

The Caddo

War and Diplomacy

Warriors and Peacemakers

Protected by their reputation as fierce and skillful warriors, Caddo communities rarely had to band together to go to war, relying instead upon diplomacy to solve conflicts. Though they would go to war if they needed to, the Caddo also experienced centuries of relative peace.



This detail from an early Spanish map shows an extended family compound surrounded by a hedge of trees. The Caddo did not have walls and fortifications like some other mound building societies at the time.



Diplomats and Politicians

During the 1600s and 1700s, Europeans walked a tightrope trying to keep claim on lands in the face of strong tribes. Due to their physical position between the Spanish and French, the Caddo became diplomats, brokering peace accords between tribes, between tribes and Europeans and even between Europeans. This diplomatic tradition continued until the nineteenth century.

Stanley Edge spoke before the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1899. These two photos, taken the same day, show that the Caddo were true diplomats who could smoothly transition between worlds to help broker the most advantageous deal.

Patriots and Americans

The men and women of the Caddo Nation have fought in most American wars, starting with the War of 1812.



Twenty-three year old Caddo Thomas Leehmuis served in the U.S. Army in Iraq before dying in a roadside bombing on June 21, 2007.



Sho-ee-tat (George Washington) led the Caddo Frontier Brigade for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

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TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Courtesy of the Caddoan Visual Archive and Collection of the Caddo Heritage Museum