

## American Indians in Missouri Timeline: Created by Buder Center 2019

"Missouri" is a Siouan Indian word.

It comes from the tribal name Missouriia, which means "big canoe people."<sup>7a</sup>

*"We, the great mass of the people think only of the love we have for our land, we do love the land where we were brought up. We will never let our hold to this land go, to let it go it will be like throwing away (our) mother that gave (us) birth."*

-Letter from Aitooweyah to John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokees

*"The ground on which we stand is sacred ground, it is the blood of our ancestors."*

- Chief Plenty Coups, Crow

### Statements of Acknowledgment

#### 1. Adapted from Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet for Buder Center Use:

We would like to acknowledge that the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies and Washington University are located on the traditional lands of the *Illini\* Confederacy, Osage Nation and Missouriia tribe*. We thank our Indigenous ancestors for their hospitality and support of our work.

#### 2. Adapted from Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet for Washington University Use:

The process of knowing and acknowledging the ground beneath our feet is a way of honoring and expressing gratitude for the people on this land before us. It familiarizes students, instructors, faculty, staff, and visitors with Missouri's indigenous tribes' cultures, histories, and relations on the Washington University campus and within the St. Louis region.

#### 3. Adaptations from Honor Native Land<sup>10</sup>:

- a. "I'd like to get started by acknowledging the indigenous culture of Missouri."
- b. "We acknowledge that we are in St. Louis, on the traditional lands of the *Illini, Osage and Missouriia* People"
- c. "I would like to acknowledge that this [meeting] is being held on the traditional lands of the *Illini, Osage and Missouriia* nations, and pay my respect to elders both past and present"
- d. "I want to respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous people, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations"
- e. "We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the occupied//seized territory of the *Illini, Osage and Missouriia* tribes."

\*Pronounced "ih-LIE-nee"



## American Indians in Missouri Timeline

### Prehistoric Period

- 950 – 1050 A.D.      Emergence of Mississippian culture (John Kelly)
- 600–1400 CE          Native American descendants consecrate this landscape a millennium ago and the Prehistoric Mississippian community of Cahokia is formed

### 1600's and 1700's Early Claims and Initial Contact

- Pre-1673** Missouri and Osage tribes hunted in the St. Louis area and probably have an earlier claim to area than the Illini<sup>9</sup>
- 1673** **Indians of the Illini Confederacy occupied the St. Louis area predominantly - includes Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Moingwena, Peoria, Tamaroa** Confederacy migrated to St. Louis from area around Lake Michigan approx. 1573 because they were driven out by Iroquois<sup>9</sup>
- 1607** English Settlers first arrived at Chesapeake area, now Virginia (crash course)
- 1644** American Indians in Virginia sign treaty consigning them to reservations in the West (crash course)
- 1667** King Philip's War in Northeast (crash course)
- 1673** First European (French) contact in St. Louis area<sup>9</sup>
- 1700** Indian-European settlement formed at mouth of River Des Peres (Kaskaskia & Tamaroa)
- 1703** Indian-European settlement moved to East side of Mississippi river<sup>9</sup>
- 1763** France ceded the Missouri area to Spain.<sup>7a</sup>
- 1764** French fur traders founded St. Louis.<sup>7a</sup>
- 1800** Spain returned the region to France.<sup>7a</sup>
- 1803** France sold Missouri to the U.S. as part of the Louisiana Purchase.<sup>7a</sup>

Pre L & C: Southern Sioux tribes live along the Missouri River near the present-day Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska border (University of Missouri)



## 1800's Indian Removal to reservations

**1804** Osage delegation visits President Jefferson in Washington, D.C. in the spring

**1804** Corps of Discovery by Lewis & Clark (L & C)

**May 1804:** L & C begin ascending the Missouri river

**June 15 1804:** Arrive at Little Osage prior settlement<sup>9</sup>

**July 1804:** L & C expedition encountered the towns of the Missouris and Otos

**August 2 1804:** Small group of Missouris and Otos arrive at L & C's camp site (Council Bluff)<sup>6</sup>

**August 3, 1804:** Ceremony is held in which L&C promise to provide the tribes with trade and protection<sup>6</sup>

**August 18, 1804:** L & C meet with Missouri chief, Big Horse, and main Oto chief, Little Thief (University of Missouri)<sup>6</sup>

**1805** Missouri chief and Little Thief met and have delegation with President Jefferson in Washington, D.C. in March<sup>6</sup>

**1808** The Great and Little bands of the Osage Nation were forced to sign Cession 67 on November 10<sup>th</sup>, which ceded 52.5 million acres of Missouri and Arkansas. In exchange, the US government gave them \$1200 in cash and \$1500 in merchandise.

