

My wall of shame entry is bigorrrin.org. It's a basic HTML website that hasn't been touched since 2009. I'd like to preface everything that I say is poor about the website with the acknowledgement that the site owner is a Native American who lives in his ancestors' culture and so only has an old computer but is still trying to do some really cool spreading of cultural information and especially languages. But, while I respect his goals, I have some issues with the site.



Above is Orrin's main page. However, the only link to this particular page is through going to the site bigorrrin.org. That is, once you leave this page, there are no links that can take you back from any other page (and trust me, I looked). This brings up a very obvious issue of safety because a user cannot, within the simple context of the website, go back if they clicked the wrong link. Also, there is the issue of efficiency through visibility. Because there are so many "American Indian Facts for Kids pages," it becomes a trial to try to find a specific one. The overall clutter simply diminishes the ability to find anything (though they are at least in alphabetical order). Additionally, this specific listing provides a distinct lack of internal consistency. That is, the separate tribes are listed out for the fact pages directly while their languages require you click on the "Native American Languages" link first before choosing a tribe (which are then grouped by family of language rather than alphabetically). This kind of inconsistency between features provides a distinct barrier for learnability in that the user must learn each feature separately, with no features helping to learn another as the typical site would. This particular issue arises largely because it is a demonstration of taking the complete inverse of external consistency. Instead of having the site work similarly to others to make it intuitive, this site doesn't even work similarly to itself and so is largely unintuitive.

Then, there is the below page (when one clicks on the “biography page” link).


Go to the [Native American cultures index](#) [What's new on our site today!](#)

Homepage of Orrin Lewis

Osiyo. My name is Orrin Lewis, and I am Cherokee. This is my personal homepage. Actually, it's not too much of a homepage. I am old-fashioned and I don't like to put my picture on the Internet. And I don't care very much for the pictures of half-naked Indian women with their animal guides that are all over a lot of Indian homepages, and I have an old computer which sometimes crashes when it sees sites that begin playing some flute music and try to show me pictures of a rippling pond or something. So this homepage is very bare.

BUT!

If you click [here](#), you will see my new project, Native Languages of the Americas. There we are providing information about all the Amerindian languages, with careful web directories of each one and also links to other resources about the people who speak each language. I should admit, my friend [Laura](#) is doing almost all of the programming and web searching there. I'm a little bit new with computers. But in any event, it is a very comprehensive site and I recommend it whole-heartedly to anyone. Unfortunately it is unfinished. But you can see the [Cherokee language](#) page, and the [Algonquian languages](#) are also almost done. We also have an [Internet Myths Page](#) debunking a lot of silly ideas about Indians that are floating around out there, such as we came from the lost island of Atlantis or are a lost tribe of Israel or something like that. And here is [Laura's](#) essay about [American Indian language revival](#). So though I may be new with computers, I still have something to offer the Internet! Go and check them out.



Information about me:

Osiyo, my name is Orrin Lewis. I am Cherokee. I also have Muskogee blood (my father's mother was half-Muskogee) and also have white ancestors (my father's father was half-white, and so were some older ancestors on my mother's side). But I never knew them, and I don't know too much about them. I was raised in Oklahoma. I am a tribal member of the Cherokee Nation. But, I do not speak my language. That really hurts my heart. I am the broken link. Back in the fifties, a lot of people were not teaching their kids to speak Tsalagi. They didn't want them to get hit at school or anything. The schools were very aggressive about only speaking English, and my oldest brother had a really bad time. Anyway, so my parents didn't teach it to me. But I have a granddaughter now who is learning the language again. My daughter-in-law's mother is a fluent speaker and she moved in with them to help care for Winnie. She is six now and speaking Cherokee pretty good. So maybe that circle has closed again. Listening to her and Maryann talking together makes me remember my own grandmother, a long time ago, and it gives me hope for the future. Maybe the web pages that we are working on will help other young people to know about and want to learn their ancestral languages, before they are all gone.

