



NOVEMBER IS

NATIONAL NATIVE

AMERICAN

HERITAGE MONTH



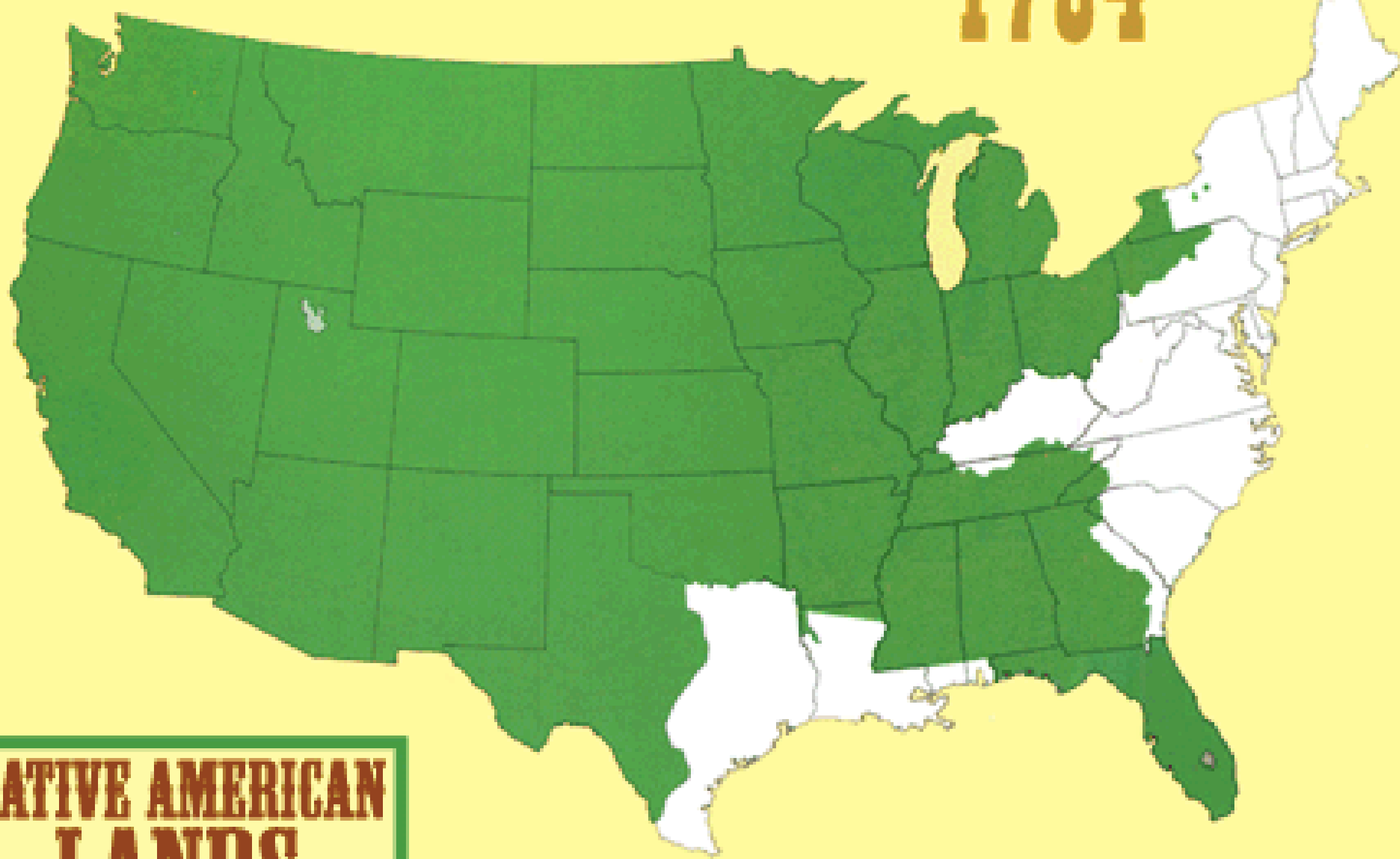


WHAT IS NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH?

- National Native American Heritage Month (NNAAHM) celebrates the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and history and acknowledges the important contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States.
- NNAAHM gives us an opportunity to become more educated about Native Americans, increase our knowledge of unique challenges faced by this population, and better understand how historical trauma—such as colonization and genocide—has impacted Native peoples.



