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American Indians and Westward Expansion

LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

Who are American Indians? And who are
the Meskwaki?

X 1471-06



3RD GRADE

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Text provided by the [Meskwaki Nation](#)

The Meskwaki people (sometimes spelled "Mesquakie") are of Algonquian origin from the Eastern Woodland Culture areas. The Meskwaki spoken language is of similar dialect to the Sauk and Kickapoo and they are working hard to maintain it.

The tribe has been historically located in the St. Lawrence River Valley, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Meskwaki were called "Renards" (the Fox) by the French, but have always identified themselves as "Meskwaki". The Meskwaki fought against the French in what are now called the Fox Wars (1701-1742) and in 1735, the Sauk and Meskwaki allied together to fend off Europeans and other Indian Tribes. Both tribes moved southward from Wisconsin into Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Even though the Meskwaki and Sauk are two distinct tribal groups, with linguistic and cultural similarities, the two tribes have often been associated throughout history.

After the Black Hawk War of 1832, the United States officially combined the two tribes into a single group known as the Sac & Fox Confederacy for treaty-making purposes. Through a series of land concessions in 1845 under the name of "Sac & Fox", the Sauk and Meskwaki formally lost all lands and were removed to a reservation in east central Kansas (although some persevered and chose to stay). After their banishment to Kansas, Meskwaki ancestors longed to reclaim their Iowa woodland homeland. Choosing to remain, some stayed hidden in Iowa, while others left for the Kansas reservation only to journey back to Iowa over the next few years. Throughout, there was an unbroken presence in Iowa and by 1856, the State of Iowa enacted a law allowing the continued residence of the tribe.

On July 13, 1857, the Meskwaki formally purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County, which gave formal federal identity to the Meskwaki people as the "Sac & Fox In Iowa". Then 10 years later, in 1867, the United States government allowed the Meskwaki living in Iowa to receive federal annuity payments for the first time. This unique identity (that of unclear jurisdictional status since the tribe had formal federal recognition but also continuing relations with the State of Iowa due to the tribe's private ownership of land) allowed the Meskwaki people to be virtually ignored by federal as well as state policies. Always persevering, this gave them time to return, thrive and grow.

Every year between 1857 and 1866, different groups of Meskwaki returned to the Settlement, with the majority coming to the area after 1862. The tribe traded 130 trees to obtain funds to purchase another parcel of 40 acres in January 1867. This expanded the Meskwaki Settlement to almost 3,000 acres.

By generating income through trapping and by accumulating annuity payments, the tribe was able to purchase additional land between 1867 and 1901.

During this 30 year time period, the Meskwaki people were able to live a more independent lifestyle than other tribes confined to regular reservations strictly regimented by federal authority.

Seeking to resolve this ambiguity, the State of Iowa ceded to the Federal Government all jurisdiction over the Meskwaki. The outdated federal law was repealed by the Federal Government in 2019.

Because their ancestors had the tenacity and foresight to purchase their land, the Meskwaki Settlement is not an Indian Reservation. It was not set apart from the public domain and reserved for Indians. It is private purchased property, a sovereign nation.

Owing to the noble sacrifices and vision of their ancestors, the Meskwaki continued to thrive and grow over the years on their purchased land.

In 1987, the Meskwaki purchased additional ground, expanding their holdings to 7,054 acres, acquiring land towards the north. Powwow celebrations, however, continue to be held on traditional grounds to the south.

Today, the Meskwaki continue to purchase land as opportunities for economic diversification arise. They currently own more than 8,100 acres in Tama, Marshall and Palo Alto County.

The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa is the only federally recognized Indian tribe in Iowa. They have their own constitution, codified laws, 13 full-time police officers and a fully functioning court system. They have nearly 1400 enrolled tribal members and are the largest employer in Tama County, employing more than 1200 people.

