

## ***About The Kickapoo Nation***

The Indigenous Kickapoo Nation were one of many Great Lakes Tribes that originally lived in lands around the Great Lakes. The Kickapoo, or Kiikaapoa, were first encountered by Europeans near Lake Erie in modern-day northwest Ohio and southeastern Michigan. However, during the 17th century the Kickapoo, along with numerous other Indigenous nations, were forced to flee into neighboring Indigenous lands in the wake of the Iroquois War (1641-1701). The Kickapoo moved to modern day Wisconsin, into the lands of the Ho-Chunk and Menomonee Nations. After the fall of the Iroquois in 1701, the Kickapoo never returned to Lake Erie, having established hunting and gathering migration routes and community sites from present-day southern Wisconsin to central Illinois. The Kickapoo were also key warriors and allies in several critical battles during this period between Indigenous peoples and the warring French and British troops throughout Indiana and Ohio.

Up until around 1832, the Kickapoo resided in the Illinois country, until the infamous United States treaty-making period. The Kickapoo Tribe entered into ten treaties with the United States Government from 1795 to 1862 with devastating consequences; the treaties shifted the homelands of the Kickapoo and stripped them of over 2 million acres of homelands. Today, the Kickapoo Nation is divided into three federally recognized tribes, The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, and The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas. Tribal members also reside across the border in Mexico, as part of the band of Mexican-Kickapoos.