



ICWA Workshop

Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs Annual Conference

Wednesday October 26, 2022
Virtual Workshop

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Qualified Expert Witness

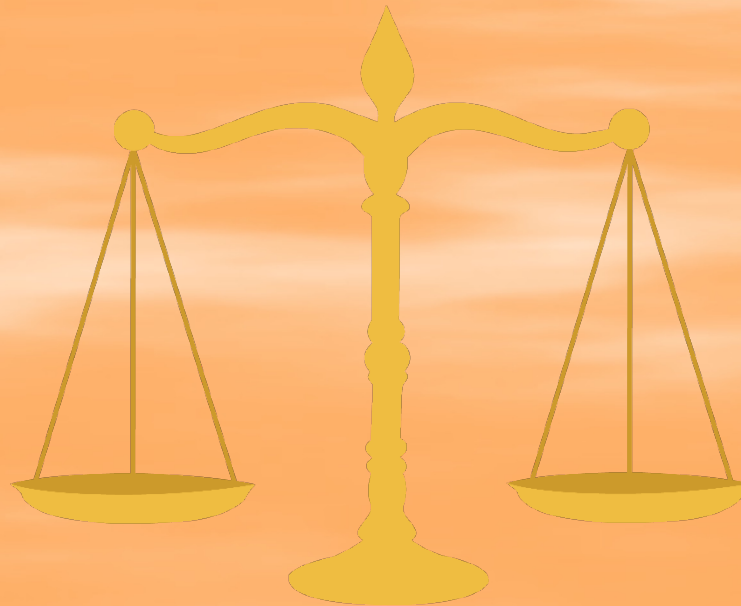
Agenda

- Gold Standard
- Brief History
- Indian Child Welfare Timeline
- Boarding Schools
- Historical/Intergenerational Trauma
- ACE's
- Relationship Building
- Gratitude for the Journey

