

The Chitmacha Tribe



In Charenton Louisiana, there are Native Americans who live on their Chitimacha Reservation. This Indian Nation is very proud of their heritage. The reservation is located near Bayou Teche. The Chitimacha Tribe has been in Louisiana for a very long time. The word “Chitmacha” means “red altogether”.

There is an old Chitimacha legend that says that Bayou Teche was created by a huge poisonous snake. It was so large that it was not measured in feet but in miles. The legend says that its head was where Morgan City is now and its tail was near St. Martinville. If you look on the internet or any map, it shows you that the mythical snake would have been almost 25 feet long! Many legends and stories of the older Chitimacha Indians are still part of the tribe today.

On the reservation long ago life was different. Both then and now the reservation had beautiful trees. Long ago they lived in round or rectangular houses. Louisiana Indians did not live in teepees. Today, the Chitimacha Tribes live in regular houses, have a museum, offices, and a school. The reservation at this time is on 260 acres of land. The school built in the village is for children in Pre K through eighth grade. When the students leave this school they attend either West St. Mary High School located in Baldwin, Louisiana or Hanson Memorial High.

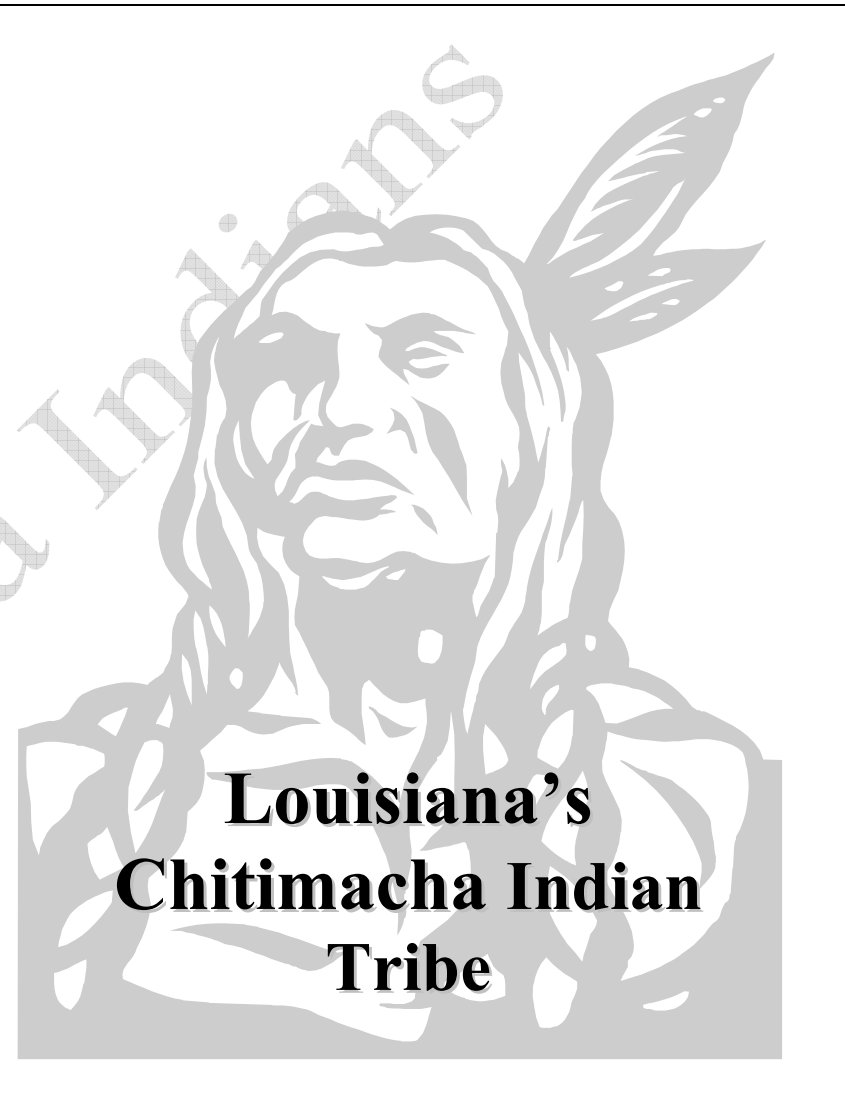
The Chitimacha Indians hunted, fished and trapped to survive. Dance, music and storytelling have always been a part of the Chitimacha tribes. Music was made by drums, alligator skins, gourd rattles and flutes. The children practice their dance each week. Basket weaving is still a part of the Chitimacha traditions. The Chitimacha Tribe is very proud of its history.

Questions:

1. Did the Louisiana Chitimacha Indians live in teepees? _____
2. An old legend says that Bayou Teche was created by a huge and poisonous _____.
3. The Chitimacha Indians live on an Indian _____
4. How many acres of land does the reservation have?

5. In the legend, how many miles long was the snake that created Bayou Teche? _____
6. What three things did the Indians do to eat and survive?
_____, _____, _____
7. What do Chitimacha Indians make that people buy? _____

Are the Indian reservations the same today as long ago? _____ Explain your answer.



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