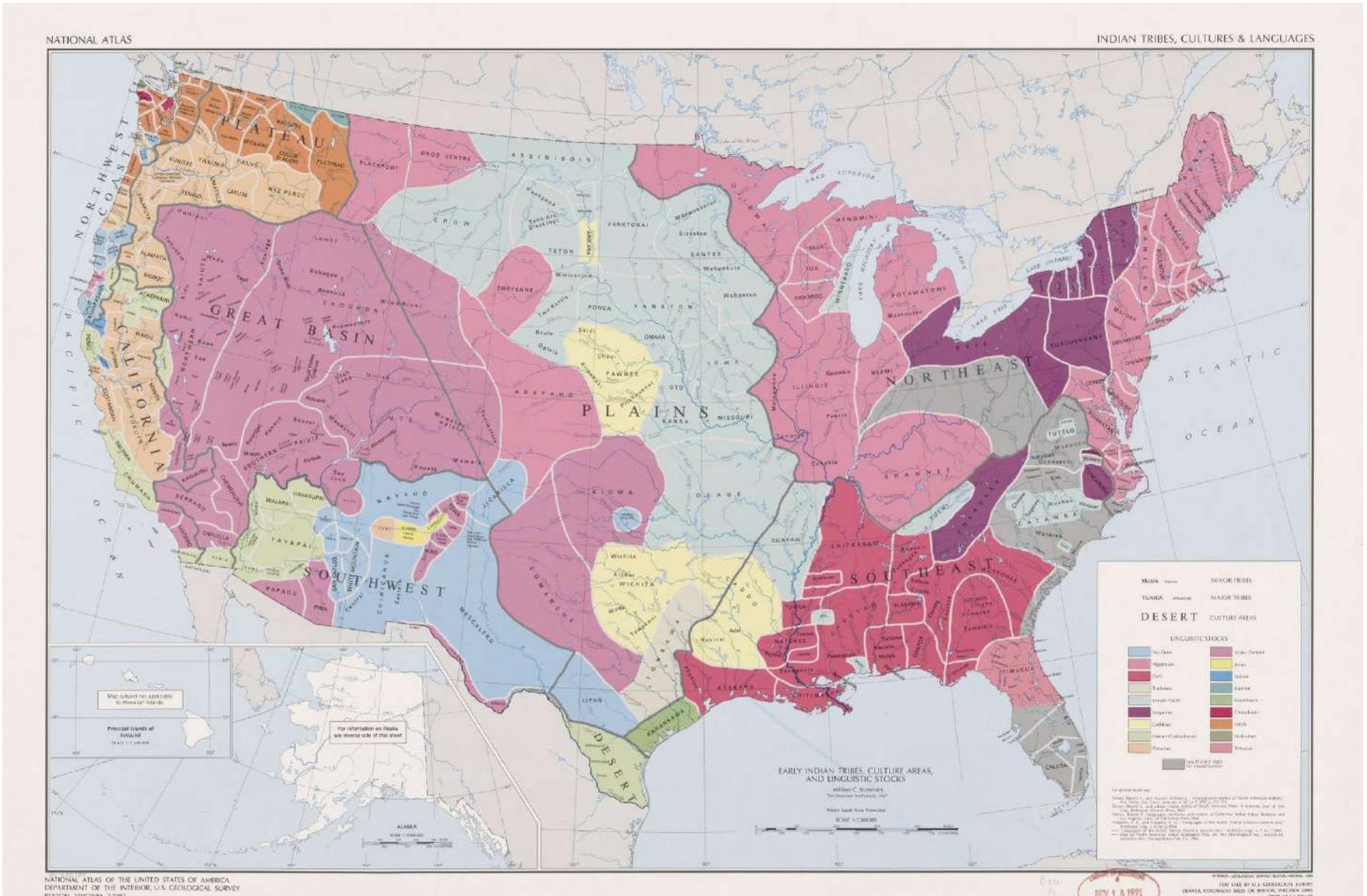
The Meskwaki Nation has been working to improve housing, infrastructure and improve modern amenities over the years including beginning their own fiber optic network. Tribal activities at the Settlement shifted to the north after the relocation of Highway 30, where the Meskwaki Bingo, Casino & Hotel, Meskwaki Settlement School, Meskwaki Health Clinic, Meskwaki Business Center and newer housing additions are situated.

Over the last 10 years, the tribe has purchased Pinnacle Bank, built a new Meskwaki Travel Plaza and created the Natural Resources and Buffalo Wildlife Project. They opened Meskwaki, Inc. and their subsidiaries, an economic diversification project working to create sustainable business opportunities for the Tribe. In 2013, as part of the Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative, they launched Red Earth Gardens, a 40-acre self-sustaining farm. The Meskwaki Nation is working to build a better life for their community members through family service programs and support like MADAC, Historic Preservation and Higher Education.

By adapting, surviving and thriving, The People Of The Red Earth are working hard to determine the needs within their community. They are committed to protecting their inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting their culture, and improving the quality of life for future generations.

Their mission: "To rely on the knowledge and experiences of the past, along with the will to survive to advance the people, culture and well-being of the Meskwaki Nation."

