

Native Americans in Indiana

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population of Indiana as of 2010: 55,767 (Up 22% since 2000) (Source: U.S. Census Bureau; includes persons of mixed race).

There are many tribal members of federally recognized tribes that live in Indiana, approximately 25,000.

At the current date, there are two tribes that have land in Indiana.

The **Pokagon Band of Potawatomi** received a small portion of their land back from their removal in Indiana. The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi is a federally recognized tribe of 573 federally recognized tribes in the United States. The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi on November 18, 2016, received 166 acres of land in trust in South Bend, Indiana (www.pokagon.com/government/indiana-land-restoration)

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi were party to 11 treaties with the federal government, with the major land cession being under the [1833 Treaty of Chicago](#). During the 'Indian Removals', many Potawatomi bands were moved west, but Chief [Leopold Pokagon](#) negotiated to keep his Potawatomi band of 280 people in southwestern Michigan. They were the only Potawatomi band who did not remove to the west of the Mississippi River.

The second tribe that has land in Indiana is **the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma**. The tribe was given land to put a Cultural Extension Office for their tribal members living in Indiana to attend specific gatherings, ceremonies and education events at this office located in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

[Above information from [the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission](#) - [INAIAC: Home](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES LIVING IN INDIANA PRIOR TO REMOVAL

Miami A majority of Native Americans living in Indiana belonged to the Miami tribe. The Miami tribe was part of the Algonquian group of Native Americans. The Algonquian group also included the Delaware, Potawatomi, Kickapoo, and Shawnee tribes. **Shawnee Kickapoo Ottawa Potawatomi Wea Piankashaw Chippewa Delaware Wyandot Kaskaskia Eel River**

Name _____


ANSWER KEY
Indiana's Native Americans

Directions: Using a map of Indiana to help you, label the rivers listed below on the map. Label the map where the tribes lived.

Rivers
Kankakee Wabash Maumee
Tippecanoe Patoka White
St Joseph Ohio Mississinewa
Whitewater East Fork of White River

Colors
Miami
Wea
Piankashaw
Shawnee
Delaware
Potawatomi
Kickapoo
Wyandot

Colors can vary from those shown here.



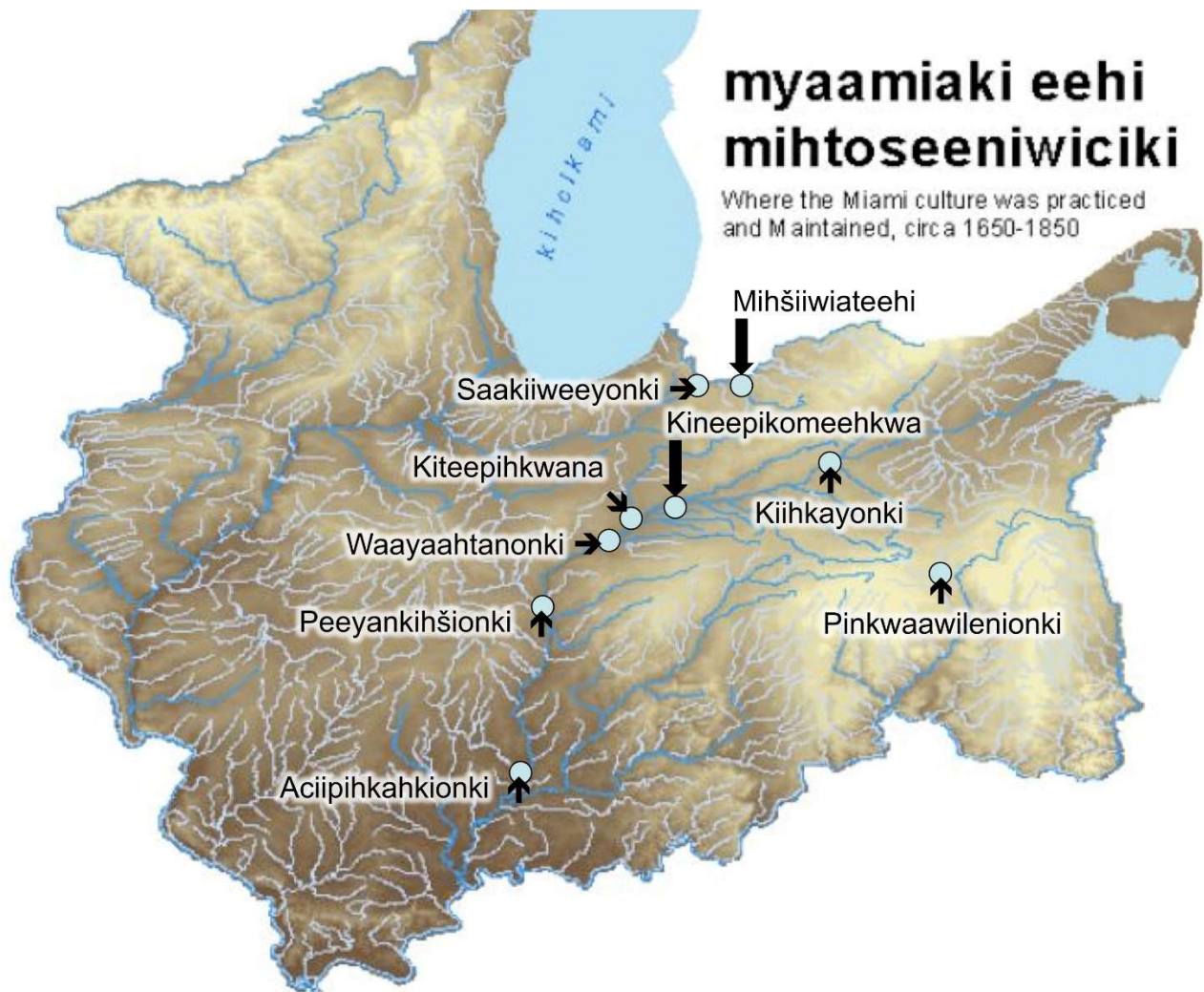
INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES

