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Considering Search Terms in Historical Research: Indigenous Peoples of North America

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#HowToLibrary

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Learning Objectives

- Distinguishing between Native American Authoritative Names
- Using History to determine search terms.
- Using **OR** in library catalogs and databases to obtain as many relevant results as possible.

Authoritative Names

Indigenous Peoples have names which they use to talk about themselves and names which they used to describe other people.

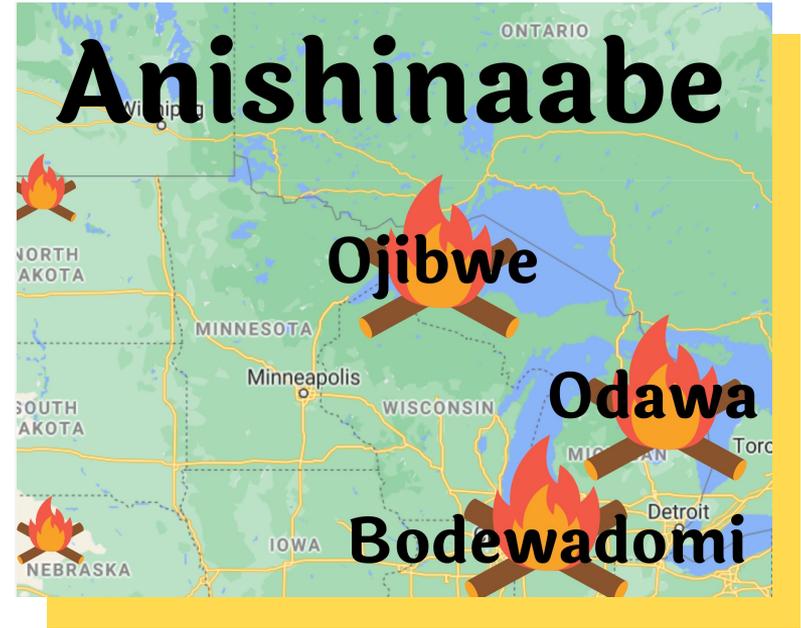


Image of a map with fire icons to demonstrate the territory of the Anishinaabe Nation as the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadomi Nations in the Great Lakes region of the United States.

How Indigenous Groups were Named in History

- phonetic interpretations of the names Indigenous people gave themselves
- phonetic interpretations of names others used to describe particular Indigenous people
- descriptions based on locations as designated by the particular colonial power.

