

Native American Cultural Connection to Water



Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
May 2021

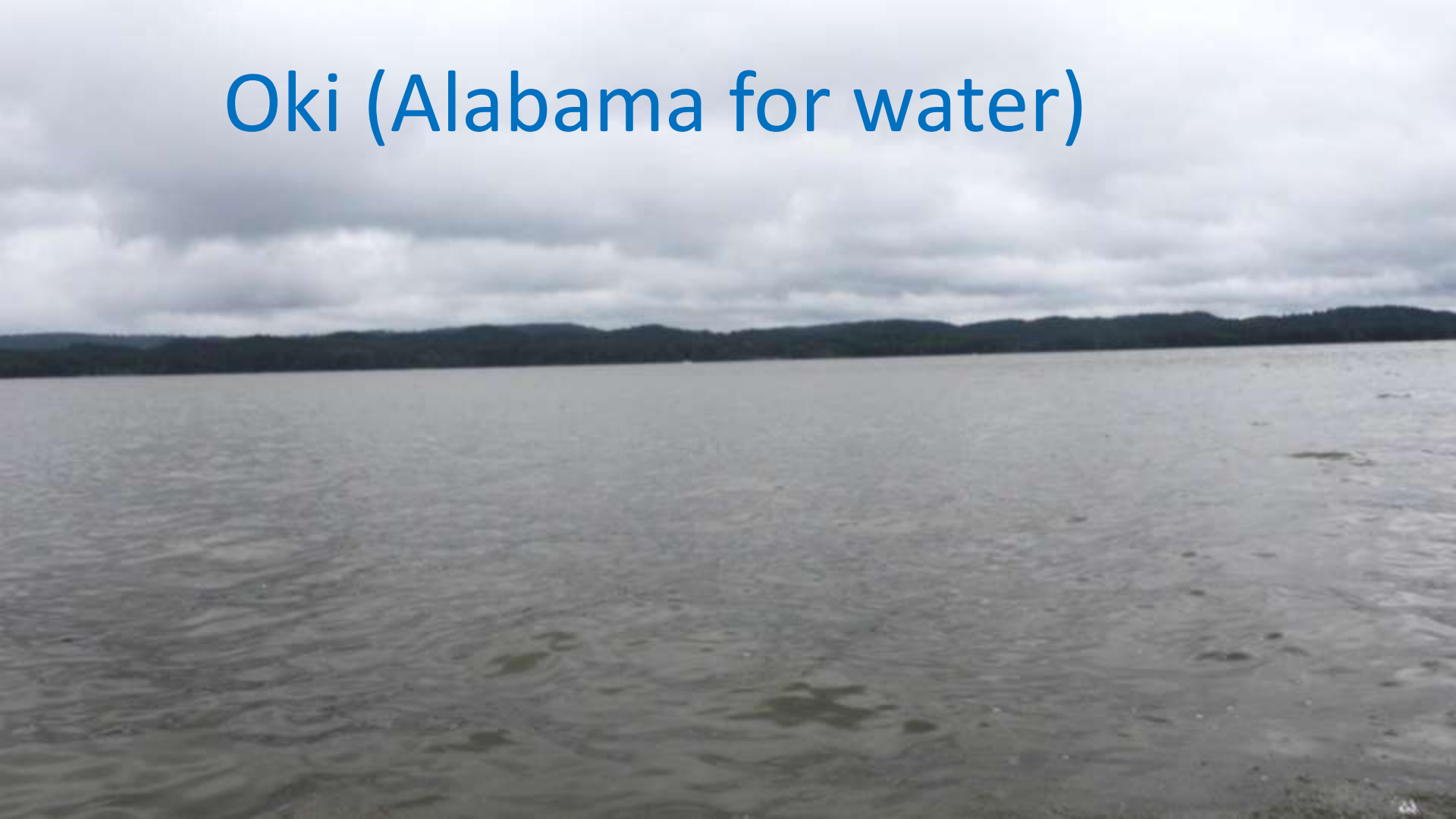
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Presentation Abstract

The Alabama-Coushatta culture would not exist without water. From the ancestors to present day citizens, this natural resource has sustained our people and allowed the culture to survive despite Americanization. Mounds, villages, and trails; baskets, pottery, and tools; housing material, food, and cleansing; all attributed to water. From the heavens to under the earth, water has been a precious blessing to this life and beyond. Waterways even carry names of Alabama-Coushatta and the people.

Sharing the Tribal relationship with this important resource will demonstrate better partnerships for longtime water conservancy.

Oki (Alabama for water)