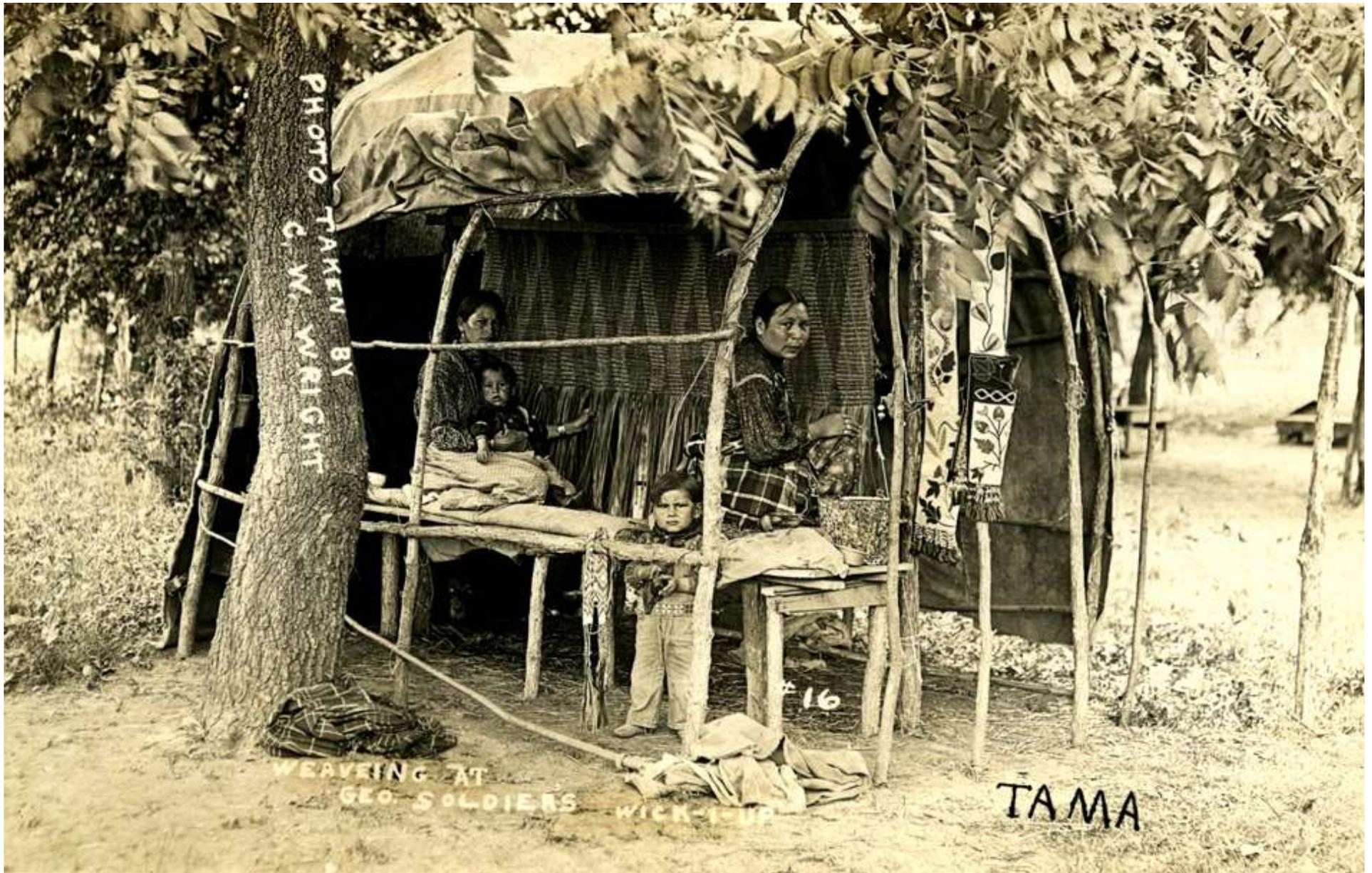
Another option is to watch the [Meskwaki Heritage video](#).



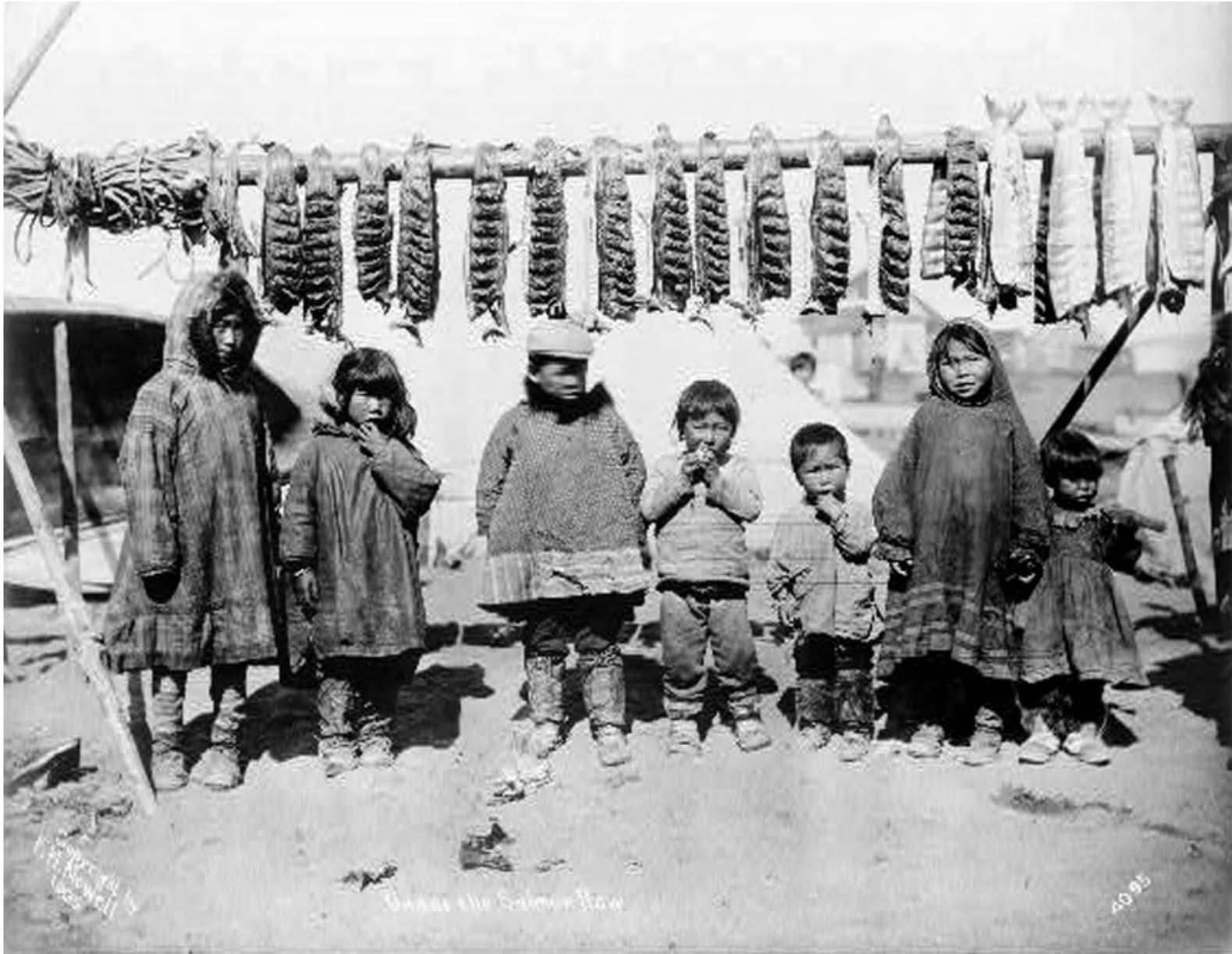
This is a national atlas showing American Indian tribes, cultures languages languages as recorded in 1967. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Sturtevant, William C., "National atlas. Indian tribes, cultures & languages," 1991