The Myaamia (Miami) Indians

From the Miami Websites: [About - Miamination.com](#) and [History – Aacimotaatiyankwi](#)

In the Miami language, the Miami Tribe's name for itself is Myaamia, which means "the Downstream People." The story of the Myaamia begins at a place we call Saakiiweeyonki, near where the St. Joseph's River empties into Lake Michigan.

From the village at Saakiiweeyonki, they descended into the Waapaahšiki Siipiiwi (Wabash River) valley building communities at major confluences and portages from Kiihkayonki (Ft. Wayne, Indiana) downstream to Aciipihkahkionki (Vincennes, Indiana). Together these villages maintained a common language, hunting, and farming cultural practices. They often came together to collectively defend themselves and negotiate peace with neighboring tribes and Europeans.



Map 1: Myaamionki originally constructed by Brett Governanti.^[3] Village sites by George Ironstrack from [Walking Myaamionki – Aacimotaatiyankwi](#)

For more information: The Myaamia Center [[Myaamia Center - Miami University \(miamioh.edu\)](#)], a Miami Tribe of Oklahoma initiative located within an academic setting at Miami University in Oxford, OH, serves the needs of the Myaamia people, Miami University, and partner communities through research, education, and outreach that promote Myaamia language, culture, knowledge, and values.

Well Known Native American Leaders in Indiana

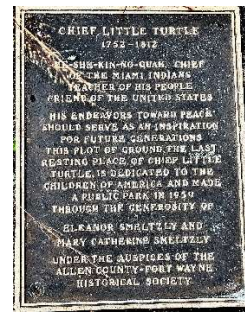
Myaamia (Miami)



Me-she-ke-no-quah, (Chief Little Turtle) (c.1747 — July 14, 1812) was a **Sagamore** (Chief) of the Miami Indians

Unknown author - lithograph in Public Domain reputedly based upon a lost portrait by [Gilbert Stuart](#)

Destroyed when the British burned Washington DC in 1814



Pictures by Tom Whiteman Oct 2022

**Chief Little Turtle Burial Site Fort Wayne, IN.
Chief Little Turtle Memorial Stone**

Chief Little Turtle Memorial Plaque



From [wisconsinhistory.org](#) in Public Domain

Palaanswa (Francis Godfrey) 1788–1840

Half French and Half Myaamia

Born at [Little Turtle's](#) village (now Ft. Wayne, Indiana)

Godfrey was one of the leaders in a Miami counterattack on an American army led by Lieutenant Colonel John Campbell in the [Battle of the Mississinewa](#) on December 17–18, 1812.



Sarah_Stierch_A (CC BY 4.0)

Grave of Chief Francis Godfrey

Chief Francis Godfrey Cemetery, Miami County, Indiana

Buried with Two Spouses

Well Known Native American Leaders in Indiana (cont.)

Šaawanwaki (Shawnee)

Weyapiersenwah (Blue Jacket)

(c. 1743 – 1810)

A war chief of the [Shawnee](#) people, known for his militant defense of Shawnee lands in the [Ohio Country](#).