STAND WITH STRONG HEARTS



NO DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

**COAL.
GAS =
CLIMATE
CHAOS**



Protect Our Water, Our Life

NO DAPL

NO PERMIT to POLLUTE



Arkansas

Tennessee

Mississippi

Alabama

Georgia

Louisiana



Arkansas

Tennessee

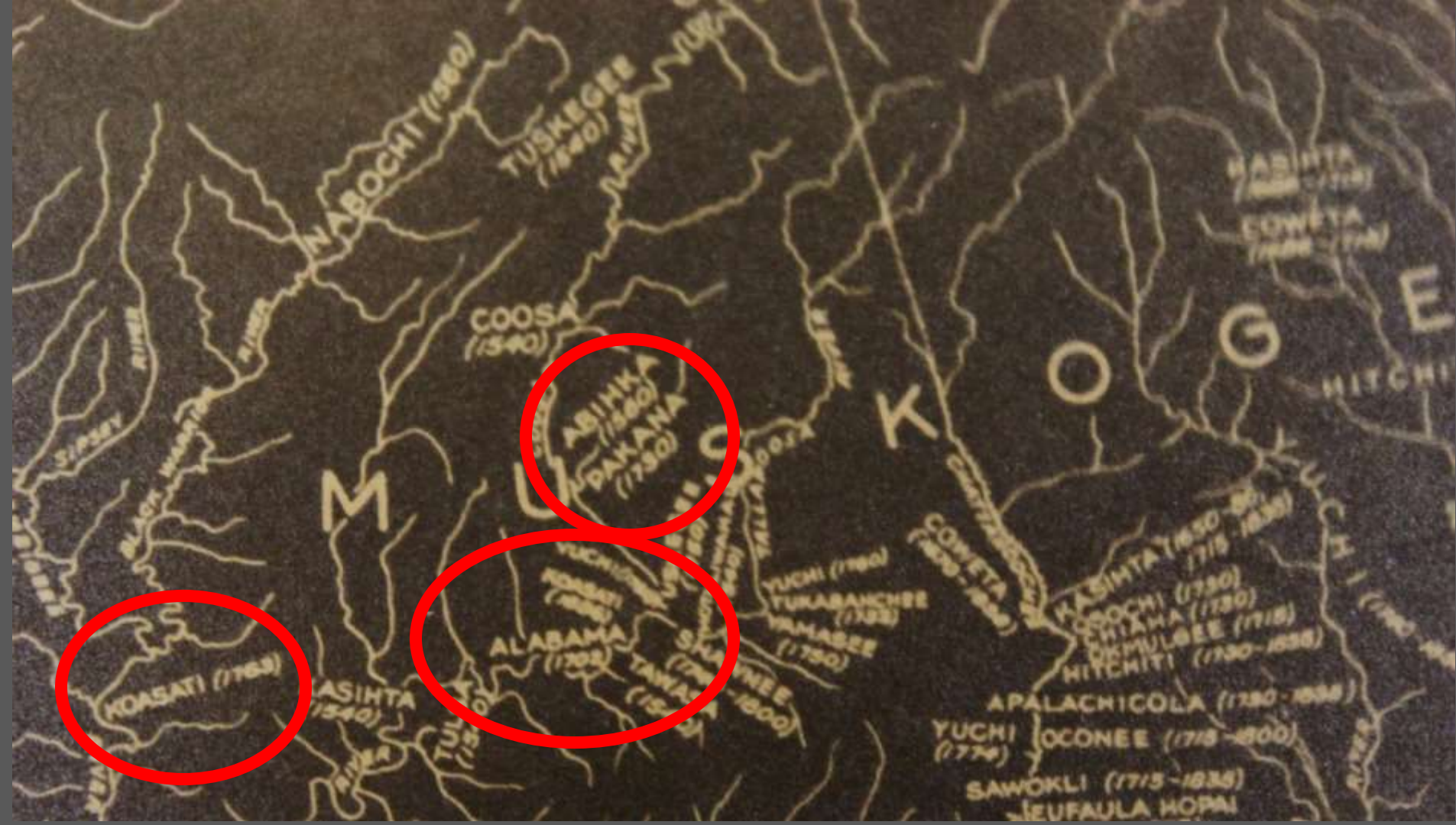
Mississippi

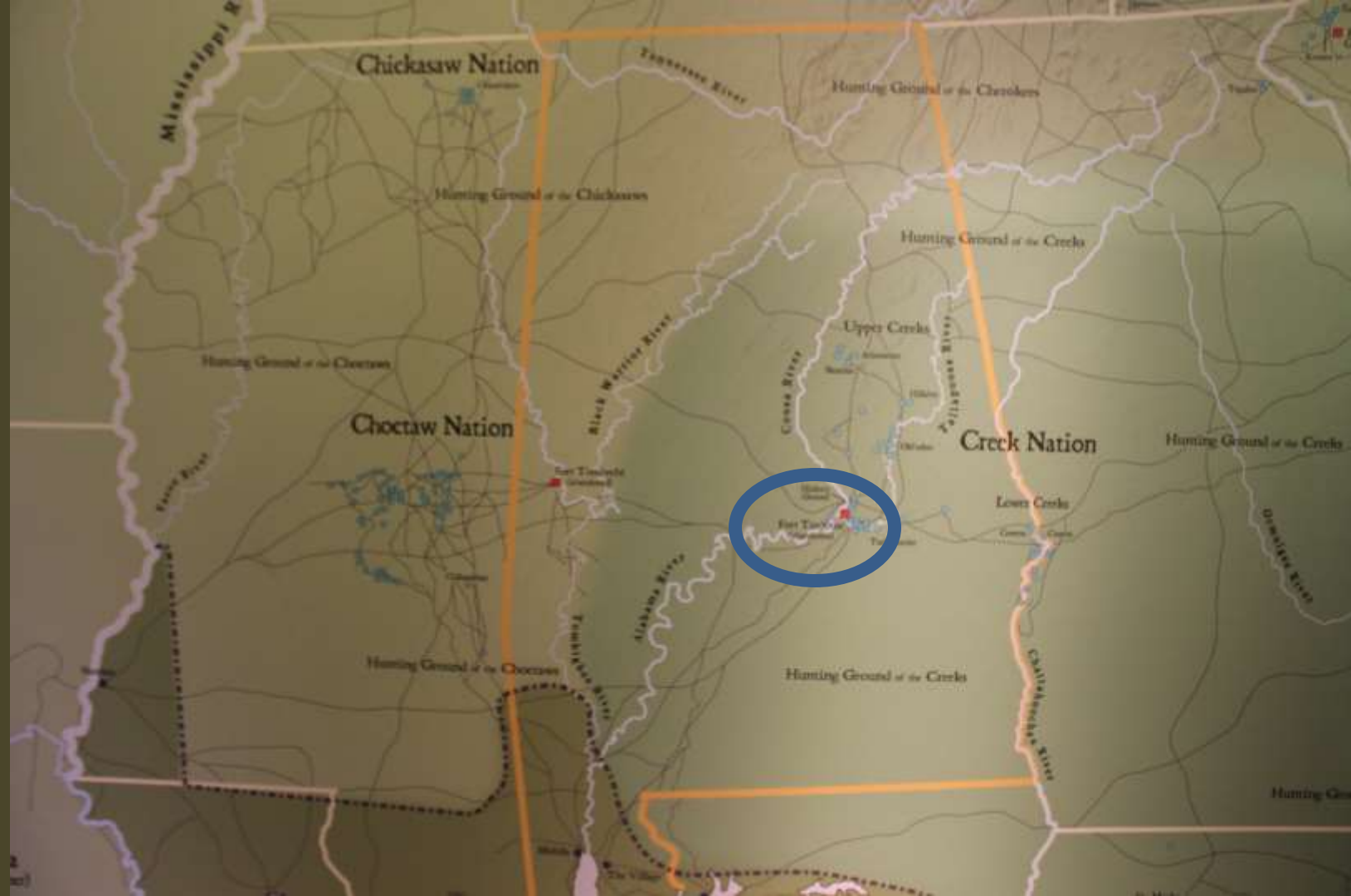
Alabama

Georgia

Louisiana









Detail showing Fort Toulouse.











INDIAN TERRITORY OKLAHOMA

NO MAN'S LAND

CHEROKEE
STRIP

OSAGE

PEORIA
DELAWARE
SHAWNEE
CHEROKEE

CHEYENNE
ARAPAHO

WICHITA
AGENCY

KICKAPOO

IOWA
POTAWATOMI
SHAWNEE

CREEK

HOASATI
ALABAMA
HITCHITI
APALACHICOLA

GREER
COUNTY

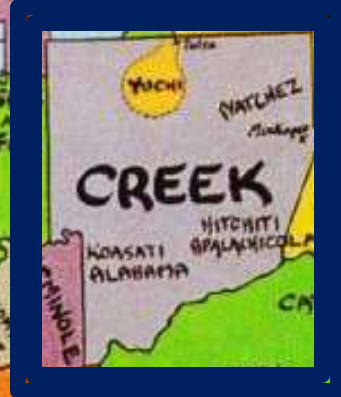
COMANCHE
KIOWA
KIOWA
APACHE
CHIRICAHUA
APACHE

CHICKASAW

CHOCTAW

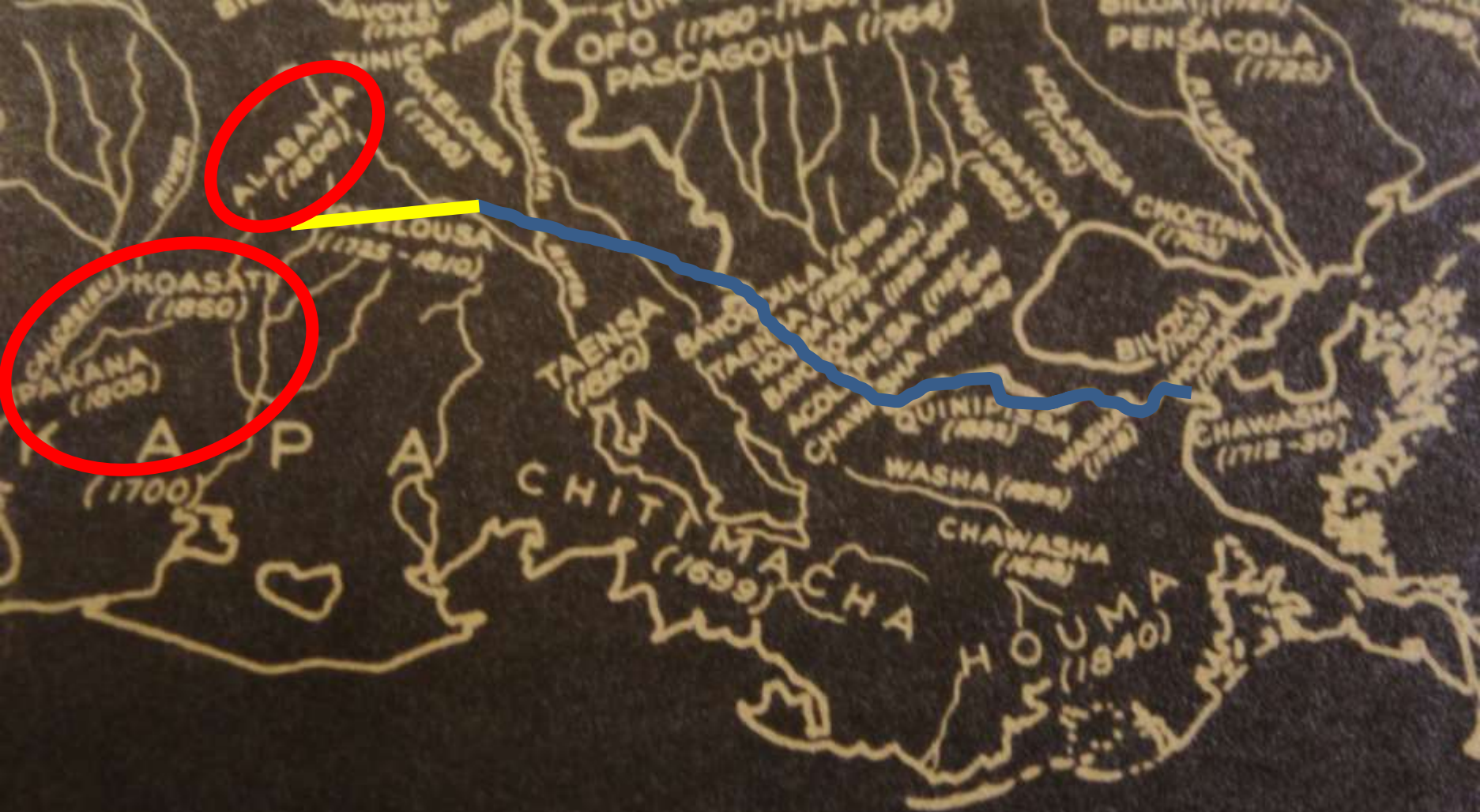
Illinois
Eel River
Eerie
Cahlokia
Chippewa
Cayuga
Conestoga
Kaskaskia
Miami
Michigamea
Modoc
Moingwena