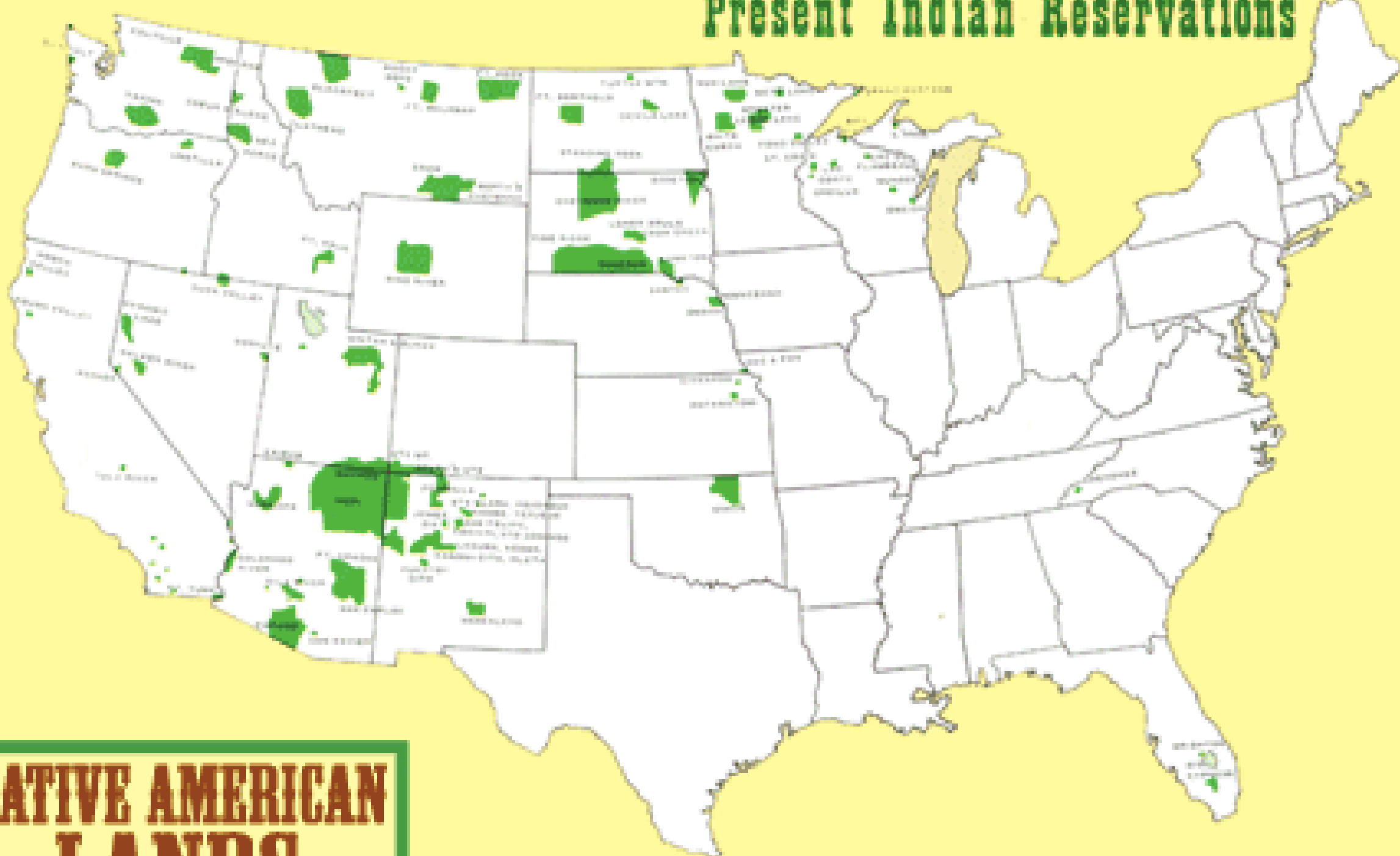
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**NATIVE AMERICAN
- LANDS -**

