

A detailed map of the contiguous United States showing the distribution of numerous Native American tribes. The map is color-coded by region, with various shades of green, yellow, orange, red, and blue. Tribes are labeled with their names in black text, often with their common names in parentheses. The map includes the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian region, and the Gulf of Mexico. The tribes shown include the Crow, Shoshone, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and many others. The map is a complex overlay of tribal territories, showing the historical and cultural diversity of the continent.

CONTEXT: A **land acknowledgment** is a short but informative statement that educates others about Native presence in a specific location. The genre has recently become more widespread. For instance, you might notice land acknowledgements on websites for sports teams (Chicago Blackhawks) and universities (IUPUI), or you might hear one vocalized before a public event.

- GOALS:** The **institutional learning outcomes** of this paper are 1) to exhibit curiosity in understanding other cultures and 2) to articulate insights into our own cultural biases. The **course objectives** associated with this project are 1) to build public awareness of Native American cultures and histories and 2) to provide Marian's students with real-world tools, strategies, and connections they can use to better advocate for Native American tribes.

- drafting **Marian University** land acknowledgements that faculty, staff, and students can copy/paste into email signatures, syllabi, and websites (please email rbrown@marian.edu if you would like a copy).
- composing and displaying a two-paragraph land acknowledgement in **US Senator Todd Christopher Young's Indianapolis office** (thanks to a Fall 2021 ENG/HIS 380 student with a legislative internship).
- sharing what they learn in ENG/HIS 380 with **friends, coworkers, and family**, including how to locate tribes on the Native Land Map (shown above), acknowledge Native presence, and help protect Native culture.

1. Choose a **meaningful** place for you. It might be your childhood home, Marian University, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Disneyland, etc.
2. Type your location into the search bar at <https://native-land.ca>.
3. Select **ONE** of the listed Native tribes for your location to study further.
4. Research the history, oral literature, and present location of the Native American tribe you've chosen (5 sources required; 2 must be tribal).
5. Begin drafting your 4-6 page land acknowledgement paper:
 - a. In your **introduction**, explain your ties to the place you've chosen, identify all the Native American tribes in this area, and name the specific tribe you're going to focus on for the rest of your paper.
 - b. Develop **supporting paragraphs** that share what you've learned about your chosen tribe's history, including any relevant origin or trickster stories (two early genres seen in Native oral literature).
 - c. Include a section in your paper that addresses **where the tribe you have chosen is today**, what their needs are, how they are engaging with tribal or public outreach, education, environmentalism, etc.
 - d. End by explaining how this land acknowledgement assignment has shaped your relationship to the specific place you've chosen and **what your readers should do in response to your research.**



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<https://native-land.ca>
for more interactive tribal and
treaty information from
around the world!