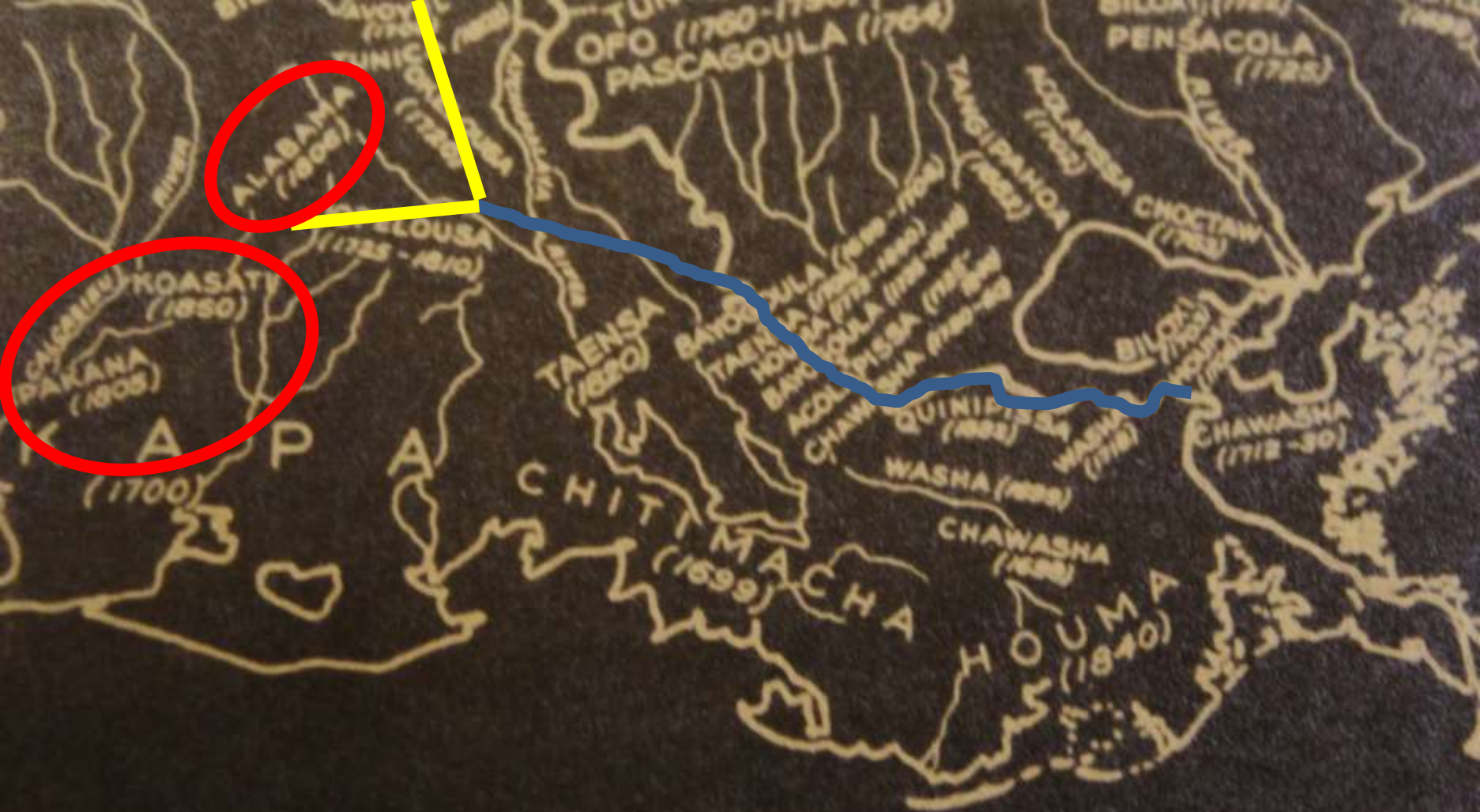
Mohawk
Ottawa
Peoria
Piankashaw
Quapaw
Seneca
Shawnee
Tamaroa
Wea
Wyandotte
Tuscarora











Texas

Arkansas

Louisiana

ALABAMA
(1800)

KOASATI (1795)

NAWATSEH
(1842)
HATASHI
(1840-1850)
HASONI
(1840)
NACANISH
(1842)

ANADARKO
(1842)

ADA
(1690)

NATCHITOCHES (1687-1830)
APALACHEE (1765)
TAENSA (1765-1810)

WASHITA
(1700)

HASINAI
(1650-1700)

CHEROKEE
(1820-1830)
PASCAGOULA
& BILOXI (1800)

CHOCTAW
(1763)
CHOTOT (1780)
PASCAGOULA (1766)
BILOXI (1780)

AVOYEL
(1700)