**THE U.S. WAS BUILT ON
STOLEN LAND**

Present Indian Reservations

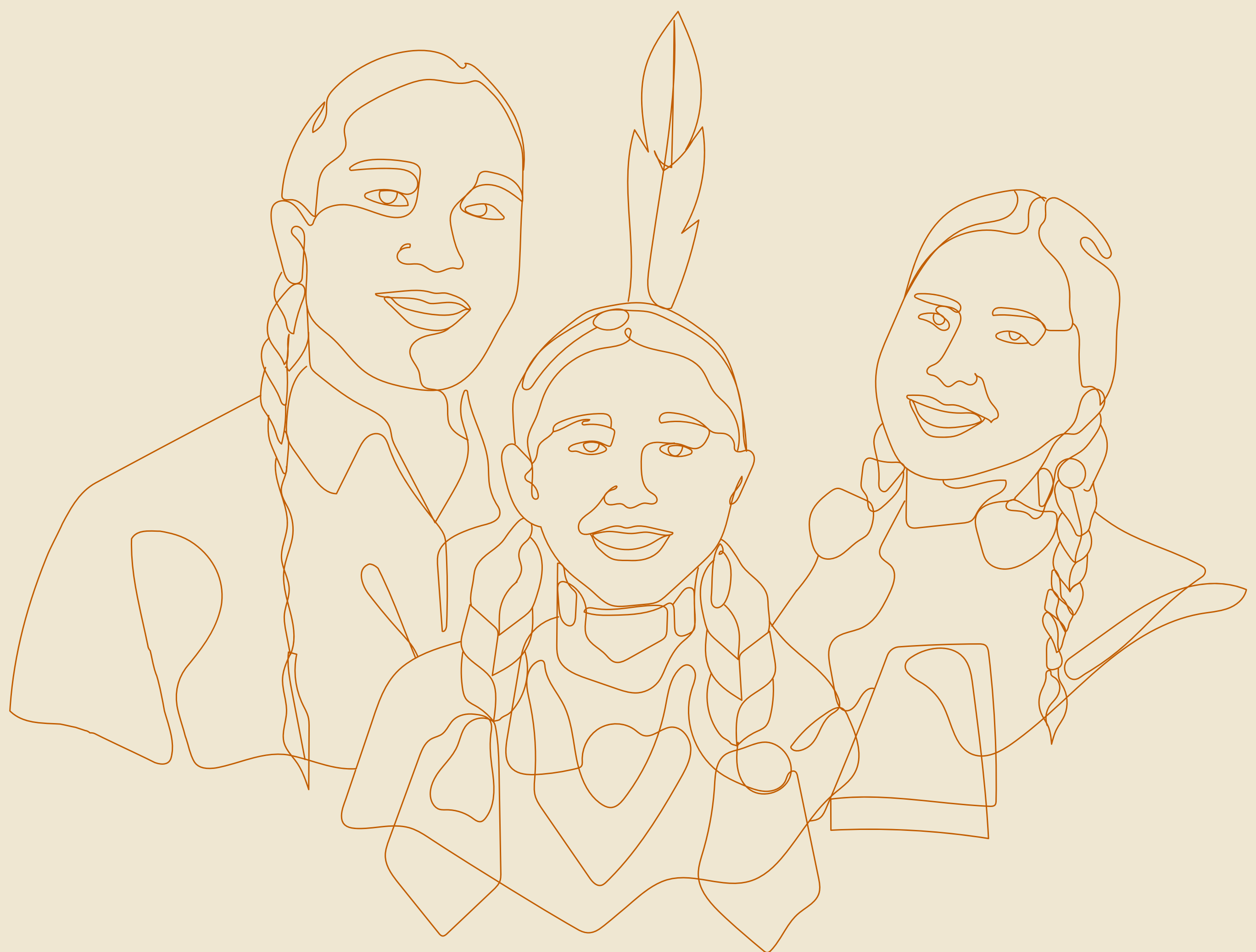


**NATIVE AMERICAN
- LANDS -**

THE FEDERAL REGISTER RECOGNIZES 573 SEPARATE TRIBAL ENTITIES LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY.

However, numerous others are still advocating for recognition. The more populous tribes include Cherokee (729,000+), Navajo (298,000+), and Choctaw (158,000+).

Although many Native Americans still reside on reservations, approximately 71 percent live in metropolitan areas. To date, Tribal citizens constitute about 2.5 percent of the total U.S. population.



PRESERVATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE



In recent years, the National Endowment for the Humanities has funded cultural preservation projects as part of its 50 States of Preservation initiative. Projects include...

- The Cahokia Mounds Museum Society's Augmented Reality Project: allows viewers to experience pre-Columbian life as it once existed through digital reconstruction.
- The Institute of American Indian Arts: this institute provides courses that feature Native American culture at their center. The IAIA is said to be the only multi-tribal center of higher education in the United States dedicated solely to the preservation, study, creative application, and contemporary expression of Native American art and culture.

FURTHER EDUCATION & ACTION

Learn more about the numerous Native people that are murdered and go missing each year. This plight has been referred to as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples' crisis.