Perhaps the preeminent [American Indian](#) leader in the [Northwest Indian War](#), in which a [pantribal confederacy](#) fought several battles with the nascent United States, he was an **important predecessor** of the famous Shawnee leader [Tecumseh](#). Little is known of Blue Jacket's early life. He first appears in written historical records in 1773, when he was already a grown man and a war chief.



Tekoomsē (Tecumseh)

1768 – October 5, 1813

Public Domain in Canada

Attributed to [Owen Staples](#) (1866–1949),

Based on the engraving published by [Benson John Lossing](#)

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMDC-JRR3358&R=DC-JRR3358>

Tecumseh led about 530 warriors in the [Siege of Detroit](#).

Tenskwatawa (The Prophet)

Jan. 1775 – Nov. 1836

Painting by Hungarian - [Charles Bird King](#)

From Book - *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* by Mckenney and Hall, published in 1872 - Public Domain

Younger brother of [Tecumseh](#)

Influential spiritual leader

The brothers mobilized the American Indians in the [Northwest Territory](#) to fight the Americans.

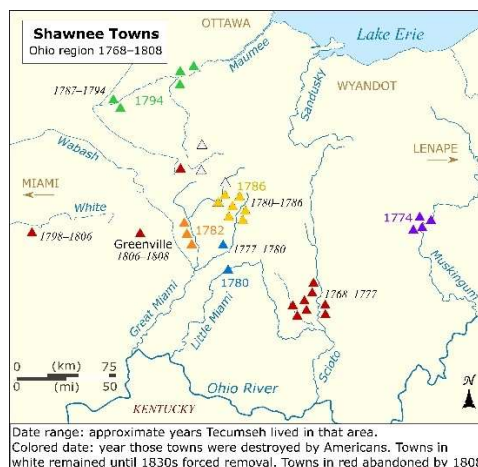
The Brothers father was killed in battle against American colonists in 1774.

Their older brother [Cheeseekau](#), a noted war chief, died fighting Americans in 1792.

Major-General [Isaac Brock](#), British commander of Upper Canada wrote about **Tekoomsē**:

A more sagacious or a more gallant warrior does not, I believe, exist.

He was the admiration of everyone who conversed with him.



Map of Shawnee towns in the 'Ohio Region' from 1768 to 1808, indicating where Tecumseh lived.

[Kevin1776](#) [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) - Own work. Sources: Tanner, Helen Hornbeck, ed. (1987). *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press), for town locations and dates of destruction. Sugden, John (1997). *Tecumseh: A Life* (New York: Henry Holt and Company), for years of Tecumseh's residences.

Well Known Native American Leaders in Indiana (cont.)

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

A **federally recognized Potawatomi**-speaking tribe based in **southwestern Michigan** and **northeastern Indiana**. Tribal government functions are in **Dowagiac, Michigan**. They occupy reservation lands in a total of ten counties in the area.

The Pokagon are descendants of the residents of allied Potawatomi villages that were historically located along the St. Joseph, Paw Paw and Kalamazoo rivers. They were the only Potawatomi band (280 people) - based on negotiations by – Chief Leopold Pokagon - to gain permission from the United States government to remain in Michigan after **Indian removal** in the 1830s.



c. 1775 – 1841

Painting from 1830's by Van Senden (19th-century Dutch painter)
Source: <http://www.earlychicago.com/encyclopedia.php?letter=p>
Public Domain

Taking over from **Topinbee**, who became the head of the Potawatomi of the **Saint Joseph River Valley** in **Michigan**, a band that later took his name.



Figure 2. Simon Pokagon.

c. 1830- January 28, 1899

His book "Queen of the Woods", copyright 1899
Published by C. H. Engle (Company) of Hartford, Michigan
Public Domain

Simon Pokagon son of Chief **Leopold Pokagon**
Born near **Bertrand** in southwest **Michigan Territory**
Recognized Native American authors of the nineteenth century.

Happy ending for Pokagons' long struggle

White House ceremony
concludes 60-year fight
for tribal recognition

By **KAREN GRASSMUCK**
H-P Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nearly 50 Indians from Michigan and Indiana packed the Oval Office Wednesday to watch President Bill Clinton sign legislation granting tribal status to three tribes.

Among them were members of the Po-

[The Herald-Palladium](#)

Benton Harbor, Michigan · Thursday, September 22, 1994

The Pokagons, 1683-1983: Catholic Potawatomi Indians of the St. Joseph River valley

A reference on the Potawatomi - By [Clifton, James A](#) Published 1984
<https://archive.org/details/pokagons168319830000clif/page/n3/mode/2up>