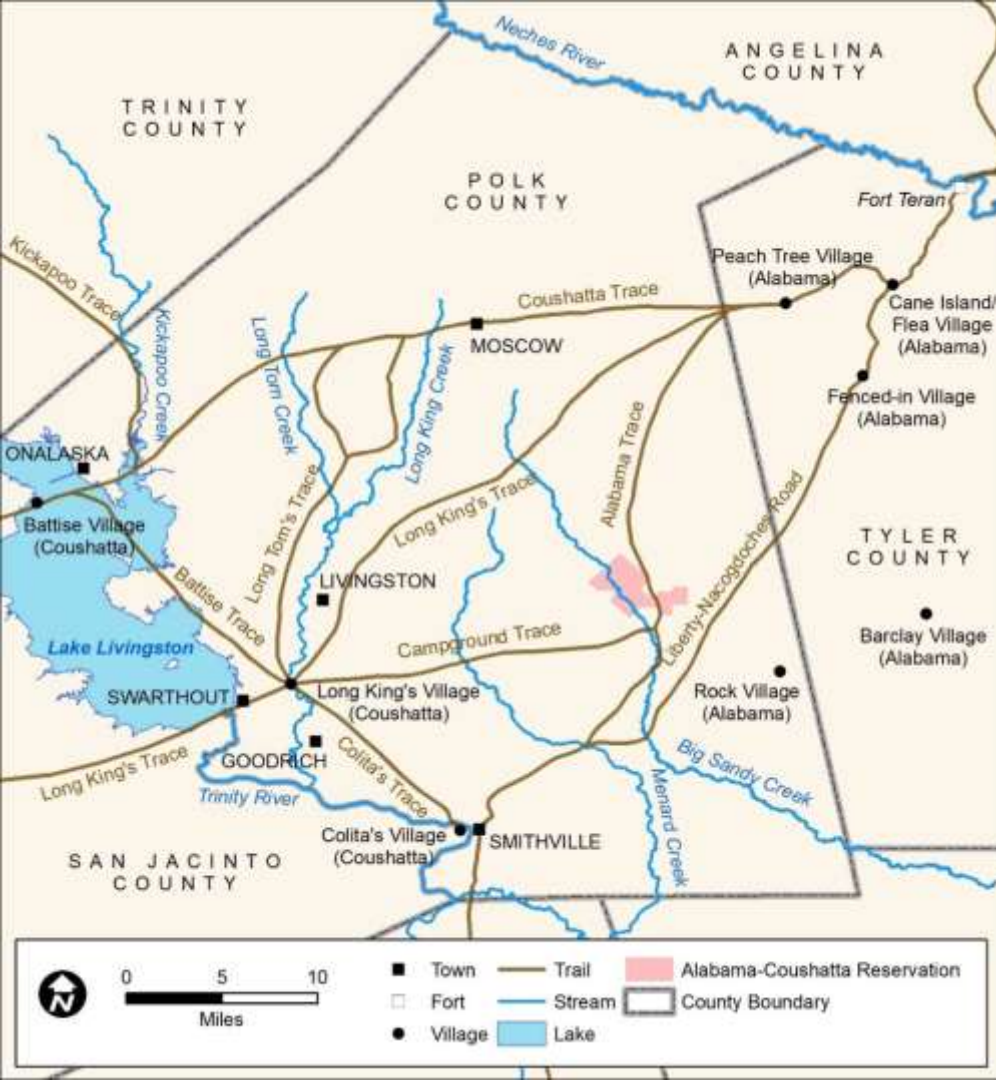




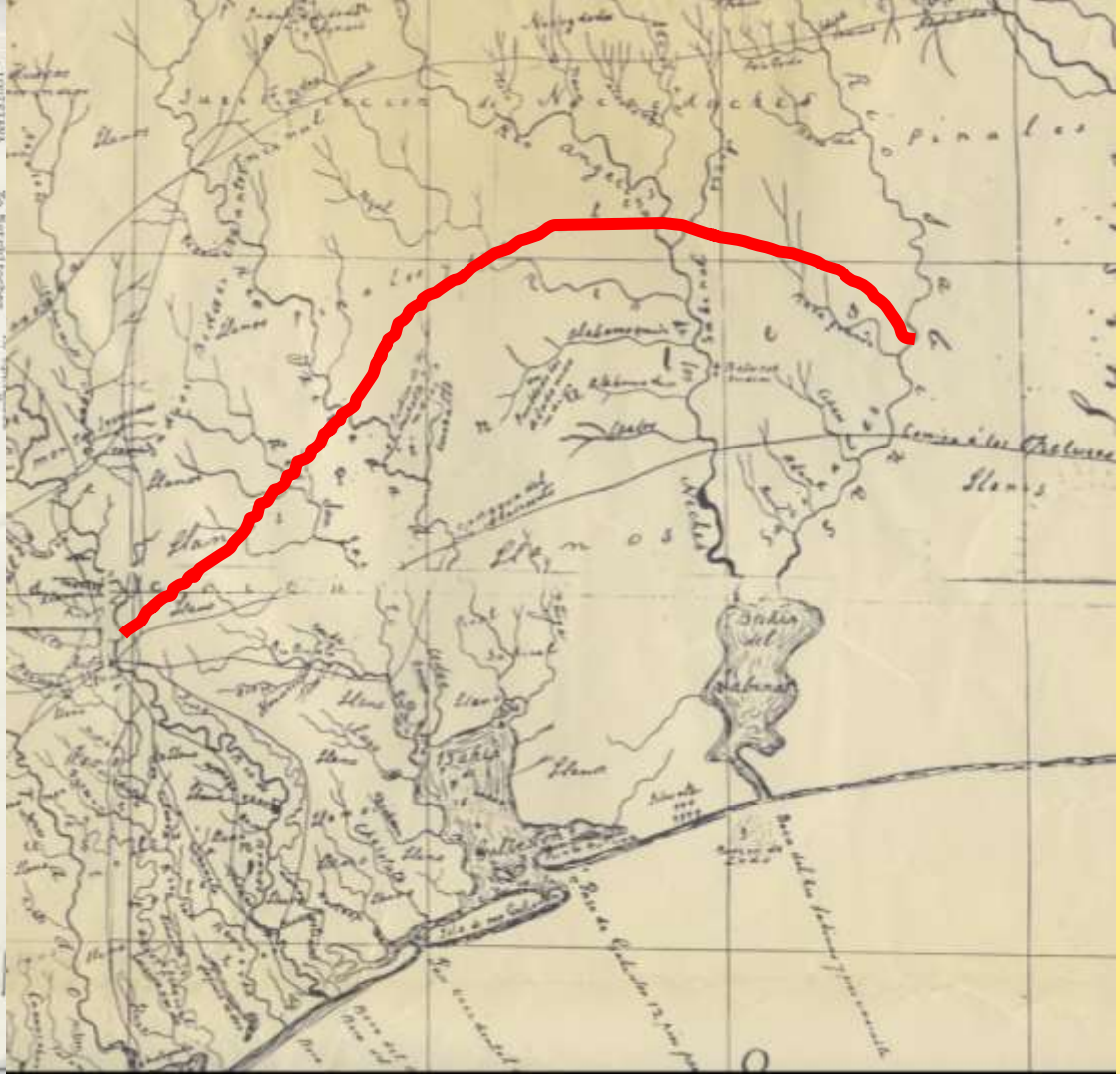
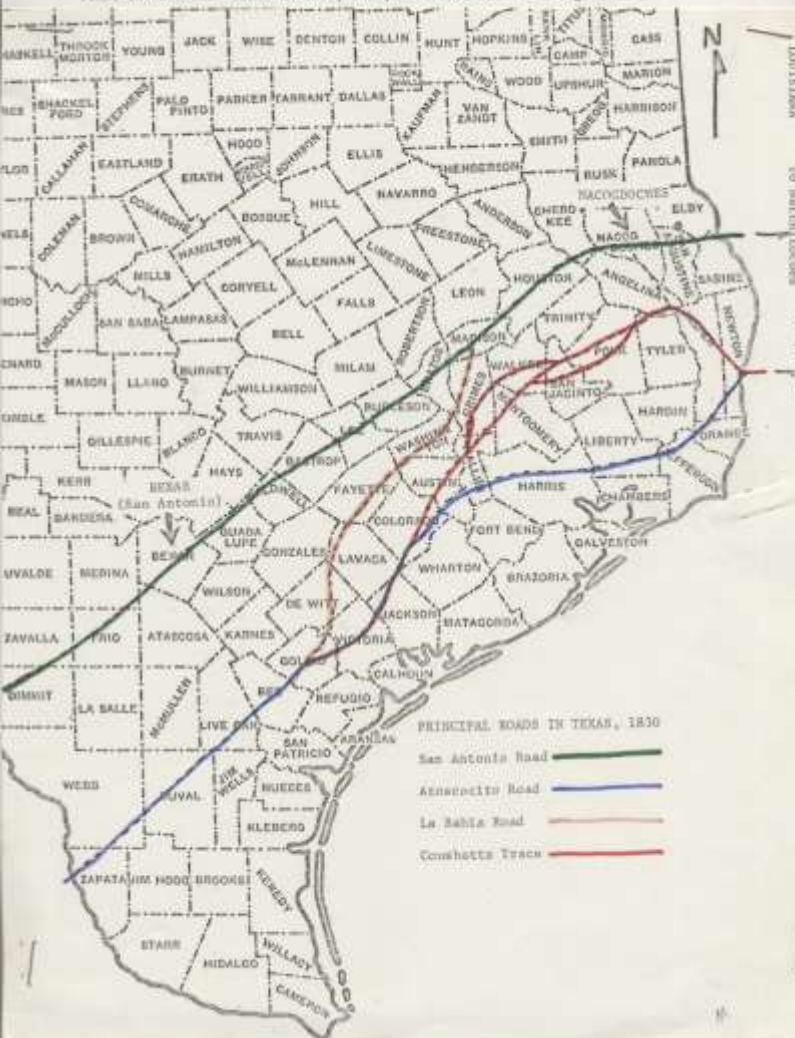


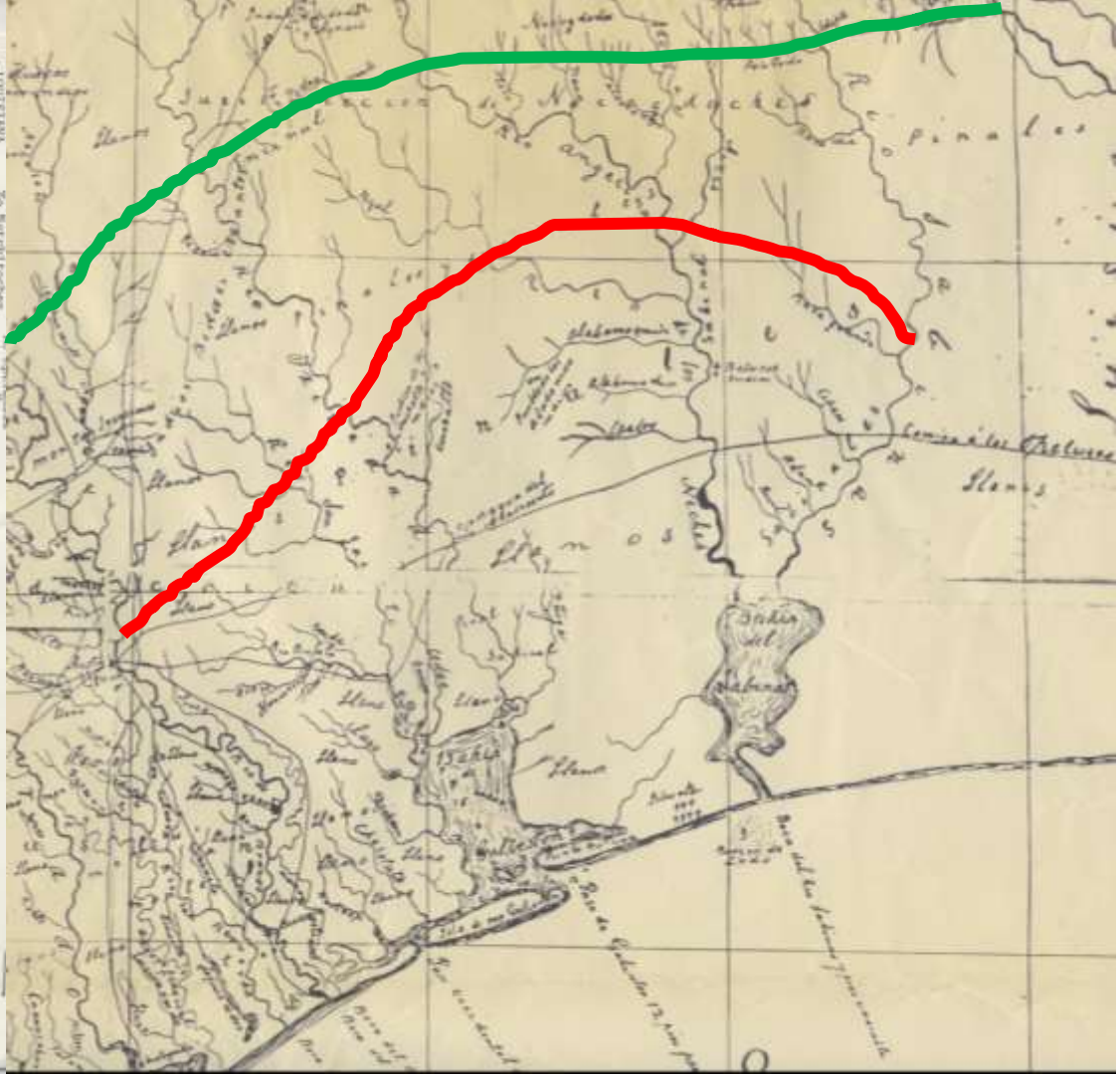
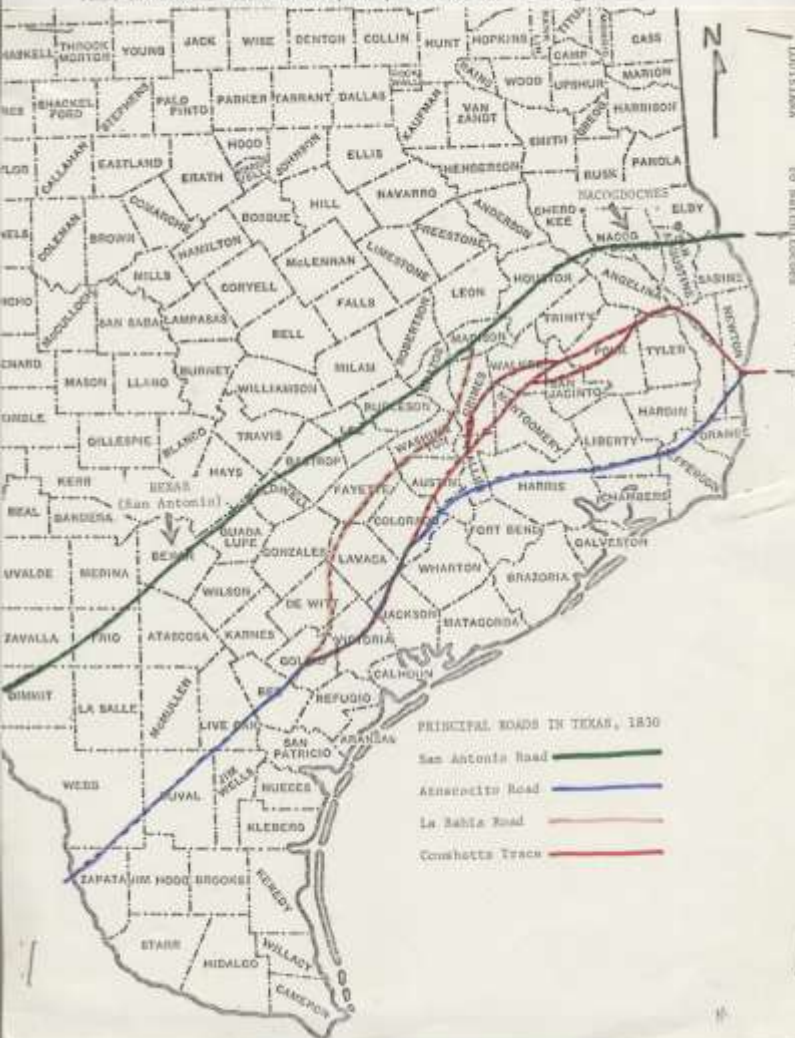