Three Sioux American Indians of horseback are photographed along the Great Plains with a rock formation in background. The image was taken by Edward Curtis in 1906. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Curtis, Edward S., "[The plains of the Dakota--Sioux]," 1905*



Two women are shown weaving in a Wickiup, which is Native American hut covered with brushwood or grass. The 1905 photograph was taken in Tama, Iowa. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Wright, C.W., 1905*



The photograph features Eskimo children posing under salmon hanging from a rack. The image was taken by Frank Nowell in Alaska in 1906. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Nowell, Frank H., "Under the Salmon Row, 1906*

Hopi Indian Harvest Dance, between 1909 and 1919

PART 2



The photograph shows Hopi American Indians participating in the Harvest Dance. The image of the Hopi was taken in the southwest. Today, most members of the Hopi tribe reside in northeast Arizona. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Harvest Dance, Hopi Indians," between 1909 and 1919*



Edward Curtis' photograph shows a man in the woods blowing his horn to attract moose. The American Indian man is a member of the Cree, who were based along the northwest coast. Today, members of the Cree tribe primarily live in Montana and throughout north and west Canada. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Curtis, Edward S., "Calling a moose--Cree," 1927*



A group of men, women and children, all Seminole American Indians, are posing outdoors. The image was taken in Florida in 1936. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Seminole Indians," 1936*



K-W-L Chart

K What We Think We Know	W What We Want to Know	L What We Hope to Learn
Stop and Source	Why do you think they're doing this?	Where could you find the answers?
People:	How do you think they are feeling?	
Objects:	When do you think these photos were taken? How do you know?	
What are they doing?	Questions these photos raise:	

