Cherokee

The Cherokee name means “speaker of another language.” The Cherokees originally lived in a very large area which included the following states: Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Virginia and West Virginia. In this area there were forest, mountains, and rivers. They found wildlife to be plentiful. The Cherokee lived in Wattle and Daub houses that were made of branches and vines covered with mud.

The Cherokee tribe often had two chiefs. One chief would lead during peaceful times, and the other would lead during times of war.

The Cherokee were farmers and hunters. They grew vegetables such as corn, squash, and beans. They hunted for deer, bear, turkey, and other animals. They hunted with blowguns, bows and arrows, traps, and spears.

Cherokee women were in charge of the farming, property, and the family. They usually had long hair, sometimes braided and decorated for special occasions. They wore shirts made like ponchos and skirts over leggings. The women sometimes wore jewelry such as copper arm bands and beaded necklaces. Cherokee men were in charge of hunting, building homes, fences, and tools. They wore breechcloths made from animal skin. They often shaved their heads completely or left just a small patch of hair on top. The men also wore headdresses made from thin strips of animal hair. Sometime they would decorate the headdresses with feathers or shells.

The Cherokee tribe was forced by the United States government to relocate to the Indian Territory, modern day Oklahoma, during the 1830’s. This part of the Cherokee history is often referred to as the “Trail of Tears” because many did not want to leave their home land. Others lost their lives or members of their family on the long journey to the new territory.
The name Chickasaw comes from the name of one of their great leaders, Chikasha. The tribe was originally located in the American southeast around the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. They often lived in two different homes during the year. One was open sided and used for the warmer summer months. The second was a wattle and daub home and used during the cold winter months.

The Chickasaw were led by a chief and a council of elders. The second in command was the war chief.

The Chickasaw were farmers and hunters. They farmed crops such as corn, beans, and squash. The boys of the tribe were taught to hunt at a young age. They most often used bows and arrows to hunt and spears to fish.

The Chickasaw women played an important role in the tribe. They tended to the farms and took care of the children. They also made clothing, baskets, and containers. The women wore dresses and skirts and often tied their hair on top of their head with beads. The Chickasaw men were hunters and warriors and often traveled far away to hunt. They wore breechcloths made from animal skin. They also shaved their heads often leaving just a small patch of hair on top. They also wore headdresses made from thin strips of animal hair. The men often tattooed their bodies to show their accomplishments.

The Chickasaw tribe was forced to sell their land during the 1830s and move to the Indian Territory, modern day Oklahoma. The path they traveled from their original homes to their new homes in Oklahoma is known as the “Trail of Tears.”
The Choctaw name is believed to come from the Spanish word Chata meaning flat. They are originally from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida. Their homes were wattle and daub, made from plaster, mud, and vines, and usually built around cornfields.

The Choctaw were led by a council made up of two chiefs. They were also known for building mounds for communication, ceremonies, and festivals. The Choctaw were farmers and hunters. They farmed crops such as corn, sweet potatoes, and sunflowers. Hunters used bow and arrows to hunt for deer, turkey, and other wildlife.

The Choctaw women played an important role in the tribe. They tended to the farms and took care of the children. The women wore colorful dresses and wraparound skirts. They wore their hair long.

The Choctaw men were hunters and warriors. They wore breechcloths made of animal skin and colorful shirts. Like the women, the men also wore their hair long, but some cut it in a Mohawk and decorated it with feathers. Some of the men also tattooed themselves on their arms and legs.

The Choctaw was the first tribe of the Five Civilized Tribes to relocate from their homeland to the Indian Territory, present day Oklahoma. They made the move voluntarily. The path they traveled from their original homeland to the new territory is known as the “Trail of Tears.”
Creek

The Creek tribe is also known as the Muscogee or Muscogee Creek. They are originally from Alabama and Georgia. The Creek lived in Wattle and Daub houses that were made of branches and vines covered with mud. These houses were usually built around a town square where activities took place.

The Creek were led by a chief that was selected by a tribal council. Historically, the chief was always a man. The Creek were farmers and hunters. They grew vegetables such as corn, beans, and squash. They hunted for wild boar, deer, and turkey.

The Creek women were in charge of farming and taking care of the home. Women wore skirts and dresses. Their hair was usually worn long, sometimes braided with bright strips of cloth and sometimes braided and tied on top of her head. They also wore beaded necklaces.

The Creek men were in charge of hunting and protecting the family. They wore breechcloths and leather leggings. Decorated aprons were worn over the breechcloths on special occasions. The men usually shaved their heads in the Mohawk style. They also wore headdresses made from thin strips of animal hair. The men also decorated their bodies with tribal tattoos and painted their faces red for battles and dances.

The Chickasaw tribe was forced to move to the Indian Territory, modern day Oklahoma during the 1830s. The path they traveled from their original homes to their new homes in Oklahoma is known as the “Trail of Tears.”
Seminole

The name Seminole comes from the Spanish word that means wild. The Seminole tribe is originally from Florida and Southern Georgia. The homes they lived in were called chickees. Chickees were made of wood, often open sided, and raised up off the ground.

The Seminole were hunters, farmers, and fishermen. They also raised cattle. They grew crops such as corn, squash, sweet potatoes and melons. They caught fish with spears and hunted for such animals as deer, wild turkeys, turtles, and alligators.

The Seminole women tended to crops and took care of the family. As baby girls they started wearing a string of glass beads. They added many more necklaces as they got older. The women wore long skirts and poncho type shirts. Originally women wore their long hair in buns on top of their head. Later they began to wear it fanned out around a cardboard frame.

The Seminole men were hunters and in charge of protecting their family. They wore breechcloths made of animal skin. They usually shaved their head leaving just a small patch of hair on top and wore headdresses made from the strips of animal hair. They also tattooed their bodies, but rarely painted their faces.

Some of the Seminole tribe eventually relocated to the Indian Territory, modern day Oklahoma. The path they traveled is known as the “Trail of Tears”. Other parts of the Seminole tribe remained in southern Florida, making the government split into two tribes of Florida and Oklahoma.