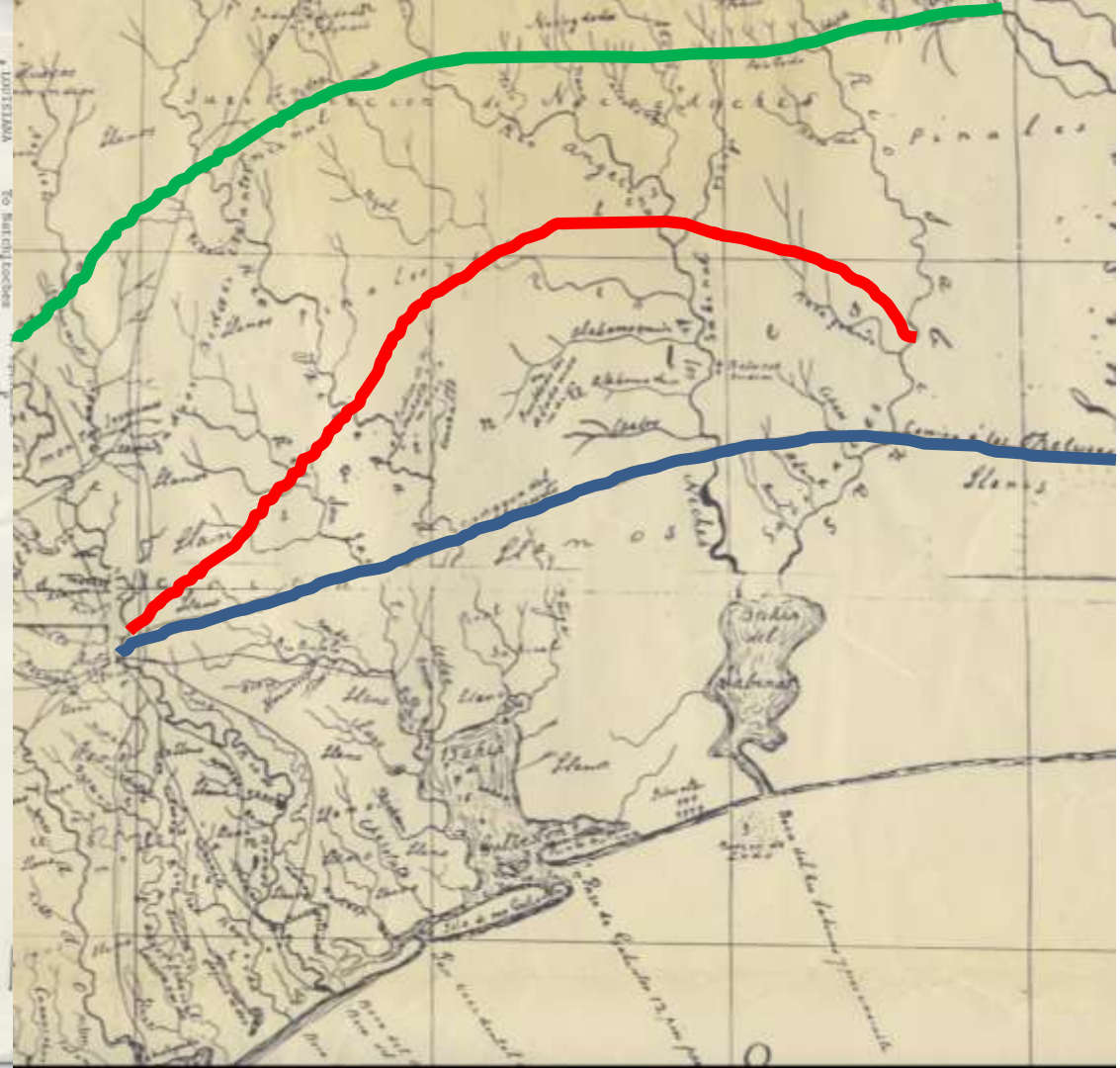
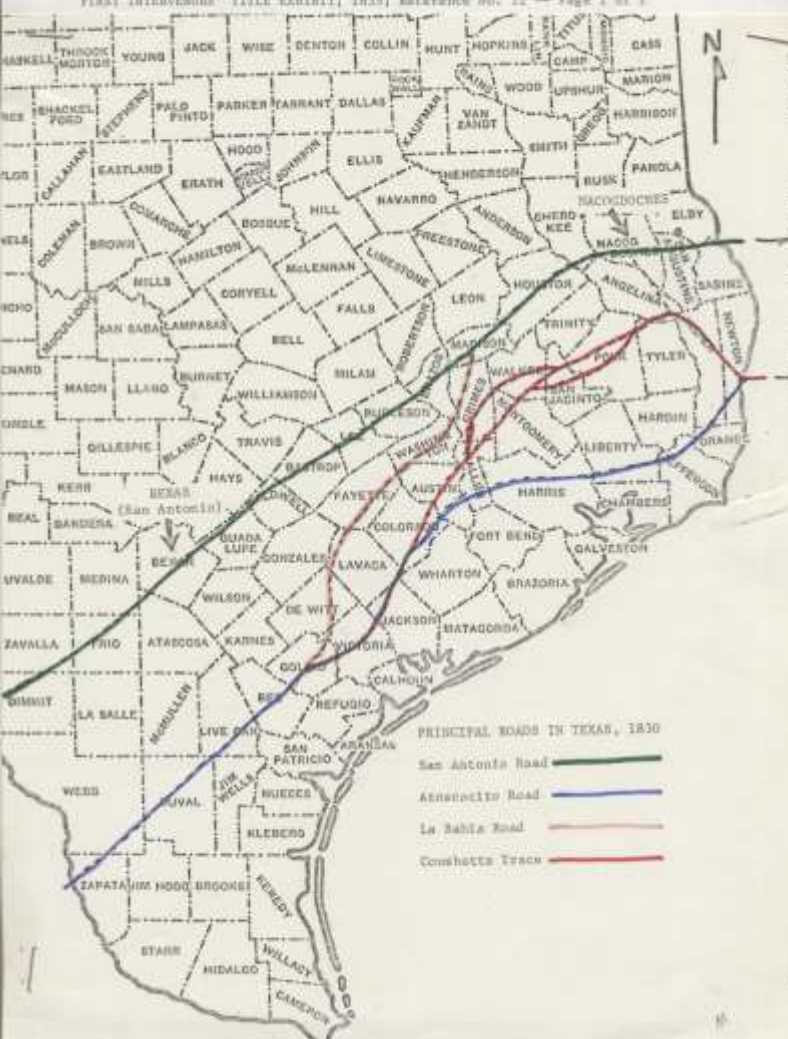


