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Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas



RELATIVES

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas shares close kinship with several other American Indian tribes due to their origins within the Muscogee (Creek) Confederacy. Most notably, they are deeply connected to the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, sharing language and a significant portion of their history. Other related tribes include the Muscogee (Creek) Nation itself, as well as other historical members of the Confederacy like the Hitchiti, Natchez, Shawnee, Yuchi, and the Seminole. Furthermore, the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town in Oklahoma represents another distinct group with direct ancestral ties to the Alabama people. While each has developed its own unique identity, their shared past and cultural roots remain significant.

INTRODUCTION

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas has the oldest reservation in the state located on approximately 10,200 acres in the Big Thicket of Deep East Texas. The Tribe is a fully functioning sovereign government with a full array of health and human services, including law enforcement and emergency services. There are more than 1,300 members, about half of whom live on the reservation. The Tribe is governed by an elected Tribal Council and advised by a Principal Chief, Donnis Battise, Mikko Choba, Chief Kanicu, and Second Chief, Millie Thompson Williams, Mikko Istimatokla, Chief Poliika Istaaya (2025).

The tribes lived in adjacent areas in what is now the state of Alabama. By 1780, the tribes had migrated to modern-day East Texas. Although they were two separate tribes, the Alabamas and Coushattas have been closely associated throughout their history. Their cultures have some differences but for the most part are nearly identical.



HISTORY

During the Mexican War of Independence from Spain, the tribes fought with the revolutionaries. Their many combined contributions included a battalion of 300 warriors who were instrumental to the capture of San Antonio in the April 1, 1813 battle. The newly formed Mexican government recognized both tribes independently and offered them tracts of land for permanent settlement. Those lands are attributed to the tribes in early maps of the region, including Stephen F. Austin's 1829 map of Texas.

In 1836, Sam Houston brokered a treaty with the tribes before the Texas War of Independence from Mexico. The agreement provided the title of land between the Neches and Sabine rivers for one community with both tribes in return for assurance the tribes would not side with Mexico. Tribal members served as guides for Houston's army and provided provisions to feed Texas refugees fleeing from Santa Anna's army. Today, Houston's descendants still acknowledge that contribution to the Republic of Texas.

1780's
The Alabama and Coushatta tribes migrate across the Sabine River into Spanish controlled territory of modern day Texas.

Continue reading here

<https://www.alabama-coushatta.com/about-us/our-history/>

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Introduction

The Alabama language, also known as Alibamu, is a vibrant and historically significant Native American language spoken by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. Belonging to the Muskogean language family, it shares close ties with Koasati and more distant relationships with other languages like Chickasaw and Choctaw. Once also spoken in Oklahoma, Alabama is now primarily used by tribal members in Texas, particularly among elders, highlighting the ongoing efforts to preserve and revitalize this endangered linguistic heritage.

Language learning resource

<https://sites.itseervices.cas.unt.edu/~montler/Alabama/Dictionary/index.htm>



beginning, the start, the first, number one:
at̃hām̃m̃d̃ona
to mix together, combine, add numbers:
itt̃asaachi

one: ch̃aff̃aaka	two: t̃ok̃lo
three: t̃ot̃chiina	four: ost̃aaka
five: t̃at̃t̃aapi	six: h̃anñaali
seven: ont̃ok̃lo	eight: ont̃ot̃chiina
nine: ch̃akk̃aali	ten: p̃ok̃k̃ooli

eleven: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah ch̃aff̃aaka
twelve: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah t̃ok̃lo
thirteen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah t̃ot̃chiina
fourteen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah ost̃aaka
fifteen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah t̃at̃t̃aapi
sixteen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah h̃anñaali
seventeen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah ont̃ok̃lo



Different types of pow wow dancers



Pow wow royalty



Indian Village is the center of activity
at the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation

Counting in Alabama

nineteen: p̃ok̃k̃ooli lawah ch̃akk̃aali
twenty: poolihchi t̃ok̃lo
thirty: poolihchi t̃ot̃chiina
thirty-five: poolihchi t̃ot̃chiinan lawah t̃at̃t̃aapi
forty: poolihch ost̃aaka
fifty: poolihchi t̃at̃t̃aapi
sixty: poolihchi h̃anñaali
seventy: poolihch ont̃ok̃lo
eighty: poolihch ont̃ot̃chiina
ninety: poolihchi ch̃akk̃aali
hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipa
one hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas ch̃aff̃aaka
one hundred two: t̃at̃t̃aipas lawah t̃ok̃lo
two hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas t̃ok̃lo
two hundred two: t̃at̃t̃aipas t̃ok̃lo lawah t̃ok̃lo

three hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas t̃ot̃chiina
four hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas ost̃aaka
five hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas t̃at̃t̃aapi
six hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas h̃anñaali
seven hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas ont̃ok̃lo
eight hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas ont̃ot̃chiina
nine hundred: t̃at̃t̃aipas ch̃akk̃aali
one thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas p̃ok̃k̃ooli
two thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolis t̃ok̃lo
three thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolis t̃ot̃chiina
four thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolihchi ost̃aaka
Five thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolis t̃at̃t̃aapi
six thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolis h̃anñaali
seven thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolihchi ont̃ok̃lo
eight thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolihchi ont̃ot̃chiina
nine thousand: t̃at̃t̃aipas poolis ch̃akk̃aali

Resources

Official Tribal Website:

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas: <https://www.alabama-coushatta.com/> - Primary source for all information.

History and Culture:

Texas State Historical Association - Handbook of Texas:

(<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/alabama-coushatta-indians>,
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/coushatta-indians>) - Historical overviews.

Tribal Histories (TxDOT Report): <https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/415-01-rpt.pdf> - Tribal perspective on history.

Texas Indians: <http://www.texasindians.com/albam.htm> - General cultural and historical information.

Language:

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana - Our Language: <https://www.coushatta.org/our-language/> - Context on the Koasati language.

Government and Services:

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas - Tribal Services:

<https://www.alabama-coushatta.com/directory/?page=3> - Information on tribal governance.

Archives:

Collection of Alabama-Coushatta Materials (SHSU):

<https://archivesspace.shsu.edu/repositories/2/resources/15> - Historical documents and photos.