Other things about me: I have one son, John, and two daughters, Annie and Terry. I have three wonderful grandchildren, Winnie, Sarah, and John Jr. who was just born this Sept 1, 2003. I am retired and I live near Chicago now because that is where John and his family are. Annie and Sarah still live in Oklahoma. Terry has graduated from college now, she is the first one in my parents family to do this.


Now I moved this homepage so that the [Native American Languages](#) page will be the first thing a visitor sees, because I think it is much more important and also more people will care about it. If you want us to add a link to your page please write to [Laura](#), she is the webmaster. If you want to contact me my email is bigorin@yahoo.com. If you want help with genealogy, Wiccan or New Age religion, Indian language translation, or finding Indian names, please see this [FAQ](#) page which will answer your questions and give you useful URL's to look at. Neither of us will answer these questions via email.

My biggest issue with this page is again the inability to return to the main page, especially as there is no way to get to the majority of the pages linked on that main page from this new page. The only place still relatively clearly linked is the “Native American Languages” page, which is a new site entirely. And even this link isn’t particularly visible. Interestingly enough, the site manages to fail in visibility in a slightly different way than before. Instead of having too many links grouped together, this page now spreads links among large blocks of text. This essentially requires the user to skim the entire page’s contents for any link they might desire and so is a horrible case of visibility and therefore is also a bad case of utility. However, a more important aside pertains to a link later in the “Homepage” which reads “links” (shown below).

[Native American languages](#)
[Laura's LiveJournal](#)
[Hotel archives](#)
[CRPG Computer game reviews](#)
[Baldur's Gate 2 \(Shadows of Amn\)](#)
[Baldur's Gate 2: Throne of Bhaal Hints](#)
[Wizardry 8 Hints and Tips](#)
[Arcanum Game Hints and Tips; of Steamworks and Magick Obscura](#)
[Realms of Arkania: Blade of Destiny Walkthrough](#)
[Abenaki Indians \(Abenaki, Abenakis, Abnaki, Abnakis, Abenaki dictionary, abenaki, abenakis\)](#)
[Algonquin people \(Algonquins, Algonkin Indians, Algonkins, Illinois Algonquin tribe\)](#)
[Algonquin culture and Algonkin history \(Algonquins, Illinois Algonquin tribe\)](#)
[Arapahoe Indians \(Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe, Arapahoe Indian\)](#)
[Atikamekw \(Atikamek nation, Atikamek Cree, Atikameks, Atikameks\)](#)
[Beothuk Indians \(Shawnadithit/Red Indian baby, Beothuks, Beothucks, L'Anse aux Meadows Skraeling\)](#)
[Bering Strait](#)
[Blackfoot Indians \(Blackfeet Indian history, Blackfoot Nation, Blackfeet language, Siksika\)](#)
[Blood Quantum](#)
[American Indian Books \(Native American Books\)](#)
[Cherokee Indians \(Tsalagi Indian tribe, Cherokee language, Cherokees\)](#)
[Cheyenne Indians \(Cheyenne Indian tribe, Cheyenne language, Cheyennes\)](#)
[Ojibwe Language \(Chippewa Indian language, Ojibwa Indians, Chippewa Indians, Ojibway Indian tribe, Anishinabe\)](#)
[Cree Indians \(Cree language, tribe, history, and culture, Cree dictionary, Crees\)](#)
[Algonkian languages \(Algonquian Indian tribes, Algonkians, Algonquians, Algonquian words\)](#)
[Iroquoian language family \(Iroquois, Iriquois, Iroquois, Iroquoians\)](#)
[American Indian FAQ](#)
[Gros Ventre \(Aisina\)](#)
[Native Americans \(American Indians\)](#)
[Native American Languages](#)
[Indian Linguistics](#)
[Illinois Indians \(Illini Indian tribe\)](#)
[Kickapoo Indians \(Kickapoo tribe, Kikapu\)](#)
[Lenape Language \(Delaware language, Unami, Leni Lenape Indians, Delaware Indian tribe\)](#)
[Lenape Indians \(Leni Lenape Indian, Delaware Indians, Lenne Lenape tribe, Delawares, Lenapes\)](#)
[Etchemin/Loup A/Loup B](#)