Name _____

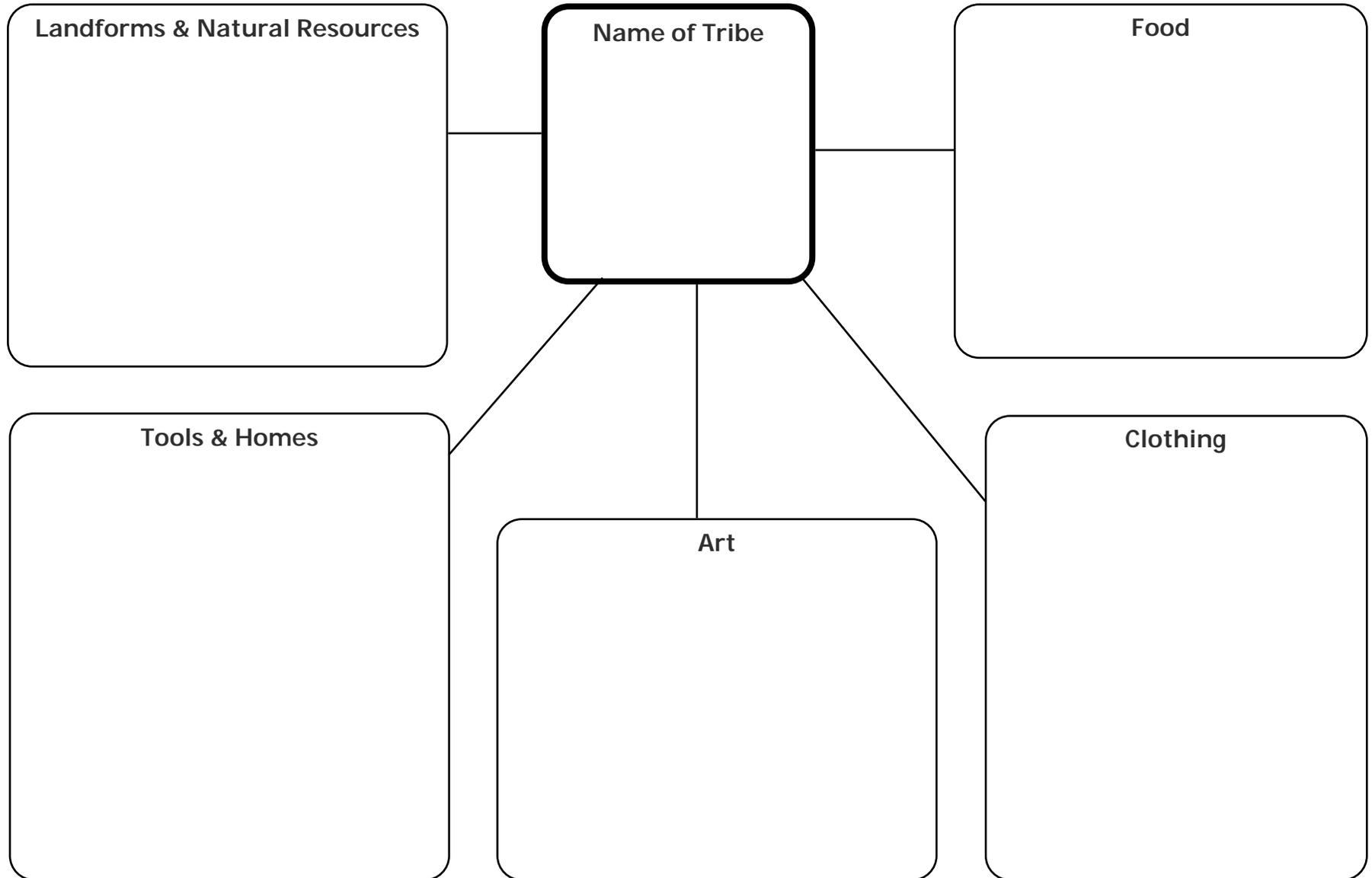


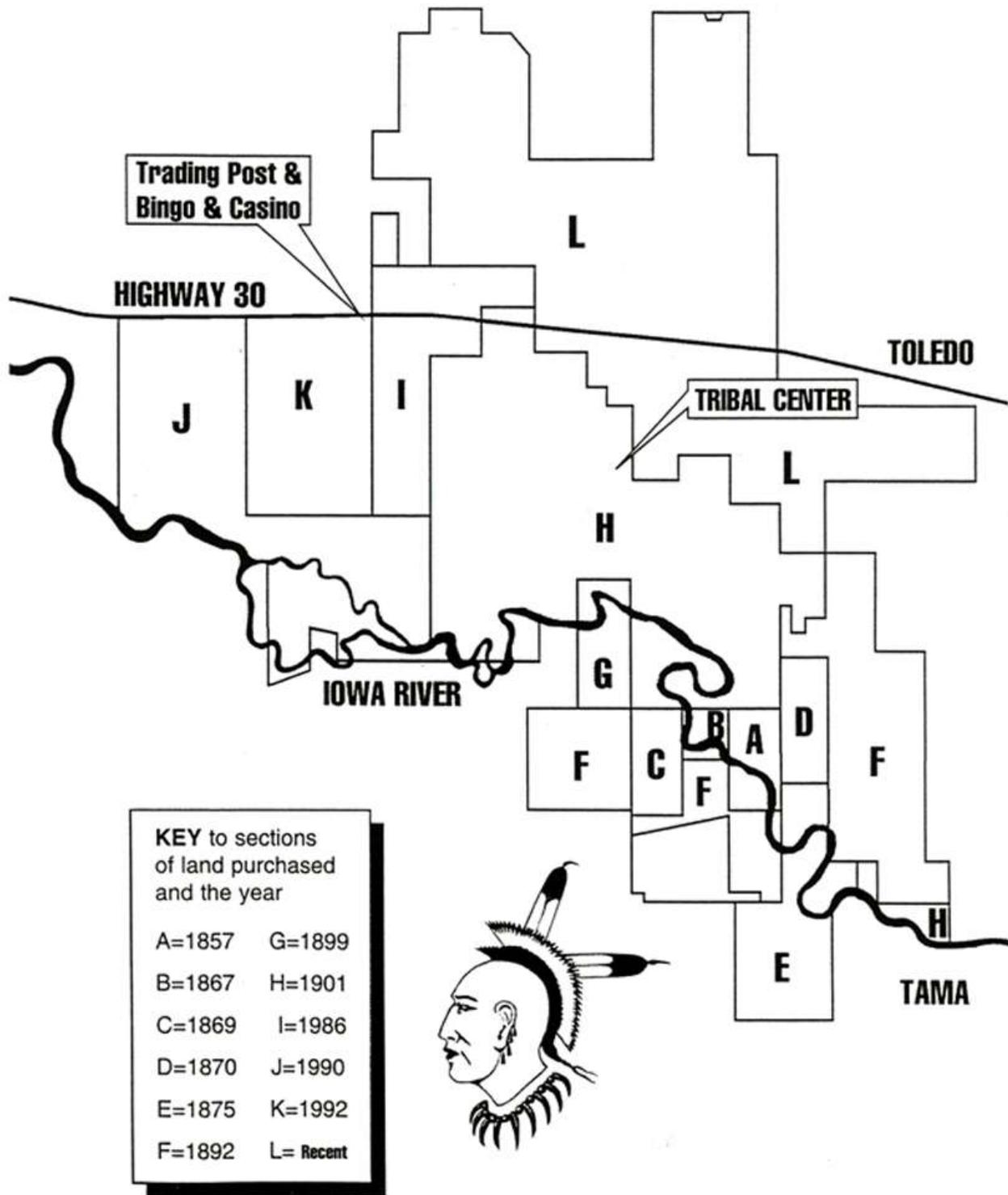
K-W-L Chart

K What We Think We Know	W What We Want to Know	L What We Hope to Learn

Name _____

American Indian Region Analysis





This map and accompanying text show the history of land purchases made by the Meskwaki tribe. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 2004*

On July 13, 1857, the Meskwaki purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County. A small band gathered in a summer village on the west bank of the Iowa River, but they scattered in all directions to their winter camps. (Section A on the map)

Every year between 1857 and 1866, different groups of the Meskwaki returned to the Settlement in Tama County with the majority coming to the area after 1862. The tribe traveled 130 miles to obtain funds to purchase another parcel of 40 acres in January 1867. (Section B on the map)

In 1867, the United States government finally allowed the Meskwaki living in Iowa to receive federal annuity payments for the first time in ten years. By generating income through trapping and by accumulation annuity payments, the tribe was able to purchase additional land between 1867 and 1901. This expanded the Meskwaki Settlement to almost 3,000 acres. The Settlement stayed the same until 1987, and this area is commonly referred to the "Old Settlement". (Sections C, D, E, F, G, H on the map)

In 1987, the Meskwaki purchased more land, expanding their holdings to 7,054 acres. Although the tribe's summer village and housing were originally built on river bottom land or along the Iowa River Valley, the tribe gradually acquired land on higher ground towards the north, closer to Highway 30. (Sections I, J, K, L on the map)

Once the tribe relocated away from the flood-prone areas, the Meskwaki secured housing improvements and other modern amenities. Tribal activities at the Settlement have shifted to the north, where the casino, high school, and newer housing are located but pow-wow celebrations are held on the south. Subsequent land purchases were made in 1990 and 1992, and the Meskwaki continue to acquire neighboring land as it becomes available. (Sections M, N, O on the map)