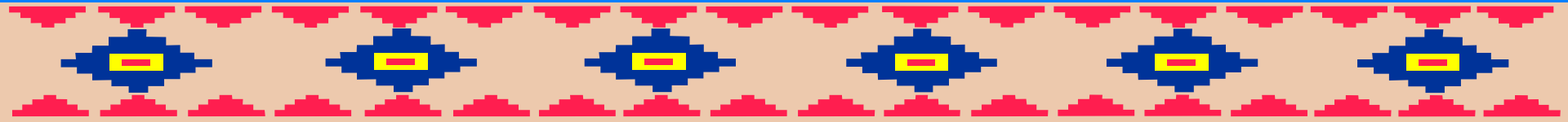


Indian Child Welfare Act

The “Gold Standard” of Child Welfare



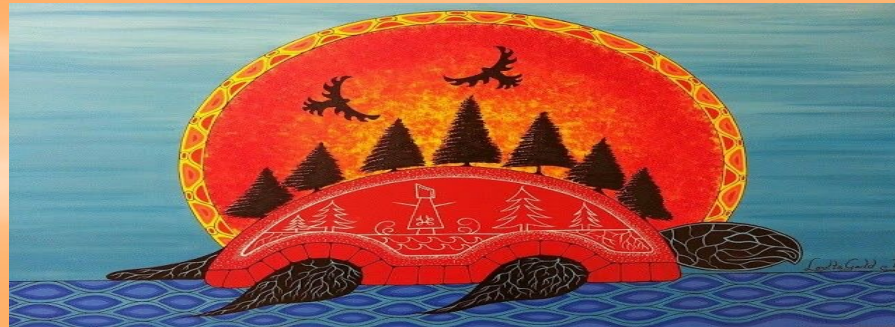
HISTORY



Pre 1492 Turtle Island Inhabited since time Immemorial

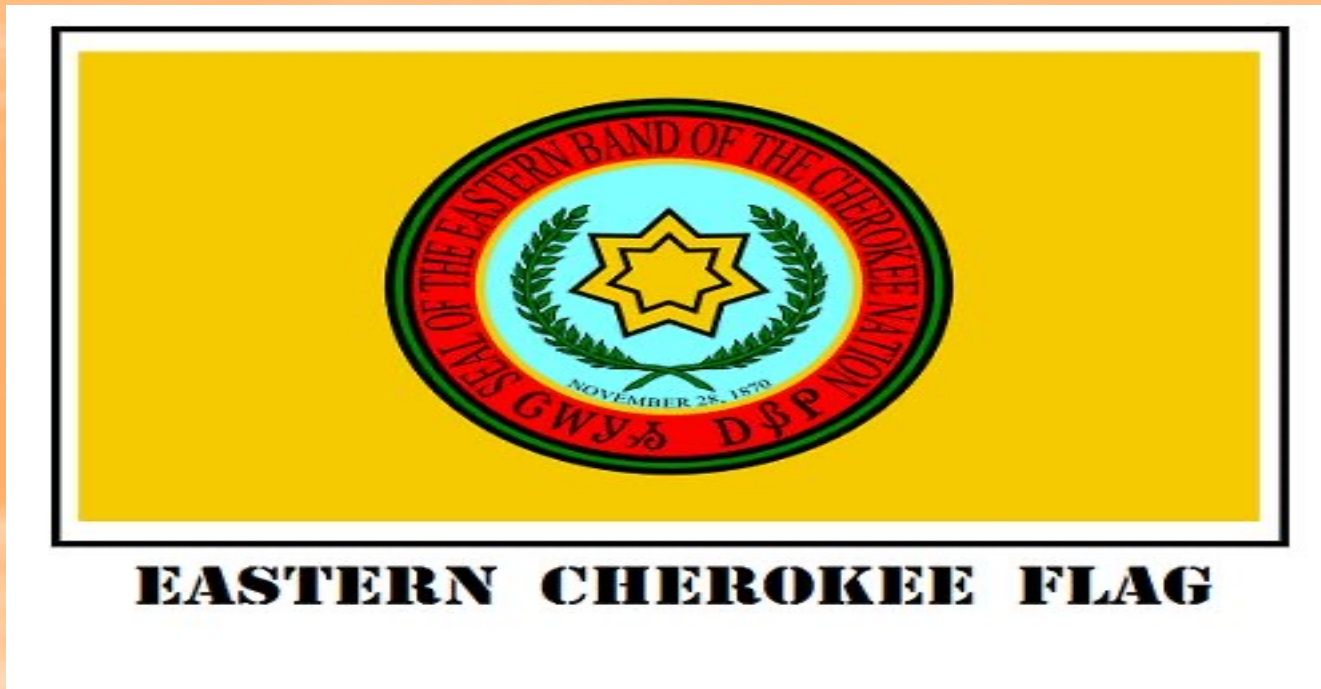
1600's-1800's Treaties &
Indian Wars

Tribes sign over 370 treaties,
yet Europe and U.S. wage
thousands of wars on Tribes



Please know this was the beginning

Just a Few Policies that the Government Imposed



All Tribes have flags

Indian Child Welfare Timeline

- 1820: White settlers proclaimed “manifest destiny” as God-given right to take possession of North America continent.
- 1830-1950: **Indian Removal Act:** US government forcibly removes southern American Indian tribes to west of the Mississippi River, formerly known as India Territory (now State of O.K.), to open Indigenous homelands for colonial settlement, which led to displacement and relocation of tribal peoples.

Timeline Continued:



- 1879-1934: Primary boarding school era, U.S. government established to take American Indian/Alaska Native children away from their families and homelands as a way to erase Indigenous tribal culture.
- 1934-1968: Secondary boarding school era. U.S. government policy ends but boarding schools continue to be seen as a threat to Indigenous way of life.

Timeline continued:

- 1960-1970: American Indian/Alaska Native children placed in non-Indian homes by state child welfare workers and other officials with little to no acknowledgement of culture.
- 1978: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), A Federal Law passed by Congress to protect American Indian/Alaska Native children and their families from biased child welfare practices and cultural disregard.
- 1978 to present: What has Happened???



The Beginning of Tearing at the Fabric of Indian Families

A “great” general said, that the only good Indian is a dead one. All the Indian there is in the race should be dead. Kill the Indian in him, and save the man.”

— Gen. Richard Henry Pratt

Boarding School Experiences



Three Boarding School Generations:

- Post Civil War-World War 1
- Great Depression Era through World War 2
- Post War Era through the Civil Rights Era

Boarding Schools

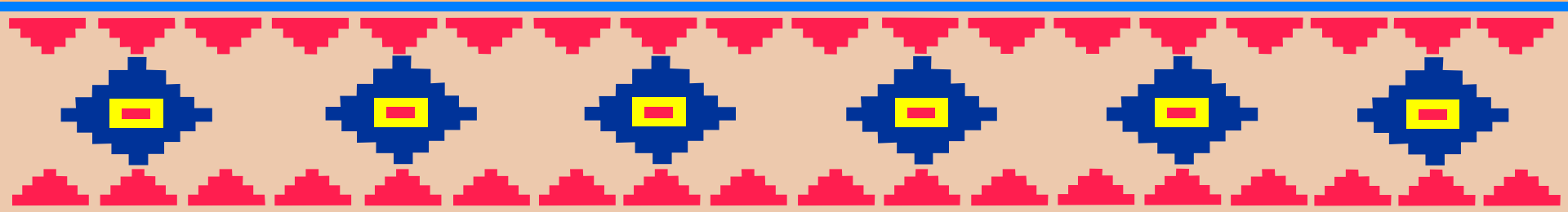


PHOTOGRAPH BY U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS,
COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