First of all, it is terrible in terms of effectiveness because only the blue links actually lead to anything; all of the red text leads to a yahoo page that explains that the real page doesn't exist. This means that the page explicitly fails to do what it says it is meant to: link to other pages; the page is hugely ineffective. And this compounds the issue of visibility. While the links are again in alphabetical order, there are far too many links to easily pick out the one desired. The gratuitous number of links stems from yet another usability goal failing: utility. The overall site is meant to provide information about Native American peoples and yet there is no shortage of links to information regarding the site designer's video game enterprises (this issue also existed in the site's main page, but was less terrible due to the separation of those links from all others). Note that the games have nothing to do with Native American culture and are, in fact, largely wizard-based. This simply leads to the site having worse utility for what it was meant to do in order to offer meager utility for another random task.

Anyway, onto another sub-page of the site. This particular page is one of the "American Indian Facts for Kids pages" and, more specifically, pertains to facts about Powhatan Indians (the page is shown below).

Native American Facts For Kids 

●●●Powhatan Tribe●●●

●How do you pronounce "Powhatan?" What does it mean?
Powhatan is pronounced "Pow-HAT-un." ("Pow" rhymes with "cow," and "HAT" rhymes with "cat.") *Powhatan* meant "waterfall" in the Virginia Algonquian language. It was originally the name of Chief Wahunsonacock's hometown (which was located near a waterfall.) Sometimes you may see it spelled *Powatan* or *Powhatten* instead.

●Where do the Powhatan Indians live?
 The Powhatans lived in Virginia, where they famously interacted with the Jamestown colony. Some Powhatan descendants still live in Virginia today. Other Powhatan Indians were driven northward and their descendants live in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

●What language do the Powhatans speak?
 The Powhatan Indians speak English today. The **Powhatan language**, also known as **Virginia Algonquian**, has not been spoken in centuries. Some Powhatan Indians continue to use Powhatan today for cultural and religious purposes, the way Italians may use Latin words. You can see some Powhatan words [here](#).

●How was the Powhatan Confederacy organized? What was Powhatan government like?
 Originally, there were many different Algonquian tribes in Virginia, including the Powhatan, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, and Chickahominy tribes. They shared the same language and culture, but each village was independent from the others. In the 16th century, Chief Powhatan united all these villages into the **Powhatan Confederacy**. Many villages joined the Powhatan Confederacy willingly. Others were conquered by Chief Powhatan.

●Who were some famous Powhatan Indians?
 The most important Powhatan Indian was **Chief Powhatan**. His real name was Wahunsonacock. "Chief Powhatan" was his title as the leader of the Powhatan Confederacy. Chief Powhatan was actually more like a European king than a traditional Algonquian chief. In most Algonquian tribes, village chiefs came together in councils to make important decisions, and all the chiefs had to agree to take an action. But Chief Powhatan was an absolute ruler. Village chiefs had to obey Powhatan's commands and pay tribute to him.

The most famous Powhatan Indian was Chief Powhatan's daughter **Pocahontas**. A lot of stories told about Pocahontas are not true. Pocahontas was only eleven years old when she met John Smith, and they did not have a romance. The story about Pocahontas saving his life may not be true either. But Pocahontas really did marry another English colonist, John Rolfe. It was the most famous interracial marriage of the time. Pocahontas was only 21 when she died, but many people are descended from her son Thomas.

●What was Powhatan culture like in the past? What is it like now?
 Here is the homepage of the [Powhatan Renape Nation](#), where you can learn about Powhatan Indian life in the past and present.

The site's consistent theme of poor visibility resurges once again with a large number of Q and A pairs (note that this is only about one fifth of the total mass of the questions and that there are no means other than simple scrolling to navigate the questions). This, of course, makes the goal of efficiency a clear failing in addition to being very detrimental to the goal of utility.

Overall, the site has very poor visibility and consistency that are clear detriments to effectiveness, efficiency, and utility in addition to having a huge issue with safety. This all adds up to make a pretty bad site.