**1821** Missouri becomes a state on August 10<sup>th</sup> (7a)

**1830** Illini forced removal (University of Missouri)

**1830** The Indian Removal Act passed by President Andrew Jackson on May 28<sup>th</sup>

Tribes who traveled through Missouri during Indian forced removals: <sup>8</sup>

- The Cherokee tribe
- The Delaware tribe
- The Kickapoo tribe
- The Sac and Fox tribe
- The Shawnee tribe

**1832** *Worcester V. Georgia* (court case that sided with American Indians overruled)



**1837** Osage Indians ceded land.<sup>7a</sup>

**1870** Osage purchase new land in Oklahoma, including subsurface mineral rights<sup>3</sup>

**1881** Otoe-Missouria nation removal to Oklahoma<sup>7b</sup>

**1944** Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 passed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Article: Indian Country Today, 2011)

- Transferred ownership of large parcels of land from around the Missouri River to the Corps of Engineers, more than 20% of which was owned by Native Americans (Lakota, Dakota and Nakota) (Wiki)
- Forced 1,500 American Indians from basin tribes to relocate due to flooding (Wiki)

**2008** Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) established

**Current** Northern Cherokee Nation of the Old Louisiana Territory- band is the only tribe in Missouri today (not federally recognized)



Related Maps



Figure 1: Six Tribes whose homeland was in the area of what is now called Missouri<sup>8</sup>  
*Note: The Illini are just a small strip in the upper right. Much too much area shown here. Should be 1/3 the current width and 1/6<sup>th</sup> the height. Additionally, there were no Chickasaw at the early dates.*<sup>3</sup>

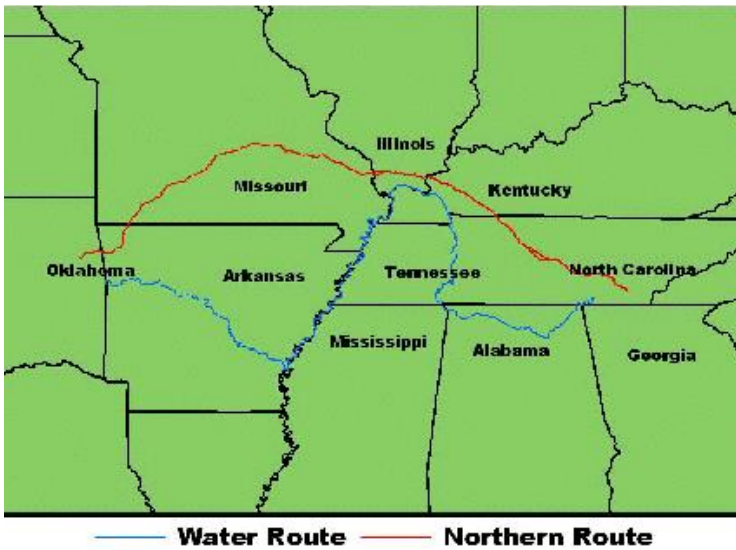


Figure 2: Map depicting the routes taken during the Trail of Tears<sup>8</sup>



## References

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- <sup>2</sup>Din, G. and Nasatir A. (1983) The Imperial Osages, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK.
- <sup>3</sup>Duncan, J. (personal communication, 2017)
- <sup>4</sup>Gaertner, D. (n.d.). Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet. Retrieved from <https://fnis.arts.ubc.ca/research-resources/knowning-the-land-beneath-our-feet/>
- <sup>5</sup>Hughes, K. (2014). The Indian Removal Act Explained in 5 Minutes: US History Review. Retrieved November 03, 2017, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQfP2Y2t45U>
- <sup>6</sup>University of Missouri (n.d.). The Lewis and Clark expedition and Missouri Indigenous Peoples. Retrieved from <https://peacestudies.missouri.edu/di/lc>
- <sup>7a</sup>University of Missouri (n.d.). Missouri Historical Timeline. Retrieved from <https://peacestudies.missouri.edu/di/timeline>
- <sup>7b</sup>University of Missouri (n.d.). Otoe and Missouri Tribes. Retrieved from <https://peacestudies.missouri.edu/di/tribes?q=di/otoe-missourias>
- <sup>8</sup>University of Missouri (n.d.). Seven Tribes of Missouri. Retrieved from <https://peacestudies.missouri.edu/di/tribes>
- <sup>9</sup>US GenNet (2010). Tribes of the Region at First Contact (1673). Retrieved from <https://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/stlouis/native/1stcontact.htm>
- <sup>10</sup>Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgment. (n.d.) U.S. Department of Arts and Culture. Retrieved from <https://usdac.us/nativeland/>

