

Reading for Information

ARTICLE "The Chenoo" is a legend from the Passamaquoddy, a northeast American Indian people. This brief article presents information about the Passamaquoddy. Note the information the map and timeline convey.

The PASSAMAQUODDY

The legend of "The Chenoo" has been passed down from generation to generation by the Passamaquoddy people of northeastern North America. The early Passamaquoddy moved from place to place throughout the year to follow the herds of animals they hunted.

Despite their frequent movement, the Passamaquoddy remained within one general region. Their eastern location allowed them to be among the first to see the rising sun each day. Because of this, they became known as "People of the Dawn."

Today, Passamaquoddy reservations are located in eastern Maine in two locations: Pleasant Point and Indian Township. These reservations are within the same region where previous generations of Passamaquoddy people lived and traveled.



Timeline of Passamaquoddy History

B

- 1400** ■ Passamaquoddy are part of 20,000 Native Americans living in the area now known as Maine.
- 1604** ■ French explorer Samuel de Champlain makes contact with Passamaquoddy, opening up period of trade with Europe. Passamaquoddy population is about 2,000.
- 1616** ■ European diseases spread among Passamaquoddy and other Maine tribes, causing a pandemic called the "Great Dying." Passamaquoddy population goes down to about 150.
- 1701** ■ Passamaquoddy join with other Maine tribes to form Wabanaki Confederacy, a protection against enemies.
- 1776** ■ Many Passamaquoddy fight alongside American Colonists against the British in the Revolutionary War.
- 1820** ■ Maine becomes a state; Passamaquoddy reservations are created at Indian Township and Pleasant Point.
- 1954** ■ Passamaquoddy are granted right to vote in national elections.
- 1972** ■ Passamaquoddy, together with Penobscot Nation, file a lawsuit against the Federal government, claiming that over 12 million acres of their land were taken in treaties that violated the law.
- 1980** ■ President Jimmy Carter signs Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. Penobscots and Passamaquoddys are given a 27 million dollar trust fund and 300,000 acres of land.
- Present** ■ Passamaquoddy number about 3,500 and own more than 200,000 acres of land in Maine. A strong cultural revival seeks to keep alive the language, stories, and customs of the people.



INTERPRET MAPS Physical maps illustrate the natural landscape of an area. They often use shading to indicate relief (mountains, hills, and valleys). Maps often include a legend, or key, that explains symbols, lines, and shadings used on the map. They also often include a compass rose, or directional indicator, showing north, south, east, and west.

1. Which of these features does this map include?
2. What information from the article does this map illustrate?
3. What else do you learn about the lands of the Passamaquoddy from this map?

INTERPRET TIMELINES A timeline lists events according to their chronological order (the order in which they happened). Timelines present a lot of information in a small amount of space. This timeline places events alongside the time period in which they occur.

4. What does this timeline tell you about the Passamaquoddy that you don't learn from the article itself?
5. What important information would you miss if you did not read this timeline?