



During this season of giving thanks, The Historic New Orleans Collection celebrates the history and culture of three Indigenous tribes. Explore tasty recipes of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe, create a replica of the Coushatta heritage logo, and learn to count in the Tunica language! This family activity kit includes information sheets about the tribes, activity guidelines, and ALL supplies needed to complete craft projects.



### Giving Thanks: Identity

- create a replica of the Coushatta heritage logo and learn about its symbolism!





## CHOCTAW-APACHE TRIBE OF EBARB, LA

### Giving Thanks: Food

- decorate recipe cards with stamps, stickers, and markers!
- have an adult help you cook the delicious recipes to make sweet potato pies and fry bread

TUNICA-BILOXI  
TRIBE OF LOUISIANA



### Giving Thanks: Language

- watch videos to learn some words in the Tunica language
- make a counting game to help you memorize the numbers 1 through 10 in Tunica
- decorate a bookmark with the words to a Tunica greeting song

# The Coushatta Tribe

There are approximately 960 members of the Sovereign Nation of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, which consists of seven clans (family groupings). For thousands of years, long before the arrival of Europeans, the Coushatta have lived in the Tennessee and Mississippi River Valleys. Today, many tribal members live in Louisiana's Allen and Jefferson Davis Parishes, and the tribal headquarters is in Elton.



For generation after generation, members of the Coushatta community have maintained their unique culture, traditional crafts (including their masterful cane-woven and longleaf pine-needle basketry), and the Koasati spoken language. The Koasati Language Project began in 2007 as a way to record, transcribe, and translate conversations and preserve the living language of the Coushatta Tribe. Visit [www.koasatiheritage.org](http://www.koasatiheritage.org) to learn more about this project.



## The Coushatta Tribal Seal

In the middle of the seal, you can see a garfish, once used for both food and jewelry. The garfish represents courage, wisdom, strength, and discipline. The colors in this seal reflect traditional clothing worn by tribal members and represent the colors of day and night. Black represents night. White represents daylight. Yellow represents the sun. Orange represents discipline. Red represents life-giving blood.

The whole shape represents the never-ending circle of life and eternity.

## The Coushatta Heritage Logo

The website of the Coushatta Tribe, [www.koasatiheritage.org](http://www.koasatiheritage.org), explains the symbolism of its heritage logo.

### The Flame

"The fire in the center of the logo symbolizes the eternal flame of our people, and our desire to pass the torch of our customs, values, and language on to younger generations. As they have



throughout time, our home fire serves as a beacon for our people, always guiding us back to our families and community.”

### The Seven Points

“We based the innermost points of the blue circle on traditional Coughatta bead patterns. These seven triangles represent our seven clans, as well as the concept of navigating to find a gathering place.”

### The Colors

“Our tribal colors follow the patterns of the world around us. The progression of colors mirrors the daily cycle of the sun, from sunrise at dawn, through noon, twilight, and into nighttime. The colors also represent the annual cycle of the seasons, from spring, when life is renewed (white), into the sun-drenched summer (yellow), the autumn, when food is harvested and stored (orange), into winter, when we re-new ourselves (red), so that the cycle may begin again.”

### **Giving Thanks: Identity**

1. Find the colored construction paper, scissors, and glue in your kit.
2. Use the scissors to cut out all pieces for the heritage logo: 1 brown, 2 red, 2 light blue, 7 dark blue, 1 orange, 1 yellow.
3. The brown circle is the base of the logo. Use the glue stick to glue the light blue ring onto the brown base.
4. Glue the red half circle inside the top half of the light blue ring.
5. Space out evenly and glue the 7 dark blue triangles onto the light blue ring.
6. Assemble and glue the four flames (orange, yellow, blue, red) to the center of the logo.



## CHOCTAW-APACHE TRIBE OF EBARB, LA



There are currently around 2,500 members of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb. Many members of this tribe live in the towns of Zwolle, Converse, Noble, and Ebarb in Sabine Parish, Louisiana—but other members live around the world! The Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb were recognized as a tribe by the State of Louisiana in 1978.

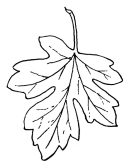
The tribe's origins can be traced back to the early 1700s, when families from the Adai and Lipan Apache tribes formed a community on the bank of the Sabine River. The community grew as Spanish soldiers from a nearby fort married Indigenous women. After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, many Indigenous communities were forced off their ancestral lands, including many Choctaw families—and several dozen moved to the Ebarb area, further expanding the Indigenous community there. The construction of the Toledo Bend Reservoir in the 1960s displaced many tribe members, as Louisiana and Texas state governments claimed 180,000 acres of ancestral Choctaw-Apache land to construct the dam.

Each year, the Choctaw-Apache tribe holds a traditional powwow, which celebrates the community's culture. This joyful gathering includes traditional dancing, displays of tribal craftsmanship, and lots of delicious food! Visit <http://choctawapachecookbook.com> for more recipes, stories, and videos! You can also purchase a digital copy of the cookbook (which contains dozens of recipes and stories) for \$5.