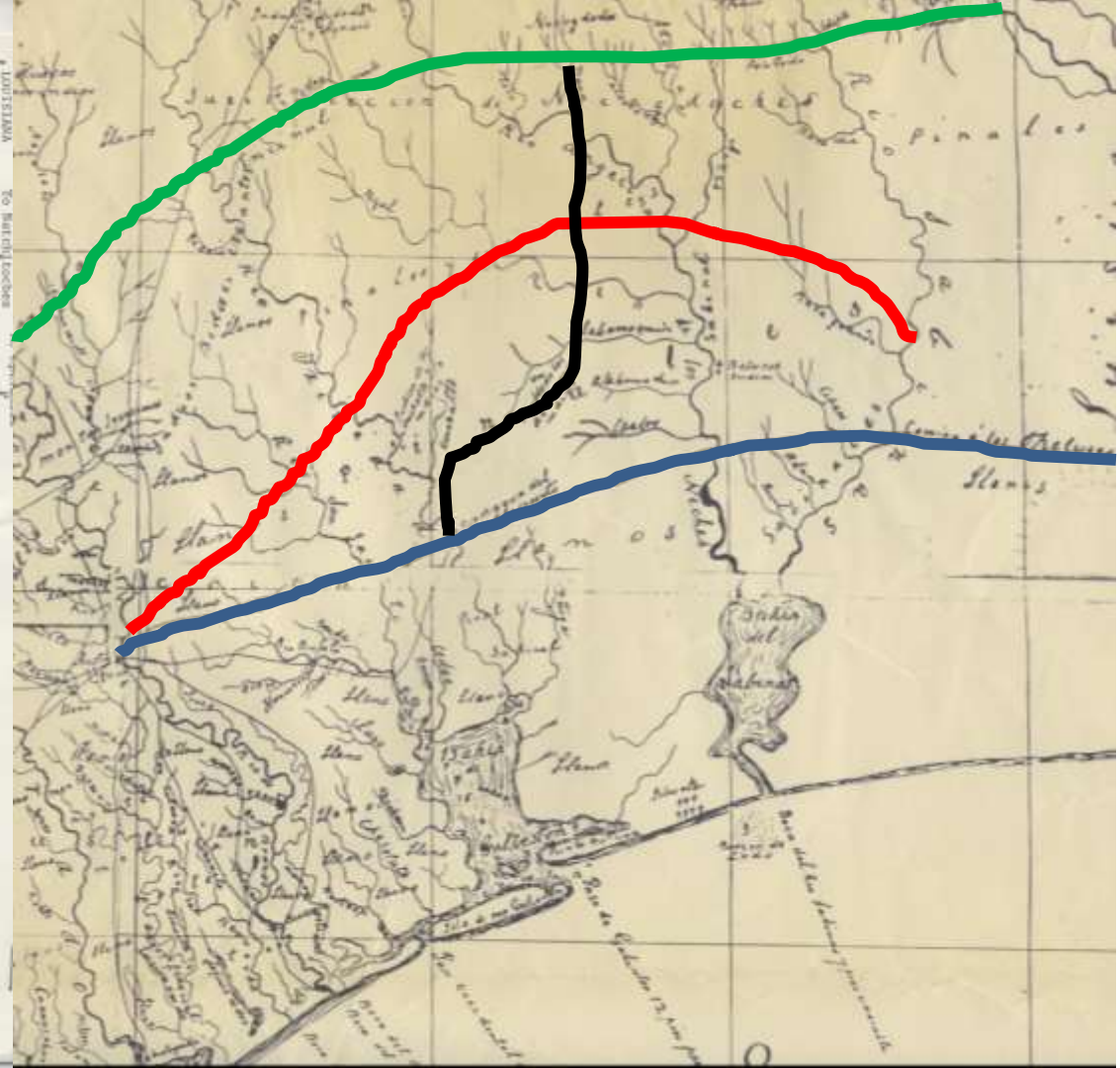
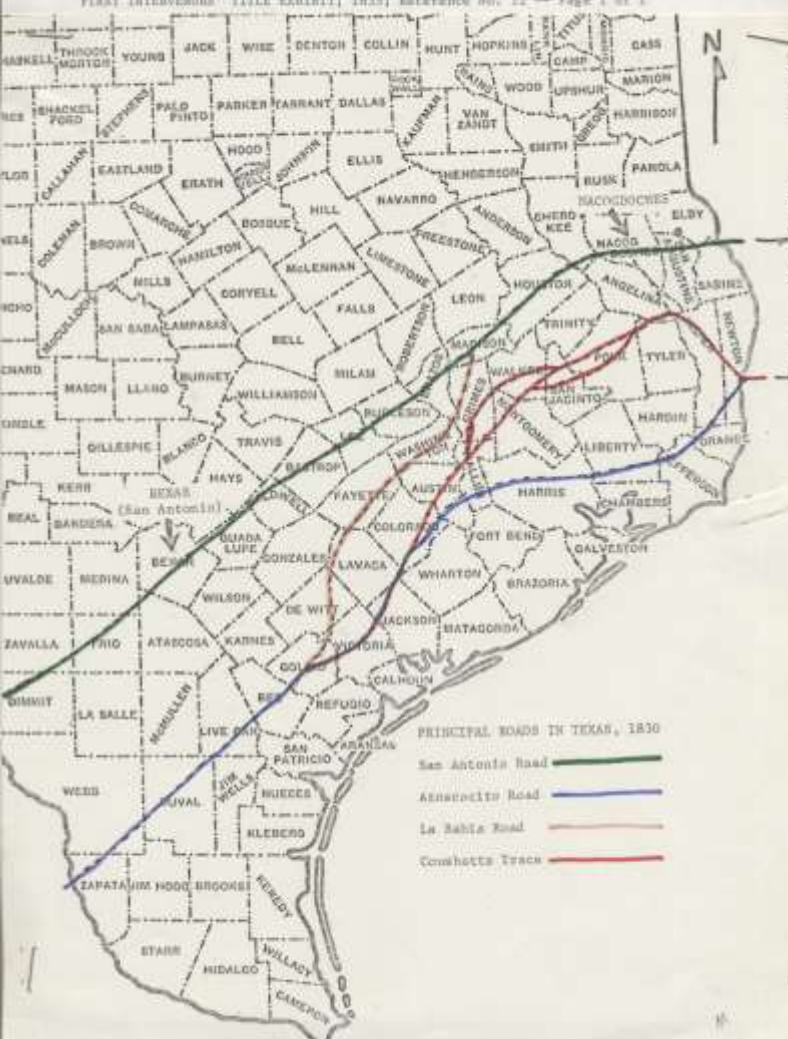


- Map shown recreated for TXDOT Tribal Histories Project 2019-2020
- Original map drawn by Howard N. Martin for 1980s Polk County highways project
- Martin was an unofficial Tribal Historian from 1970s to 1996
- Routes identified from historic Texas GLO maps









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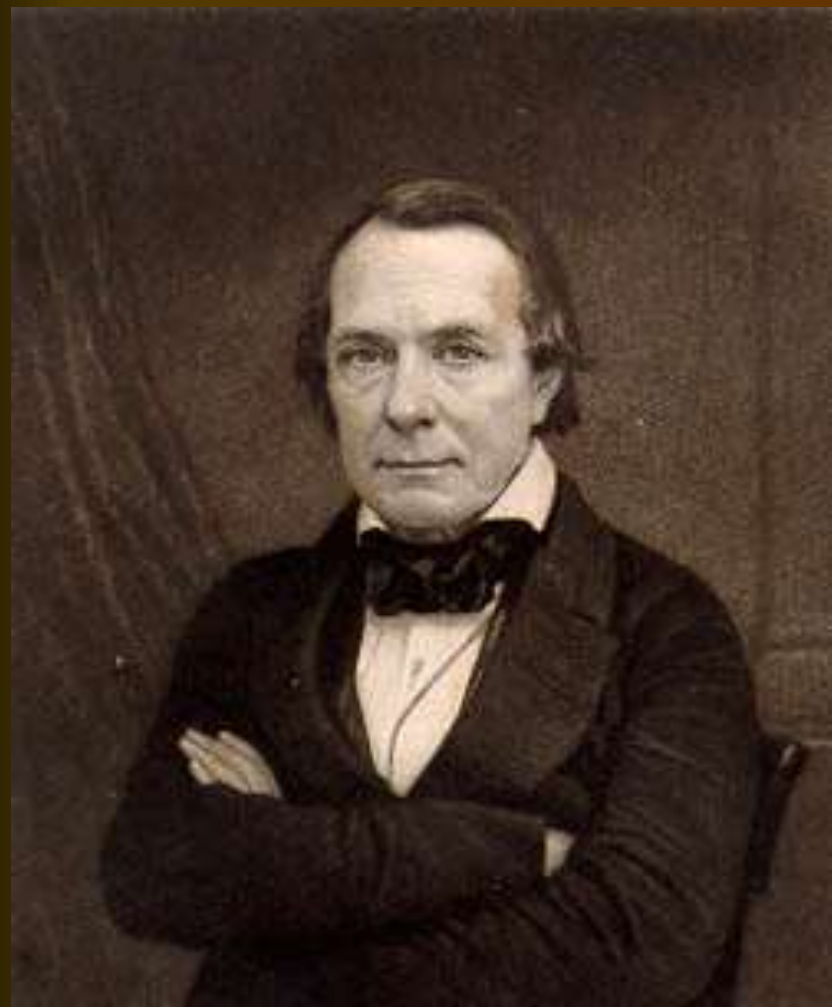
Austin County, south of Bellville