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Historical & Intergenerational Trauma

Historical Trauma



- *Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart* defines historical trauma as cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma

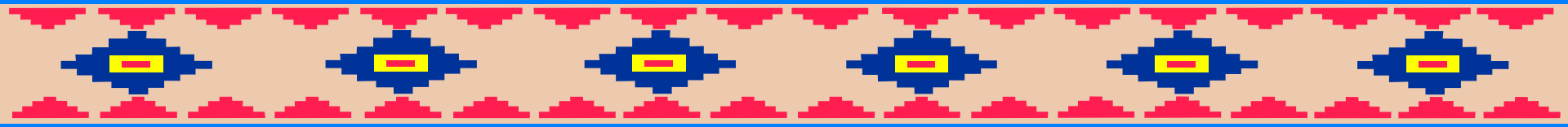


Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs:

A potentially traumatic event(s) that occur in childhood (0-17 years).

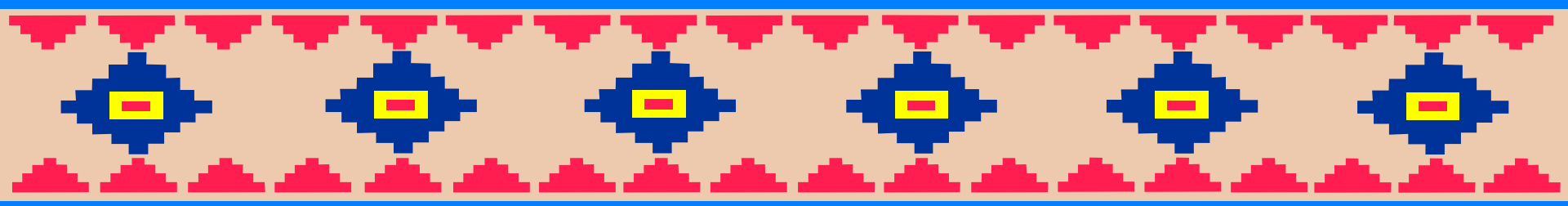
For example: experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect. witnessing violence in the home or community.

VIDEO



How the US Stole Thousands of Native American Children

<https://youtu.be/UGqWRyBCHhw>



Relationships
Why is this important
In working with
American Indian/Alaskan Native
Families

Building Effective Relationships

What are the Basics of Working in Indian Country?

- How history affects the way relationships exist and are built today
- How treaties and sovereignty affect working relationships today
- The importance of linking leadership, respect, trust, and relationships
- A summary of communication, relationship, and trust building protocols

Actions that Erode Trust

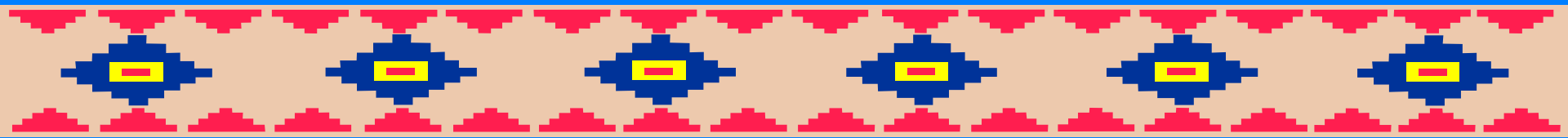


- Breaking commitments
- Personal biases Failure to consult
- Appearance of being pre-decisional
- Taking actions prior to building relationships/trust

Remember!

- The abuses which lead to the passage of the ICWA were experiences by real people
- Many of these victims still live in Indian communities today
- They remember, sometimes personally and sometimes in the communities collective memory, their children being unjustly taken
- Their willingness to work with social services/Child Advocate/CASA's, is often compromised even when it might lead to a better result on a specific case
- Each tribe is unique, the collective identity felt by Indians today is a result of their common experience of mistreatment and broken promises

KNOW WHAT
YOU DON'T
KNOW



Well Wishes
on Your Journey