Various Spelling Conventions

Not a comprehensive list



Chippewa
Ojibway
Ojibwa

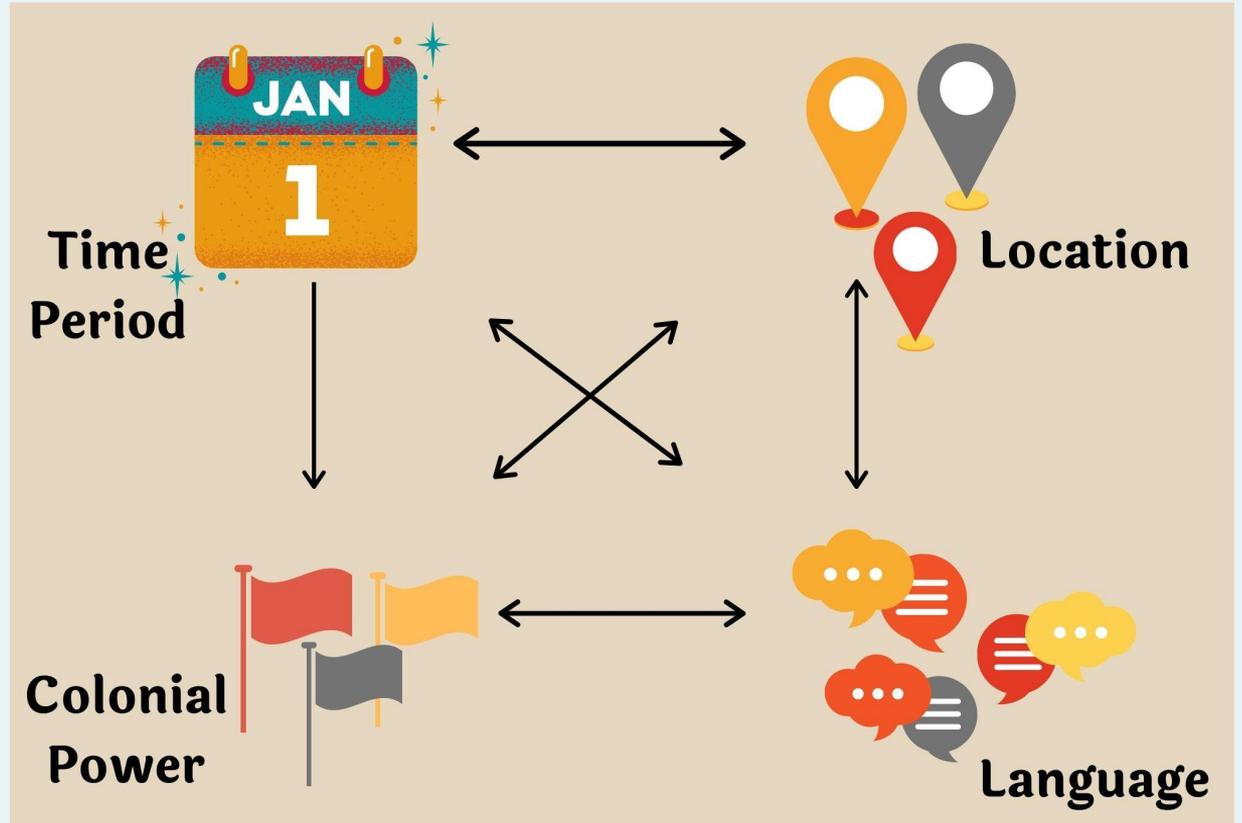


Ottawa



Potawatomi
Pottawatomie

History and Search Terms



Example

Library of Congress Subject
Heading “Ojibwa”

<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85024423.html>

Let's try it out

- Search Terms: **Ojibwe** and **Chippewa**
- [University of Michigan Library Catalog](#)
- [Gale Indigenous People of North America Database](#)
- Keep track of the Number of Results for Each Search

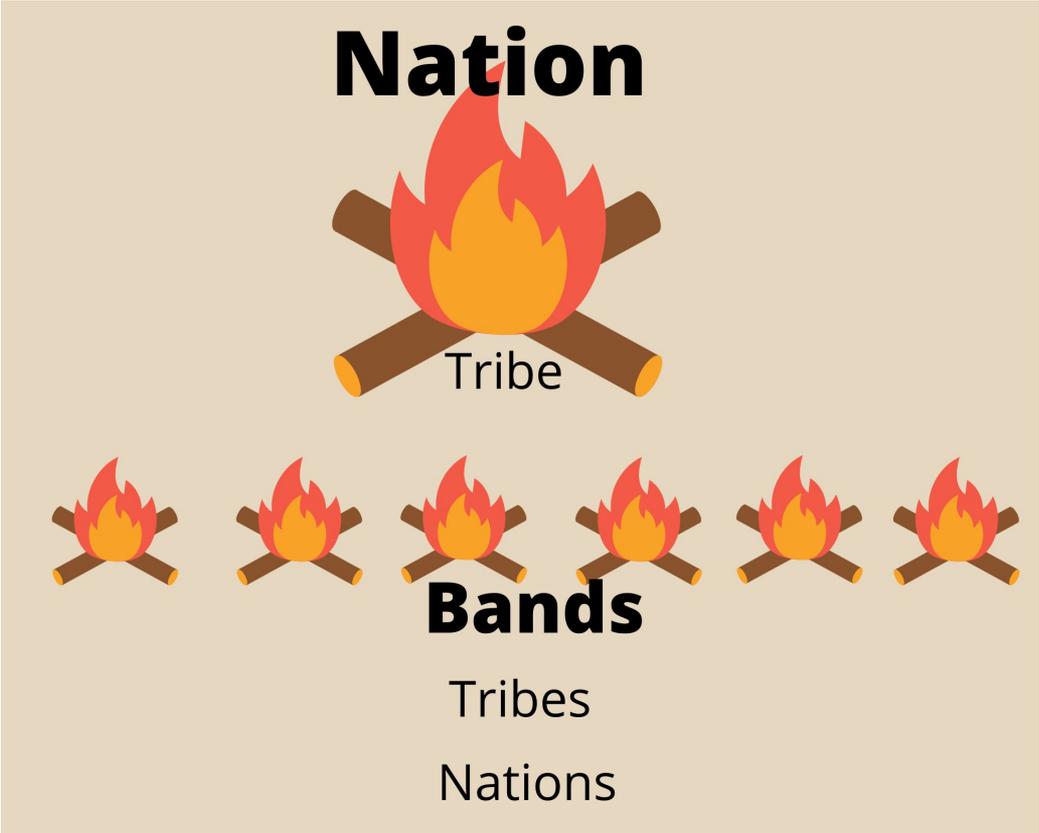
Note about General Terms

American Indian/Indian = The term used in U.S. legal and government contexts. ie. Federal Indian Law, Indian Health Services...

Native Americans = Indigenous People who have relationship with the United States.

First Nations = Indigenous People who have a relationship with Canada.

Further Considerations



Questions?