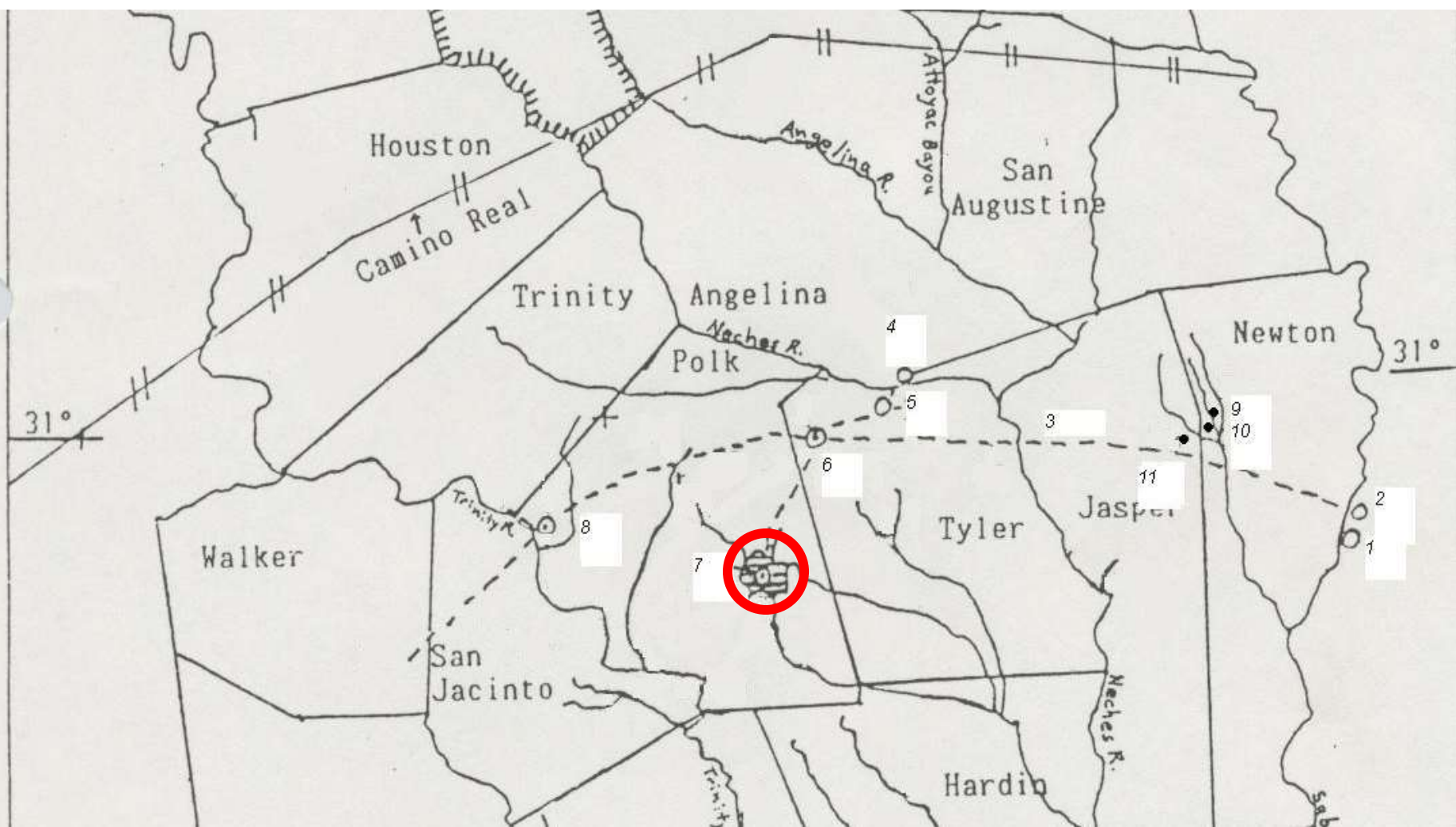


Austin County, south of Bellville









PRESENTED TO ALABAMA-COUSHATTA
INDIANS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR
SERVICES TO THE CONFEDERACY
BY ROBERT E LEE CHAPTER UDC
NO 186 HOUSTON TEXAS

“Presented to Alabama-Coushatta
Indians in Recognition of the Services
to the Confederacy by Robert E Lee
Chapter UDC No. 186, Houston, Texas”

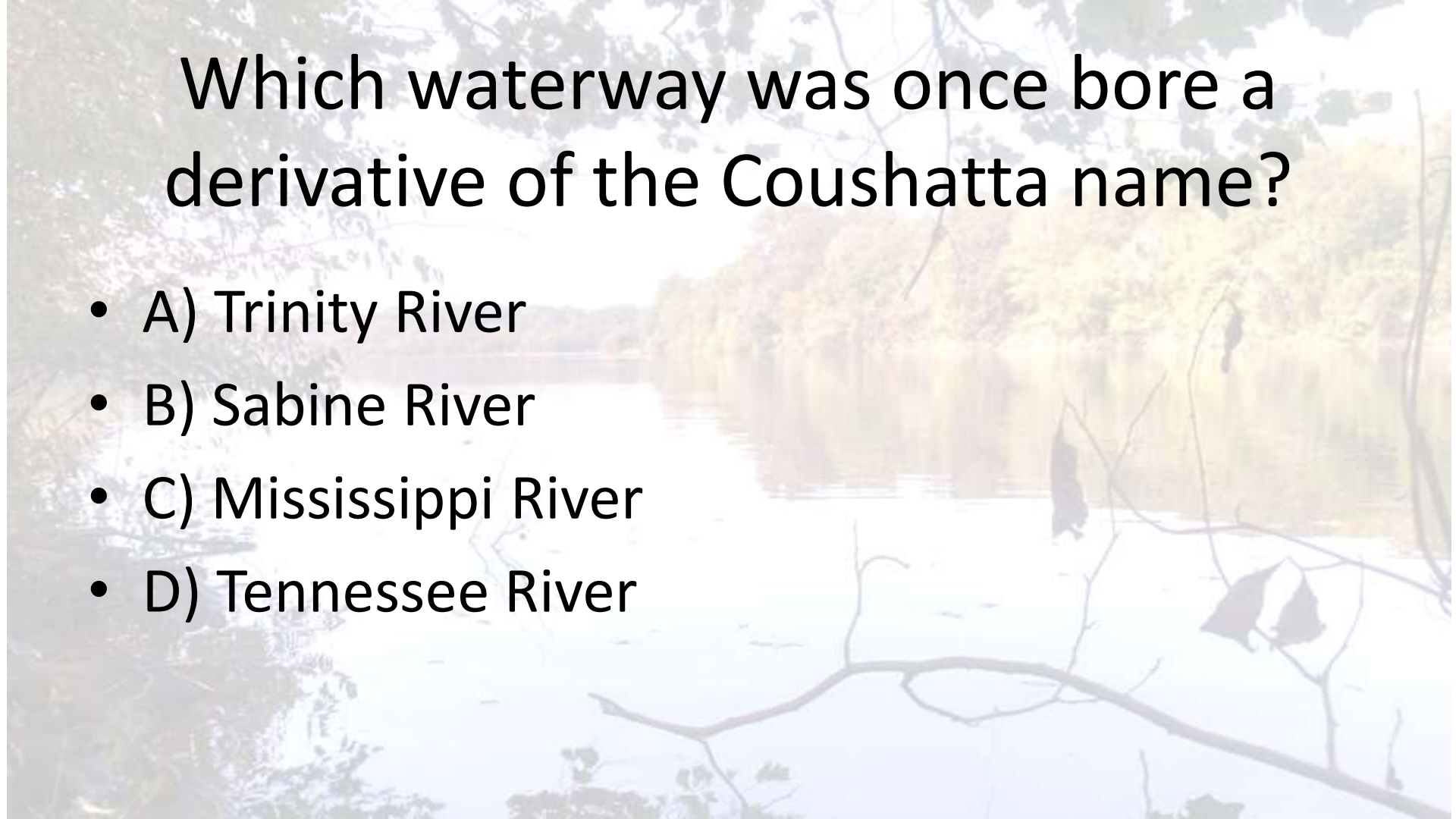




Alabama-Coushatta
Recognition of the Services
to Slavery by Robert E Lee
No. 186, Houston, Texas"





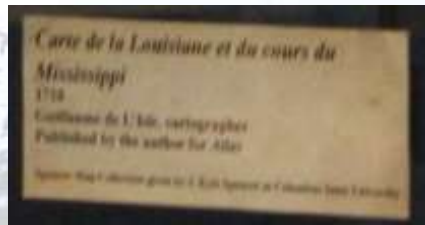


Which waterway was once bore a derivative of the Coushatta name?