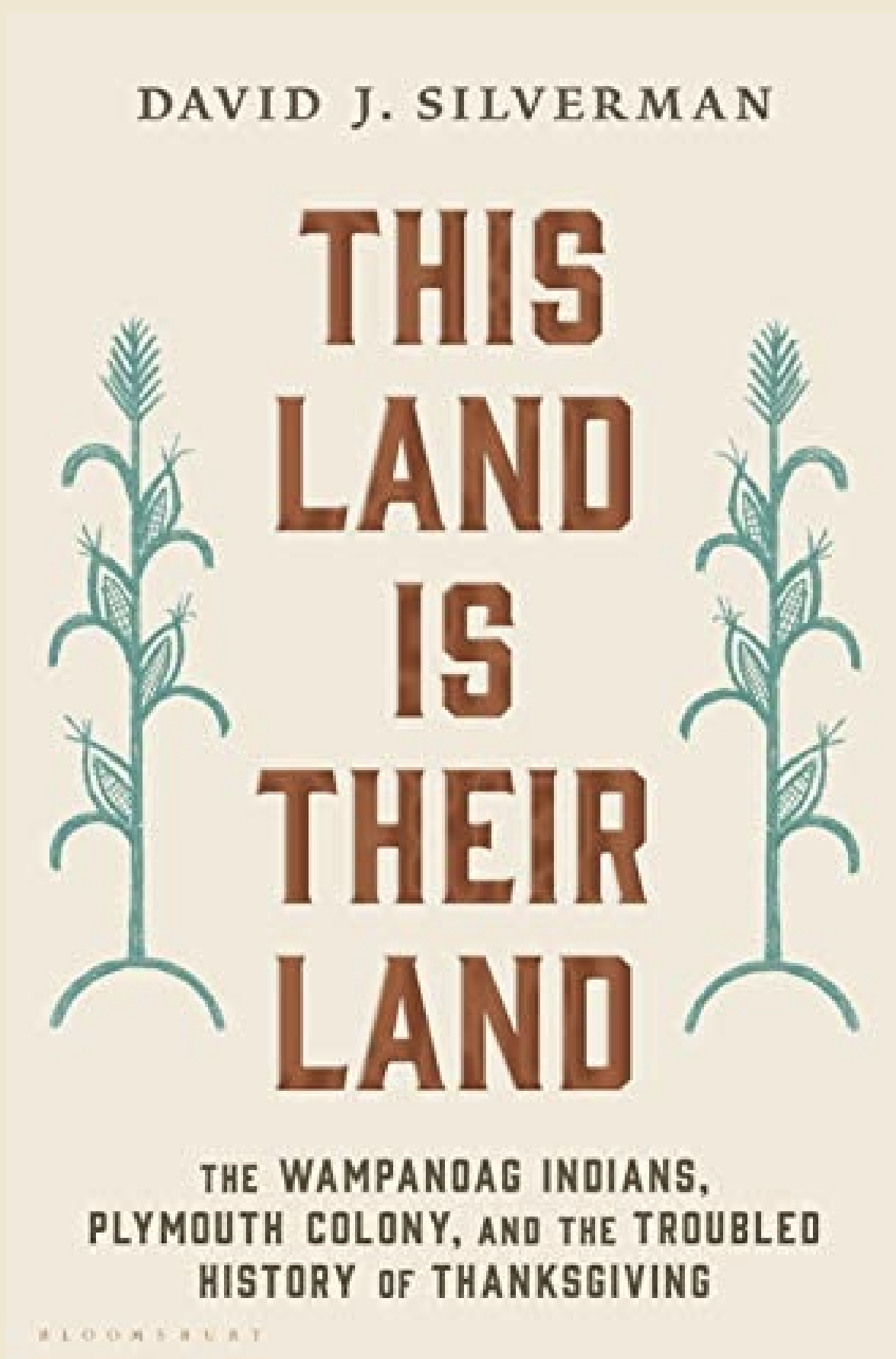
Campaign and vote for Native candidates at all levels of government to increase representation at the local, state, and national levels. Demand more of currently elected governments and advocate for policy and legislation that supports Native communities.



Educate yourself about the Land Back movement, which aims to restore stolen territory to Indigenous nations.

Support Native American-owned businesses. More information is available at: <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/native-american-owned-businesses>

FURTHER EDUCATION & ACTION



Read "This Land Is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving"

"This unsettling history reveals why some modern Native people hold a Day of Mourning on Thanksgiving, a holiday which celebrates a myth of colonialism and white proprietorship of the United States. This Land is Their Land shows that it is time to rethink how we, as a pluralistic nation, tell the history of Thanksgiving."

Learn more about National Native American Heritage month at...

- <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/29/a-proclamation-on-national-native-american-heritage-month-2021/>
- <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month>



FURTHER EDUCATION & ACTION

Read Elon's Land Acknowledgement

"Elon University is situated on land that was stolen and manipulated from Indigenous peoples by white colonists. The land currently occupied by Elon University is that of Adshusheer, Eno, Shakori, Catawba, Sappony/Saponi, Sissipahaw and Occaneechi people. We honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land. Additionally, this land has borne witness to over 400 years of the enslavement, torture and systematic mistreatment of African people and their descendants. Knowing and critically examining our history and how the “collective we” got here is vital for understanding our current reality, as well as functioning as an initial step in the process of healing the deep wounds of our shared history

<https://www.elon.edu/u/fa/sustainability/about-us/>



Utilize the Native Land interactive map to learn more about the indigenous territories, languages, and treaties of your hometown.