

**OSAGE NATION**  
Tribal Headquarters: Pawhuska, OK



**A brief history**

Europeans in present-day Missouri first encountered this Siouan-speaking people, although their traditional home was in southern Illinois and Indiana. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, three bands of Osage lived in an area around the southern Missouri Ozarks and the Osage River and south into northern Arkansas. Their hunting and fishing territories were much larger – extending into Indian Territory on the west.

The Osage ceded their lands in Missouri and Arkansas to the U.S. in an 1808 treaty while reserving territory in Oklahoma north of the Canadian and Arkansas Rivers. The Osage reservation was diminished in subsequent treaties and is currently located in what is today north central Oklahoma in the county of the same name. By the 1880s most of the Osage had removed there.

Oil was discovered within their territory and over the years the tribe has sought to protect its valuable mineral resources through its government. In 2006 the Osage adopted a new three-branch government designed to serve its more than 17,000 members.

**About the flag**

The Osage Tribal Seal is centered on a light blue field which denotes the “Sky People,” one of the Osage clans. The background of the Seal is bright yellow edged in black. Featured in

the center is a large sky blue arrowhead which points downward. Centered on the arrowhead is a prayer fan composed of black and white Eagle feathers with a red handle. A red sacred pipe crosses the arrowhead and fan diagonally. The words "Seal of Osage Nation" are ringed around the seal in black.

### **Educational Activity**

Why do you think the arrowhead is featured so prominently on the Osage flag? Use internet and library resources to learn more about the tribe. How does the arrowhead fit in the Osage's history?