Meskwaki History

How the Meskwaki Tribe and the Sauki Tribe became Three Separate "Sac & Fox" Tribes

1812 -1824

The Meskwaki (Fox) are concentrated along the Mississippi River Valley areas. The Sauki (Sac) are also along the Mississippi River but more to the south. Leaders of both tribes sign treaties as "Sac & Fox;" both tribes controlled a large stretch of the waterway and subsequently were identified as the **"Sac & Fox of the Mississippi River."** Then a group of mostly Sac Indians broke away from the larger Sac tribe and moved to northwest Missouri along the Missouri River Valley and in 1824 this break-away group signs a treaty independently ... receiving a separate identity as the **"Sac & Fox of the Missouri River."**

1837

The Sacs and Foxes are forced inland as punishment for the Black Hawk War and to break the tribes' domination of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The Fox are moved into central Iowa Territory, the Sac are moved into southern Iowa Territory and the other Sac group (the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri River") are moved to a reservation in the northeast Kansas Territory. The government refers to the Sacs and Foxes in the Iowa Territory as **"The Sac & Fox of the Mississippi"** in order to differentiate this group from the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri".

1845

Wanting more land for settlers, the government forces a treaty to remove the "Sac & Fox of the Mississippi" from Iowa Territory to a reservation in east central Kansas Territory ... south of the reservation already occupied by the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri." However, only one-fifth of the Meskwaki (Fox) actually arrive at the new reservation; the rest are still hiding in Iowa or have taken refuge with other tribes. The Fox who go to Kansas occupy the west side of the reservation and the Sac occupy the east side. Following the removals, Iowa almost immediately becomes a State in 1846.

