties.)
  - What route was the tribe forced to follow to leave Indiana?
  - Are there any Indiana state parks along the routes identified?
  - Are there any signs, historical markers or memorials of

any type identifying and commemorating the presence and/or removal of this tribe from Indiana? (Note the state park and lake names.)

- Did anyone from the tribe stay in Indiana?
  - Where is the tribe centered today? (Note — it may be multiple locations.)
  - Identify five important things about the tribe today.
4. Finally, have each group create a mural/map on butcher paper illustrating the locations and examples of tribal life in Indiana, the removal route (note any cities, towns, rivers, state parks or lakes, or stories shared in the information read) and the tribal locations, along with representations of tribal life today.
  5. Follow-up the research and murals/maps with a discussion about land use and people today. Possible discussion direction might be A) Are there examples in which land can be taken today? (Highways, etc.) Are there situations when that is the right thing to do? What factors must be considered to make that determination? B) Are there places in the world today where entire groups of people are being forcibly removed from their homelands? If so, why? What do the students think about that?

## Activity 3: What I Remember

### Activity Summary

This activity encourages students to experience, both virtually and in reality, a place and its characteristics. Students will think about what they would remember if they had to leave for some reason, and what they might share with their children or grandchildren about that place.

**Activity Length: 30-60 minutes at school and at home**

### Background

Having a home, a sense of place, somewhere you belong is an important part of being human. The Indians who lived here before 1830 were no different. They were forced to leave their home where they lived for thousands of years in order to make room for the European population that had begun to colonize the Americas.

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### Materials Required

- Writing/drawing materials
- Online video of sites at Mississinewa Lake <https://vimeo.com/126175454>, Pokagon State Park <https://vimeo.com/125267523>

### Focus Questions

- Where is one of your favorite places? (Home? A park? Grandparents' house? The mall?)
- Is there a place that your family loves and returns to every year to gather? A place where you always have your family reunions, etc?

The family farm?

- Can you think of a place that is significant to people who live in the U.S. (the White House, Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery)
- What do you remember about it now?
- What would it feel like if someone told you that you had to leave that place or could never visit it again?

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### Step-By-Step Directions

1. Invite students to sit comfortably with books closed and pens/pencils put away. Ask them to imagine they were Miami Indians taking one last look at the landscape before being removed from their homes and sent west. Ask them to watch quietly and listen to the short videos from areas along the Mississinewa River at what is now Mississinewa Lake located where the Miami once lived <https://vimeo.com/126175454>. Repeat the process with video from Pokagon State Park located in the area where the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi lived <https://vimeo.com/125267523>
2. . Ask them to imagine that they are Miami Indians taking a look at their home before they are being removed west. Remind them that Miami had lived here for generations and had passed down stories of their life along the river.
3. After watching the videos, talk about what the students saw and heard, and discuss the feelings the images and sounds created. How would knowledge of those places known as home have been passed on in a way that Indian children today might learn about them?
4. Ask them to write a short story or poem that they might share with their children or grandchildren to help them know something about the place they just watched in the video. Invite those who are willing to share the poems with the class.
5. As a homework assignment, ask them to visit one of their favorite places, or a place that is meaningful to their family, and spend five minutes watching and listening to the sounds of that place. Have they visited a place that is meaningful to the citizens of the United States? Ask them to write a short story or poem about this place that is special to them or to their family, and have those who are willing share them with the class.

### Extension Ideas

- Invite someone from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Delaware or the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to come to your class and speak about their history and life today.
- Read and learn about Frances Slocum, a white woman who was kidnapped by the Delaware and spent much of her life with the Miami in the area where Mississinewa Lake is now. [Frances Slocum: A Moment of Indiana History.](#)
- Invite your students to write a first-person story about what it would be like to be forced to move away from home.

### Resources

- Eiteljorg Museum Resources ([www.eiteljorg.org/learn/resources](http://www.eiteljorg.org/learn/resources))
- DNR: For Kids ([www.in.gov/dnr/kids](http://www.in.gov/dnr/kids))

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