### Giving Thanks: Food

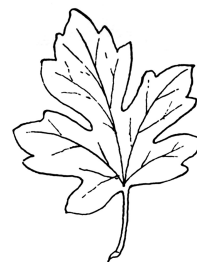
1. Find the recipe cards, markers, stickers, and stamps in your kit.
2. Use the supplies to decorate your recipe cards!
3. With an adult, cook the delicious Choctaw-Apache recipes on the cards.





## Rose Wanat's Sweet Potato Pie

Makes 8 servings



### Ingredients:

- 3 medium sweet potatoes
- 2 Tbsp butter or margarine
- 3 tsp allspice
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp white sugar
- 1 package of 10 refrigerated biscuits



### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Peel and boil sweet potatoes until tender. Drain and mash. Mix butter and allspice and add to mashed potatoes. Add more allspice to taste.

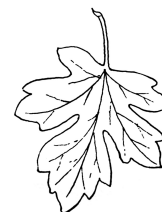
Roll out individual biscuits on a floured board until thin. Fill with each with potato mixture, about 1/4 cup. Fold over and crimp edges to form a crescent shape. Cut slits in the top of pies prior to baking.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes.



## Chief Thomas' Choctaw Apache Frybread

Makes 8-10 servings



### Ingredients:

- 4 cups of All-Purpose flour
- 4 Tbsp of Crisco All-Vegetable Shortening
- 4 Tbsp of water
- 4 Tbsp of milk
- 1 tsp of baking soda
- 2 eggs beaten



### Directions:

Add flour to large bowl. In separate bowl, beat eggs and then pour into flour. Mix in shortening with fingers.

Add baking soda, water, and milk. Mix all ingredients until there is a large sticky ball of dough. Add small amounts of flour until dough can be separated into balls about the size of golf balls. Flatten each small ball using fingers.

Melt Crisco in frying pan and heat to hot. Fry several pieces of dough. Flip once and brown each side for 1-2 minutes.

Sprinkle with powdered or regular sugar. Enjoy!



The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has 1,226 members, many of whom live in and around Marksville, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. The tribe's original ancestral lands were near the Red, Yazoo, and Pascagoula Rivers, marking important trade routes that existed between Indigenous communities and European explorers and colonizers. The Tunica and Biloxi Tribes, originally separate communities, became allies as they fought together against European colonizers. The two tribes relocated to their present-day territory in the late 1700s, after fighting with the Spanish against British forces in the Revolutionary War. The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe gained state recognition in 1975 and federal recognition in 1981.

The Tunica language is one of the cornerstones of Tunica-Biloxi heritage and culture, but it became endangered in the mid-1900s as more native Tunica speakers died. In the past decades, the tribe has made it a priority to preserve the community's linguistic heritage and cultural pathways. The Language and Cultural Revitalization Program offers programs to Tunica-Biloxi members of all ages as a way to maintain the traditions that have continued for generation after generation in the community.

### **Giving Thanks: Language**

1. Find the craft sticks, stamps, markers, stickers, and bookmarks in your kit.
2. Watch Donna and Elisabeth teach you how to count from one to ten in the Tunica language here: <https://youtu.be/gmChap0RUDw> and learn a Tunica welcome song here: <https://youtu.be/eINS6aLHiR8> (you can also access these links from [www.hnoc.org/family-programs](http://www.hnoc.org/family-programs)).
3. Use the stamps, stickers, and markers to decorate your bookmark and practice the words to "Etima Lapun," the welcome song.

4. Divide your craft sticks in half, so you have two piles of ten sticks each. Take one pile and label each of the sticks with the Tunica words from one to ten that you learned from “Wira Wir'intaki,” the counting song. Take the other pile of sticks and use stamps, stickers, and/or markers to number them from one to ten. Now you’ve made a matching game! Practice matching your numbered sticks to the correct Tunica word.

#### **Counting from One to Ten in Tunica**

1 – sahku	6 – masahki
2– ili	7 – tayihku
3 – enihku	8 – tsihku
4 – manku	9 – tohku sahku
5 – sinku	10 – michu sahku



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION presents

# GIVING THANKS

FAMILY CRAFT KITS TO EXPLORE INDIGENOUS CULTURE



We are grateful to the following tribal members who helped us to create this program:



**Raynella Fontenot**, Revitalization Coordinator

**Linda Langley, PhD**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

**Marianna Luquette**, Tribal Archivist

**Dorsey Ebarb Bronson**, Choctaw-Apache tribe elder and author of [\*Choctaw-Apache Cookbook\*](#)



**John Barbry**, Director of Programming for the Language & Culture Revitalization Program

**Elisabeth P. Mora**, Language and Cultural Lifeway instructor

**Donna M. Pierite**, Language and Cultural Lifeway instructor

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- ◉ [Click here](#) to access the Tunica-Biloxi Language and Culture Revitalization Program YouTube channel
- ◉ [Etima Lapun? - Greeting Song](#)
- ◉ [Wira Wir'intaki - Counting Song](#)



- ◉ [Click here](#) to check out more Choctaw-Apache recipes and stories!



- ◉ [Listen to songs in the Koasati language](#)
- ◉ [Learn about the 2019 Coughatta Powwow](#)
- ◉ [Learn about the tradition of Coughatta basket-weaving](#)

Please contact us at [education@hnoc.org](mailto:education@hnoc.org) with questions & comments!