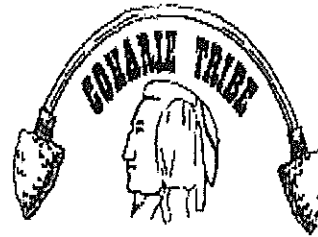


The Coharie Tribe

The Coharie tribe is one of the eight state-recognized tribes of North Carolina. These Native Americans are descendents of the Neusiok Indians. Currently, there are approximately 2,500 Coharie tribal members with the majority between the ages of 21 and 65.

History

Many historians agree that the Coharie people are descendants of the Neusiok, Coree, Tuscarora, and Waccamaw Indians.



These tribes once occupied land in central North Carolina. Specifically, historical records indicate that the Coree tribe lived along the Big Coharie and the Little Coharie Rivers in present-day Sampson County of North Carolina.

Between 1730 through 1745, the Neusiok, Coree, and Waccamaw tribes were almost completely destroyed due to wars with other tribes and English settlers, Indian slave traders as well as from disease. To escape the continuing violence, some of the surviving Native Americans of the Neusiok, Coree, and Waccamaw moved into present-day Harnett and Sampson counties where they formed the Coharie tribe.

During the nineteenth century, the Coharie developed a strong and effective political base in Sampson County, NC. After the Coharie first arrived in Harnett and Sampson counties, they could own and use firearms as well as vote in local elections. However by 1835, many of the rights and privileges held by the Coharie were revoked on the federal and state level.

Even in the midst of all of the political changes, the Coharie tribe focused their attention on education. In 1859, the Coharie founded their own school in 1859. In 1911, the Coharie petitioned the state of North Carolina to provide schools for Native Americans.

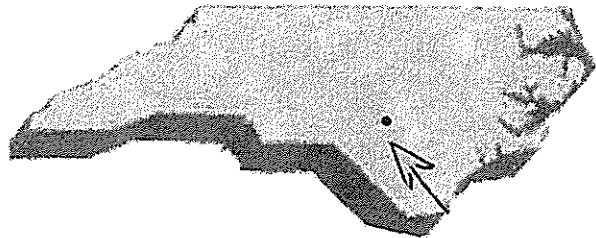
In that very same year, the Coharie began the New Bethel Indian School in the New Bethel Township of Sampson County. The next year, the Coharie founded another school in Herring Township.

Unfortunately, the state of North Carolina canceled its agreement and discontinued support for the Native American schools. After approximately four years, the state reinstated its agreement. As a result, the East Carolina Indian School was built in 1917 in the Herring Township and another was established in 1942 in Sampson County.

In 1971, the state of North Carolina officially recognized the Coharie Indians as a state tribe and Clinton, NC became the tribal seat of the Coharie. In order to promote the health, education, social, and economic well-being of Coharie tribal members, the tribe chartered the Coharie Intra-Tribal Council in 1975. The Coharie Intra-Tribal Council is located in the old Eastern Carolina Indian School building in Sampson County, which educated Native Americans of Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland, Columbus, Person, and Hoke counties from 1942 through 1966.

Location

The majority of the Coharie tribe live in communities within Harnett and Sampson Counties. Approximately 500 members of Coharie tribal members are known to occupy areas outside of those counties.



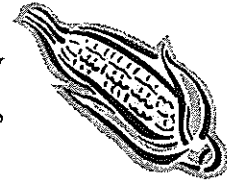
Culture

The Coharie tribe consists of four different settlements: Holly Grove, New Bethel, Shiloh, and Antioch. All of these settlements were established around a local church. Most of the Coharie activities are centered around the church. At the church, different families of the Coharie are able to interact with each other and social regulations are taught and enforced.

The Coharie tribe received their identity from their religious activities. In addition, the Coharie hold their annual powwow on the second weekend in September. In recent history, some Coharie people have intermarried with other Native Americans such as the Lumbee, Tuscarora, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

Food

The most abundant crop grown by the Coharie was probably maize (corn). The Coharie also planted such crops as beans, squash, melons, and tobacco.



History of Maize

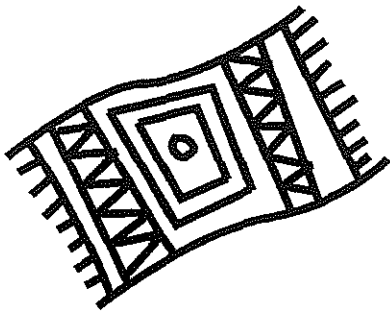
Native Americans developed maize from wild grass known as Teosinte. Early maize did not look like corn of today. Instead, early maize had very small kernels that were not fused together. Over many years, Native Americans were able to cultivate the early maize to grow in ears of corn.

The first ears of maize were only a few inches long with about 8 rows of kernels. Over time, Native Americans cultivated maize to grow longer and bigger. This development allowed Native Americans to produce almost enough food for the entire year.

The abundance of food allowed many Native Americans to stop their nomadic (hunting and gathering) behavior and become an agricultural people.

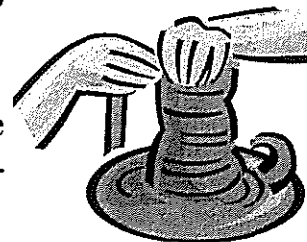
Art

The artists of the Coharie tribe have produced many beautiful paintings depicting images of their people.

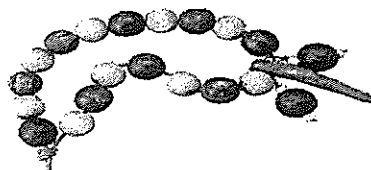


Like other Native Americans, the beautiful art the Coharie tribe produced was also functional.

They are known to weave baskets and blankets, mold well-crafted pottery, and make dolls out of cornhusk.



Another priceless treasure created by Native Americans is their beadwork. The Coharie people probably used beads made out of wood, stone or animal bones, and then used those beads to make jewelry, belts, bags, buttons, lapel ornaments and many other art objects.



Coharie Tribe Review

Answer the following:

1. The Coharie Native Americans are descendants of all the following except:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| a. Coree | d. Waccamaw |
| b. Cherokee | e. Tuscarora |
| c. Neusiok | |

2. How was the Coharie tribe formed?

3. True or false: Throughout the history of the Coharie tribe, they placed a lot of emphasis and importance on education for Native Americans.

4. The Coharie Intra-Tribal Council promotes the _____, _____, _____, and _____ well-being of the _____ people.

5. The majority of the Coharie people are located in _____ and _____ counties of North Carolina.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| a. Harnett, Guilford | c. Harnett, Sampson |
| b. Sampson, Johnston | d. Sampson, Cumberland |

6. What is the center of the Coharie culture? (Hint: It was here that the Coharie people interacted with other families and social regulations were taught and enforced.)

7. Maize is corn. How did the Native Americans develop maize? Describe the appearance of maize.

8. True or false: While in Sampson County, the Coharie tribe has always experienced and retained the political rights and freedoms given to United States citizens.

9. What kind of art does the Coharie tribe produce?

10. The Coharie tribe placed a lot of emphasis on education. Why do you think that education was so important to them? Write a one page essay on your thoughts.