

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month!

Each November, we celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous people across the United States. It's a time to reflect on the legacies of Native communities and to promote awareness of their struggles and achievements.



The Native American Presence in Missouri

Missouri's land is infused with Native American history from tribes such as the Osage, Missouriia, and Illiniwek. The Osage, one of the most prominent tribes, inhabited the area for centuries. Their skills in creating elaborate beadwork and traditional artifacts show the cultural heritage that still inspires today.

The Missouriia tribe, whom the state is named after, was known for its strategic use of waterways for transportation and food. Missouri means "people of the big canoes." Today, the influence of these tribes can still be felt through their name, traditions, and ongoing efforts to preserve their legacies.

Places to visit and learn more about Missouri's Native American history:

- The Trail of Tears State Park near Jackson, Missouri. It commemorates the displacement of Native Americans.
- Van Meter State Park, located near Miami, MO is home to the Missouri Indian Museum, highlighting the Missouriia and other local tribes.



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