- A) Trinity River
- B) Sabine River
- C) Mississippi River
- D) Tennessee River

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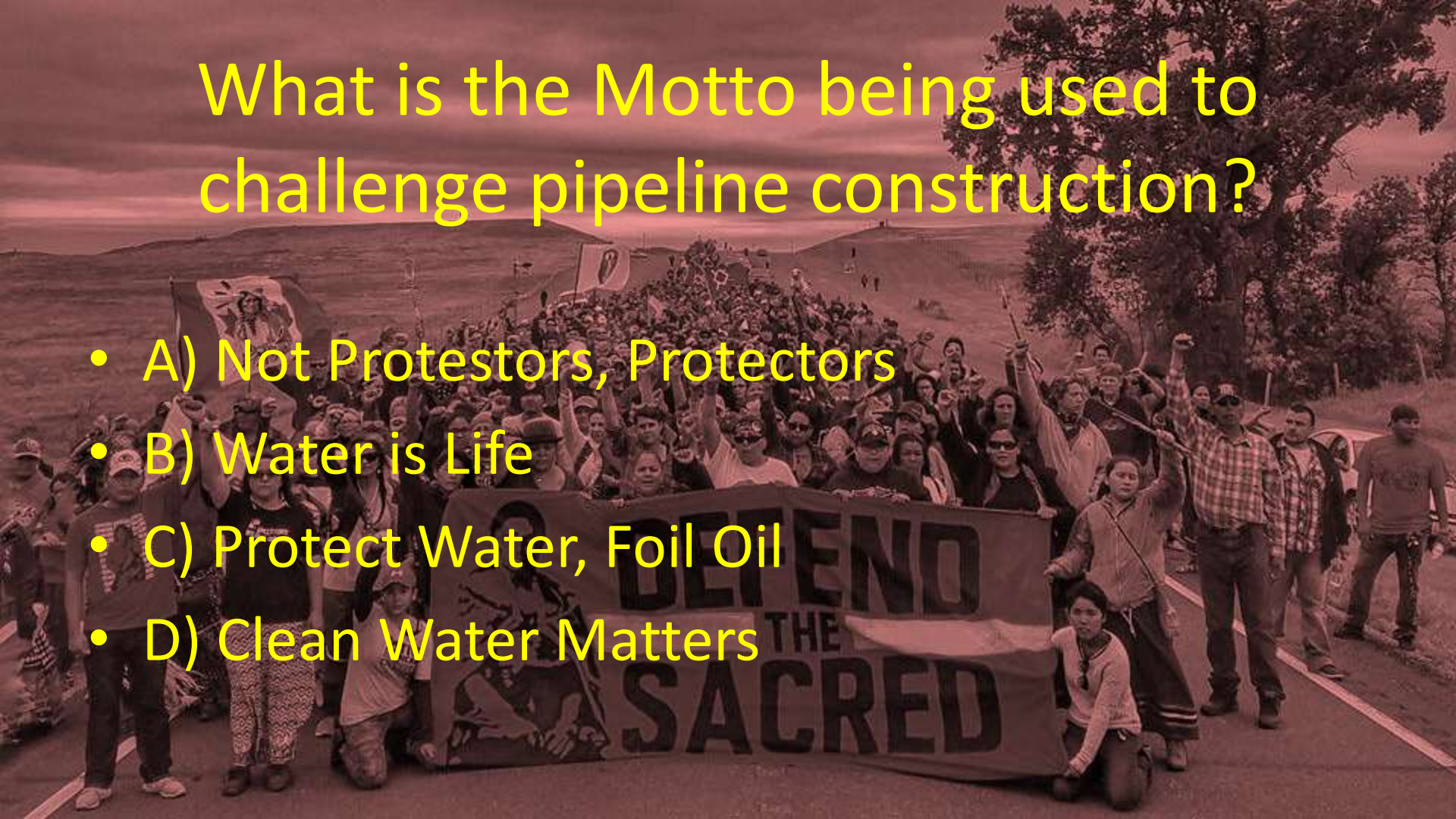
- A) Trinity River
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What is the Motto being used to challenge pipeline construction?

- A) Not Protestors, Protectors
- B) Water is Life
- C) Protect Water, Foil Oil
- D) Clean Water Matters



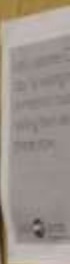
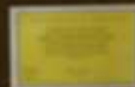
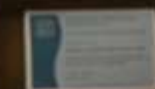
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**Tribal Historic
Preservation Office**



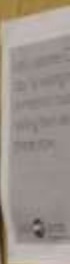
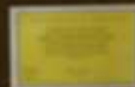
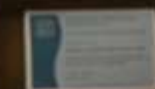


Natural Resources are

Cultural Resources



**Tribal Historic
Preservation Office**





Loblolly Pine

LOB= 3 Needles per bundle

Fragrant and flexible



Pine

needles per bundle
and flexible















5.11.08



5.11.08













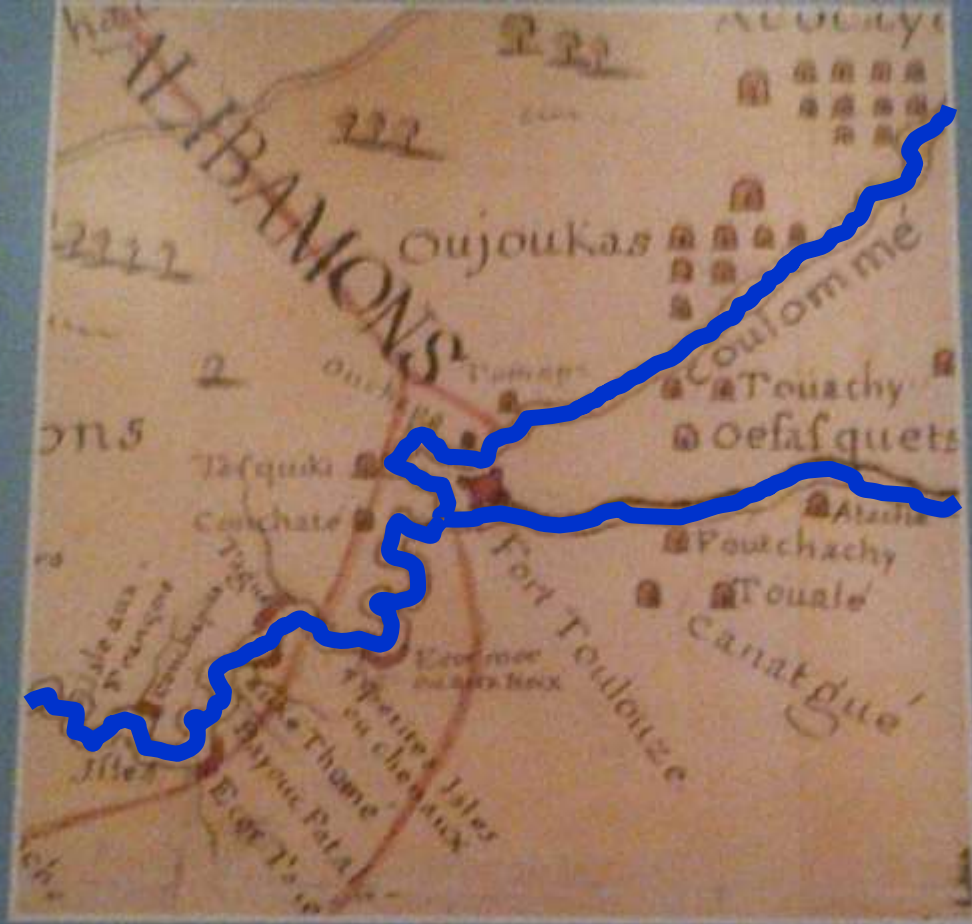














AN ALABAMA - COUSHATTA
LEGEND

THE CREATION



ONCE UPON A TIME EVERYTHING WAS COVERED WITH WATER AND THE ONLY LIVING THINGS WERE A FEW ANIMALS ADrift ON A RAFT. THEY WANTED LAND TO APPEAR AND ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS AND CRAWFISH VOLUNTEERED. TWO TRIPS OVER THE SIDE FAILED TO REACH BOTTOM BUT THE THIRD TRY WAS A SUCCESS.

USING HIS TAIL AS A SPADE, CRAWFISH BEGAN BUILDING A HUGE MUD CHIMNEY. DAY AFTER DAY HE WORKED AND SOON THE CHIMNEY ROSE ABOVE THE WATER, FORMING A VAST MUD EARTH.





THE ANIMALS ALL AGREED THAT **CRAWFISH** HAD DONE HIS JOB WELL BUT THERE WAS TOO MUCH **FLATNESS** ON THE EARTH. THEY CALLED FOR **BUZZARD**, AN EXTREMELY HUGE AND **POWERFUL** BIRD, TO **SHAPE** THE EARTH.

IN THEIR **DOWNWARD SWEEP**, HIS **POWERFUL WINGS** DUG THE VALLEYS, LAKES AND RIVERS. ON THE **UPSWEEP**, HE FORMED THE MOUNTAINS AND HILLS. AS **BUZZARD GLIDED**, THE VAST PLAINS REMAINED. THIS WAS THE **CREATION** OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.



WHILE **CRAWFISH** WAS PUSHING THE MUD TO THE SURFACE, HE ALSO CREATED A MAMMOTH CAVE. IN THIS CAVE ABIDED **ABA MIKKO**, THE GREAT CHIEF OF EARTH AND SKY, WHO WAS VERY LONESOME. HE TOOK THE **CLAY** AND CREATED **MAN** AND **WOMAN**. THEY WERE NOT NEARLY AS LARGE OR **POWERFUL** AS THE **GREAT CHIEF**, BUT THEY GREW AND MULTIPLIED IN THE GREAT CAVE.

2011 Drought



Average water height



Reduced water level



















What is our word for water?

- A) Okchapi
- B) Akmi
- C) Oki
- D) Mahli



What is our word for water?

- A) Okchapi
- B) Akmi
- C) Oki
- D) Mahli

C) Oki







“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children”

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas



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