1846 -1869

The Meskwaki gradually return to Iowa before and after purchasing 80 acres of land in the state in 1857. The United States is embroiled in Civil War, 1861-1865. The people remaining at the second reservation are mostly Sauki and move to a new reservation in the new Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The vacated reservation in central Kansas is opened up to white settlers. The reservation in northeast Kansas remains intact. This accounts for the three Sac and Fox tribes of today:

The Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa (primarily Meskwaki),

The Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma (remaining Sauki plus a few Meskwaki), and

The Sac & Fox of the Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska (the first group of Sauki who broke away in 1824).

Text provided by the Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office.





—T.-R. Photo

MAN-NWE-NET-DA-MON! It's an Indian's way of saying "We don't like it" in his native Mesquakie and what he really means is that he doesn't like to have people ask too many questions about his language, now that he knows it will play a strategic part in regimental communications of the 168th infantry. Above is a composite picture showing how eight Sac and Fox Indian boys, members of Company H, will use the army's "walkie-talkie" radio units for field communications. Upper left Willard Sanache helps strap the unit to Dewey Youngbear's back. At the right Capt. John C. Petty giving a group of Indians instruction in the use of the units. At the lower left, Lieut. Dean A. Knudson points out troop movements to Williard Sanache, who broadcasts the information by short wave radio, while at right Dewey Youngbear picks up the message and translates it into English for Captain Petty, commanding officer of Company H, theoretically at field headquarters.

The news clipping shows a composite picture showing how eight Sac and Fox Native American men, all member of Company H in the 186th Infantry, used their Meskwaki language to be "code talkers" during World War II. The photo shows how the communication network of code talkers worked, where they would broadcast information by short wave radio to their fellow Meskwaki soldiers who would translate it into English for the commanding officer. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Marshalltown Times Republican, 26 February 1941*



The annual powwow celebration is a time for renewing contacts within and outside the Meskwaki tribe. Costumed dancers, food and souvenir vendors and special programs are offered every August. The photograph shows Meskwaki men in tradition dress participating in the powwow celebrations in 1953. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1953*

Meskwaki New Settlement School, Date Unknown

PART 4



The photograph shows the Meskwaki Settlement School on the Meskwaki Indian settlement. The Sac and Fox Settlement School originally was established as a day school by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Next, it became part of the South Tama County Community School District, an Iowa public school system. In 1972, the school was closed and tribal members applied for the school to be run by the Meskwaki people. In 1980, the Sac and Fox Settlement School became a tribal school. Now the Meskwaki Settlement School, it is a tribally-controlled school with oversight by the Bureau of Indian Education. The mission of the school since the 1980s has been, and continues to be, the preservation of the Meskwaki culture and language and preparation of all students to become productive citizens. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Date Unknown*

