

Native American Heritage Month

Native American Influence in Oklahoma State Flag

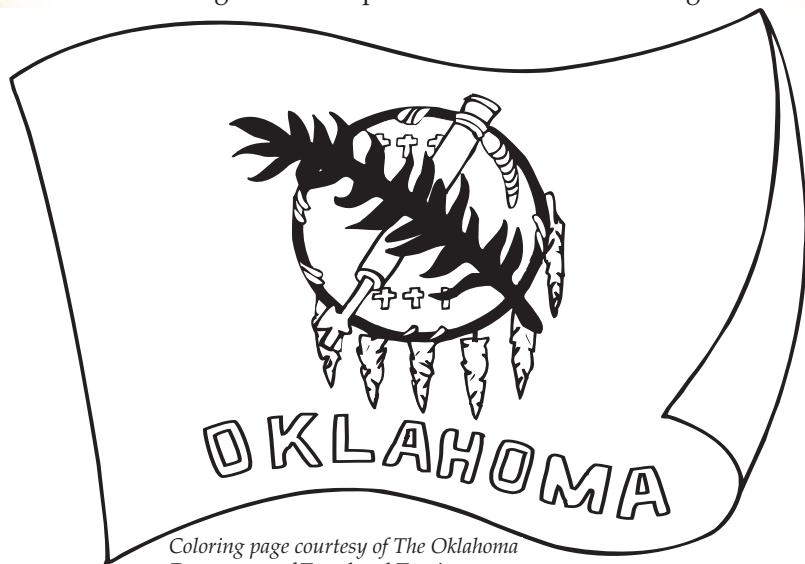
State flags usually exhibit a wide variety of regional influences, local history, styles and design principles.

Oklahoma has had fourteen flags fly over the state since the Spanish came to the Great Plains. The current state flag was officially adopted in 1925. It honors more than 60 groups of Native Americans and their ancestors. It prominently displays an Osage warrior's shield made from buffalo hide with seven eagle feathers hanging from the lower edge. It prominently displays an Osage warrior's shield made from buffalo hide. The seven eagle feathers hanging from the lower edge represent the authority of high office in clan or tribal affairs. Superimposed over the shield are symbols of peace and unity from the culture of the Native American and European-American settlers in the territory—a red-bowled calumet or ceremonial peace pipe and the olive branch. The sky blue field surrounding the shield is borrowed from an old Choctaw flag from the Civil War.

In 1941, the name OKLAHOMA was added in white underneath the shield, an addition that some feel is unnecessary, believing that the design of the flag was significantly unique without this reminder.

Activity:

Color the flag below to represent Oklahoma's state flag.



Coloring page courtesy of The Oklahoma Department of Travel and Tourism, 2007



THE OKLAHOMAN



RED EARTH

Newspapers for this educational program provided by

