

## **Giving Our Hearts Away Study Historical Timeline**

**1492**

Christopher Columbus explores Native lands in the Americas

**1492**

Estimated 12.5 million Native persons live in the region that will become North America. Largest population of Native people & number of distinct tribes located in what is now California.

**1494**

Columbus ships Native people to Spain to be sold as slaves (200 years of forced labor and slavery of Native people in the Southwest would follow.)

**1621**

Native children attend school in Jamestown, VA.

**1638**

First Reservation established in Connecticut for the Quinnepiacs.

**1670**

Indian slave trade instituted by the English in the American southeast (Indian slave trade in the southeast would continue until 1717.

**1700**

Indian population in California estimated at 750,000.

**1827**

Constitution of the Cherokee Nation adopted.

**1830**

Congress affirms forced Indian removal from the southeast to Indian Territory (3 Methodist Episcopal annual conferences would support the removal.

**1831**

The US Supreme Court passes ruling that tribes possess “unquestionable rights” to all land on which they live unless they give them up voluntarily.

**1834**

Indian Country Crimes Act.

**1836**

Forced removal of the Creek Nation.

**1836**

Beginning of 34 years of smallpox epidemics among Plains tribes (smallpox-infected blankets deliberately distributed to Native people.

**1838**

First of forced removals of Cherokee to Indian Territory (Native Methodists bring their churches to Indian Territory.)

**1841**

First Methodist hymnal in Creek language.

**1844**

First Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference held.

**1848**

Indian population in California estimated at 150,000. In 1870, only 30,000 remain.

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**1860**

The massacre of the Wyot Tribe (California).

**1863**

Forced removal of the Mescalero Apache and Navajo, known as the Long Walk.

**1864**

Teaching Native children their own language prohibited by Congressional action.

**1868**

Fort Laramie Treaty

**1870**

Supreme Court ruling affirms that Indians are not U.S. citizens

**1870**

Beginning of slaughter by non-Native hunters of ten million buffalo for hides alone. Continuing until 1885, this program was designed to starve and demoralize Native people.

**1875**

72 warriors of the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, and Caddo nations sent to Ft. Augustine. FL, in chains and held hostage to insure that their people remain "good."

**1876**

Gold discovered in Black Hills. Congress "takes back" the Black Hills from land given to the Lakota Sioux.

**1876**

Battle of Little Big Horn.

**1879**

Carlisle Indian School founded in Carlisle, PA. Native children as young as four years old are sent to boarding schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or sponsored by churches. 5 generations of Native children raised in institutions without their families.

**1880**

Sun Dance outlawed by U.S. federal government.

**1881**

Beginning of a series of policies making Native religions and customs illegal.

**1885**

Congress passes Major Crimes Act.

**1887**

The General allotment Act (The Dawes Act) requires tribal persons to register & allots each family a portion of land. The vast majority pf lands granted under treaty are then declared excess, taken from tribes and made available for general settlement.

**1890**

Massacre of Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee.

**1900**

Only about 250,000 Native people survive in the U.S.

**1906**

Cherokee Nation and other Oklahoma tribes officially terminated.

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**1912**

Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox tribe) wins the pentathlon & decathlon at the Olympic games in Stockholm, Sweden. The king of Sweden declares him “the greatest athlete in the world.”

**1924**

Native Americans are granted U.S. citizenship.

**1935**

Indian reorganization (lasting until 1953.)

**1940**

Indian men register for the draft for the first time (Native men had fought in every war since the Revolution. As new citizens their names are entered into the draft.

**1944**

Navajo “code talkers” develop secret codes used in the South Pacific theater of WWII. Comanche, Cheyenne and others develop different codes also used in the war. During WWI Chocktaw soldiers had developed codes to transfer information in Europe.

**1946**

Policy of Indian relocation to urban centers is instituted to break down reservation systems. Families are often split up.

**1953**

Termination of tribes by the U.S. federal government (a 15 year period whereby the U.S. federal government removes tribal status and reservation lands from tribes.)

**1958**

Lumbees force Ku Klux Klan to leave Robeson County, NC.

**1968**

Congress passes the Indian Civil Rights Act, basically requiring tribes to grant to Native people the same rights guaranteed to most Americans by the Bill of Rights.

**1971**

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Federal recognition of Alaska Native people. Establishment of 13 Native corporations.)

**1972**

Cherokee Nation re-established.

**1973**

American Indian Movement occupation of Wounded Knee.

**B1978**

Congress passes the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

**1978**

Indian Child Welfare Act (prohibiting states and social agencies from removing & adopting Native children without consent of their parents or tribes.)

**1979**

Florida Seminole Nation begins first Native high-stakes bingo.

**1980**

Kateri Tekakwitha beatified – first Roman Catholic Native saint.

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**1988**

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

**1989**

Congress passes the National Museum of the American Indian Act.

**1990**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (requiring return of Native religious artifacts and bones by museums.)

**1990**

Congress passes the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, stipulating that only enrolled tribal members may display in Indian Arts Shows or use the term "Indian made." Many well-known, non-enrolled artists are disenfranchised.

**1993**

Congress passes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

**1995**

One million Native people are members of federally recognized tribes. BIA estimates that over 5000,000 U.S. born, ethnic Native people are ineligible for various reasons.

**2000**

Jim Thorpe (1887-1953) named by Congress as Athlete of the century.

**2007**

Less than 200 Native languages still surviving. As many as 50% of Native people in the U.S. ineligible for tribal membership.