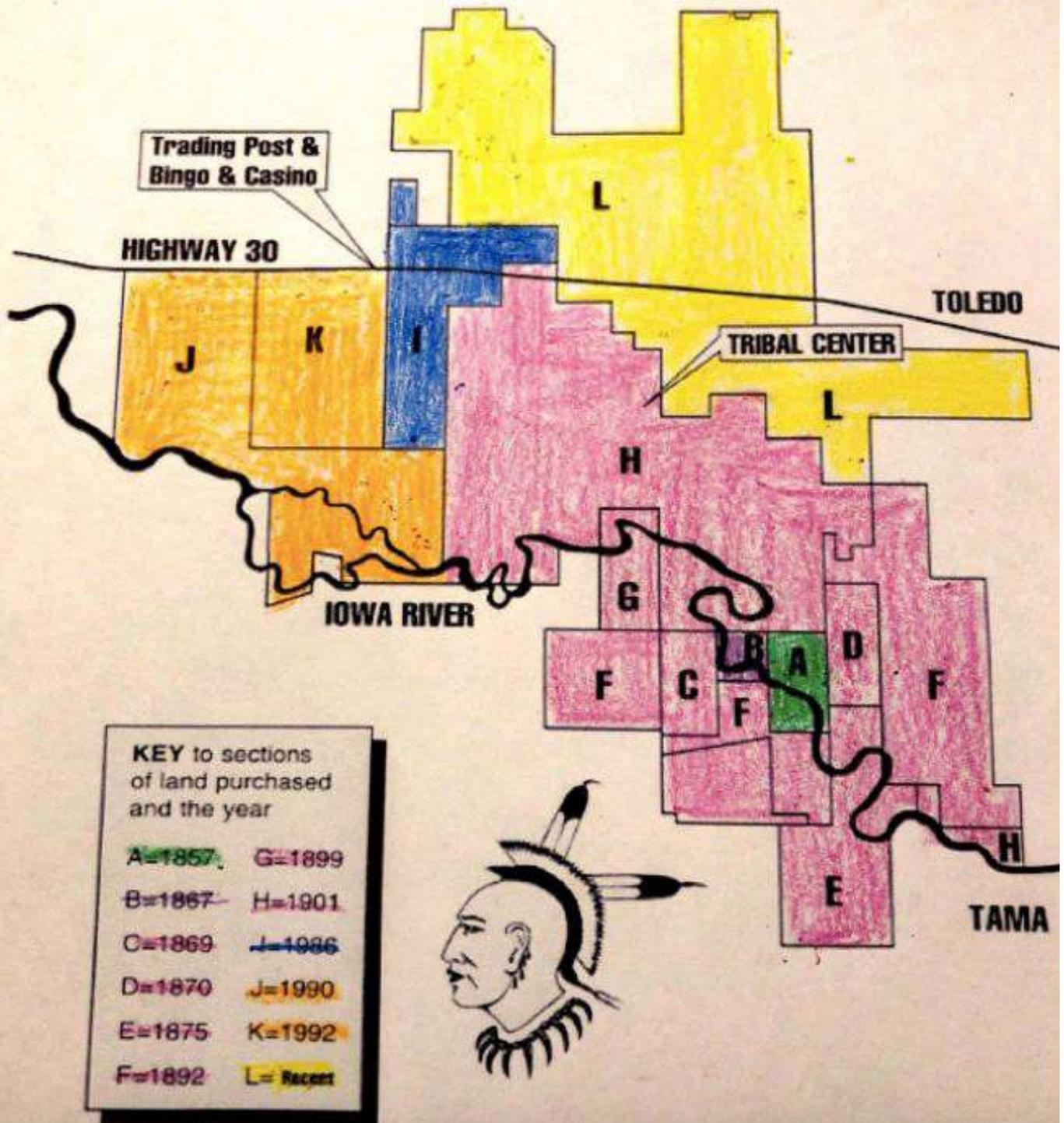


Meskwaki Land Purchases

Use the map to help you put the statements in order to tell the story of the migration and land purchases of the Meskwaki people. Label the color on the map that matches each statement.

Number the story	Statements about the Meskwaki
	<p>Every year between 1857 and 1866, different groups of the Meskwaki returned to the settlement in Tama County. The tribe purchased 40 acres in January 1867.</p> <p>Color on the map: _____</p>
	<p>In 1986, the Meskwaki purchased more land. They now have 7,054 acres with more of it being north, closer to Highway 30.</p> <p>Color on the map: _____</p>
	<p>The Meskwaki made improvements to houses on the settlement. Tribal activities at the settlement have moved to the north, where the casino and high school are located, but powwow celebrations are held on the south side. More land was purchased in 1990 and 1992.</p> <p>Color on the map: _____</p>
	<p>In 1857, the Meskwaki purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County. A small band gathered in a summer village on the west bank of the Iowa River.</p> <p>Color on the map: _____</p>
	<p>The United States government finally allowed the Meskwaki living in Iowa to receive federal money for the first time in 10 years. With the federal money and money earned by trapping and hunting off the land, the tribe was able to purchase more land between 1868 and 1901. Now, they have almost 3,000 acres.</p> <p>Color on the map: _____</p>

Meskwaki Land Purchases





**American
Indian**



Meskwaki



Settlement



Reservation

American Indian

A member of any of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Settlement

An area of land purchased by a federally-recognized American Indian tribe.

Meskwaki

The Meskwaki people (sometimes spelled "Mesquakie") are of Algonquian origin from the Eastern Woodland Culture areas. The Meskwaki spoken language is of similar dialect to the Sauk and Kickapoo and they are working hard to maintain it.

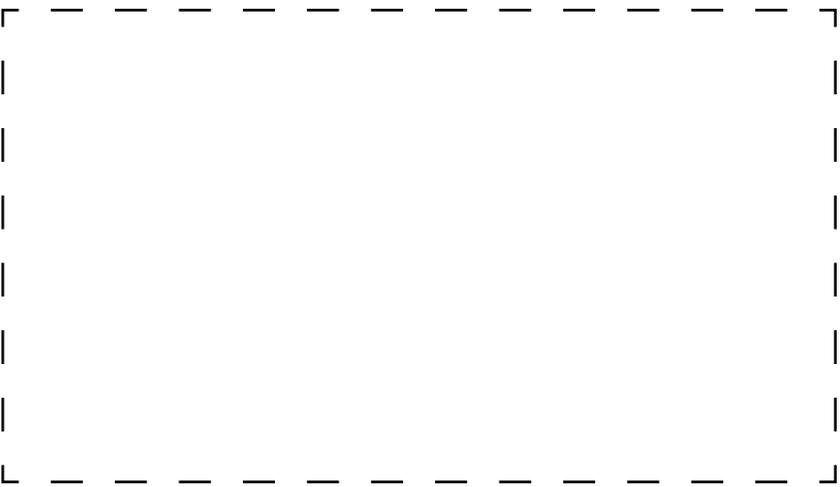
Reservation

A reservation is a legal designation for an area of land managed by a federally-recognized American Indian tribe under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs rather than the state governments of the United States in which they are physically located.



Removal





Removal
American Indian removal was a forced migration in the 19th century whereby American Indians were forced by the U.S. government to leave their ancestral homelands to lands west of the Mississippi River, specifically to a designated Indian Territory.