

Sac Fox

by

OSAMIS



The Sac (Sauk) and Fox (Mequakie) are Algonquin-speaking people that in the beginning inhabit the northeastern United States. The name Sac means "people of the yellow earth" and Fox means "red earth people". This tribe homeland was located in the upper eastern Michigan peninsula for the Sac and in the north shore of Lake Superior were the Fox. In the eighteenth century, they fight with the French and were forced to move south to the Mississippi and Rock rivers in what is now northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. And in 1833, the Tribe was

removed to Iowa where they lived for 13 years. Later they move to Kansas and lived there for 23 years. In 1869, another removal occurs to the Tribe this time to Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

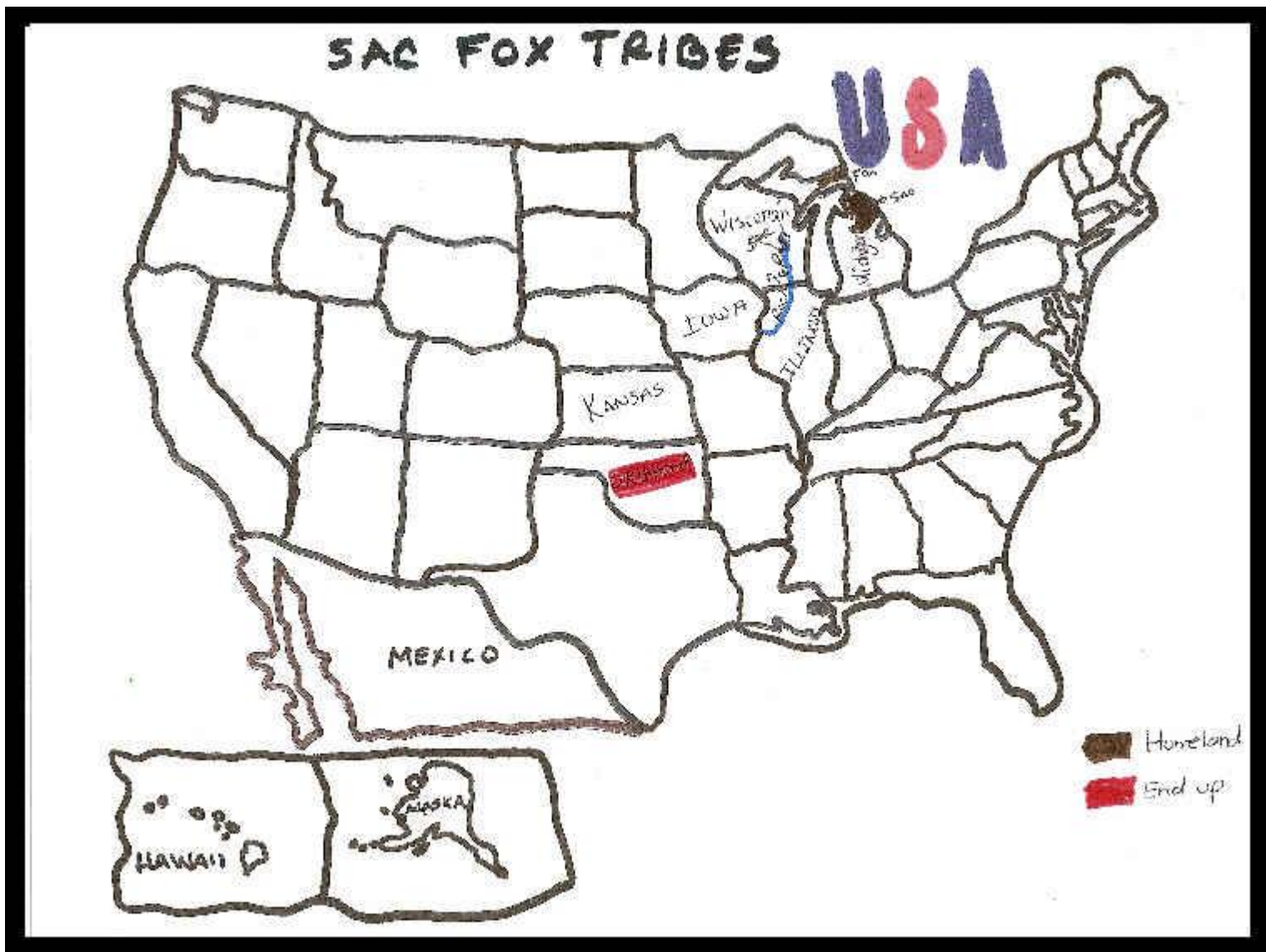
The Mississippi Valley was prosperous and abundant and provided the Sac and Fox with everything they needed. They had excellent farmland. Their women planted lots of acres of corn and most of the time they had extra corn to sell to traders. They also planted beans, squash, melons, tobacco, and pumpkins. In addition, women collected the nuts, fruits, berries and honey. Most of the men spent summer hunting and fishing. Hunters would catch muskrat, raccoon, beaver, and rabbit. Their most important catch was the buffalo and elk because these animals offered much more than food. Their skins were used to make clothing and storage containers. The bones were used to make tools.

The Sac have a unique way of decorated their dresses, vests, and shirts. Their clothing was made with deerskin, buffalo or any other animal skin that was on hand. They were known for their excellent ribbon work.

This tribe was very religious; everything in their daily life was made with a religion meaning or ceremony. They believed that every person, animal, and thing had its own manilo, or guardian spirit. When ever they hunted an animal they will thanked the Manito" of the animal for giving the animal to them, they took it as a gift. The kids would learn their religion at early age. The boys were taught to fast and keep holy vigil to bring their soul closer to the Great Spirit. When the boys and girls become teenage years they will have elaborate rituals.

Their houses were lodges that were large bark covered wigwams with rounded roofs that let the rain and snow roll off easily. Most of their lodges were 40 to 60 feet long and many families live in it during summer. In winter, they would move south into the forest were they built huts.

Even tough the Sac and the Fox were two different tribes they were always so close to each other that they were considered one tribe.



During summer the Sac and Fox tribes lived in the villages to do the farming. In winter they will go hunting into the forests.

When the boys and girls become teenage years, they painted their faces bright red to let people know that they were adult now.

The Sac and Fox tribe let married couples to separate and remarry. They thought that people should never be unhappy and obligated to do anything against their will.

If someone died from the Sac and Fox tribe, the dead person was dressed with his finest clothes. And they would have an all night ceremony.

In 1832, the famous Sac warrior named Black Hawk, led part of the Sac and Fox into war against the United States.