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Appalachia and the Cherokee

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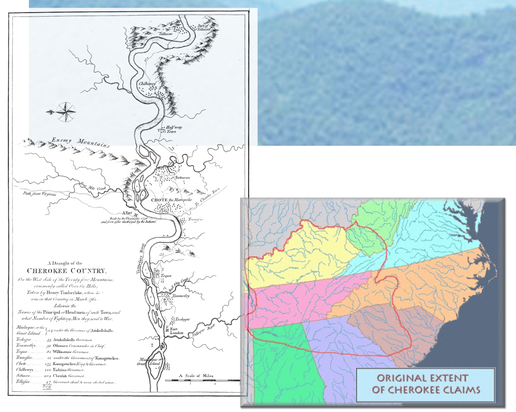
Appalachia and the Cherokee

The Appalachian Region

Appalachia, as defined in the legislation from which the Appalachian Regional Commission derives its authority, is a 200,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. It includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. About 23 million people live in the 410 counties of the Appalachian Region; 42 percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population. The Region's economic fortunes were based in the past mostly on extraction of natural resources and manufacturing. The modern economy of the Region is gradually diversifying, with a heavier emphasis on services and widespread development of tourism, especially in more remote areas where there is no other viable industry. Coal remains an important resource, but it is not a major provider of jobs.

Manufacturing is still an economic mainstay but is no longer concentrated in a few major industries.

http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=2741



About 200 years ago the Cherokee Indians were one tribe, or "Indian Nation" that lived in the southeast part of what is now the United States. During the 1830's and 1840's, the period covered by the Indian Removal Act, many Cherokees were moved west to a territory that is now the State of Oklahoma. A number remained in the southeast and gathered in North Carolina where they purchased land and continued to live. Others went into the Appalachian Mountains to escape being moved west and many of their descendants may still live there now.

http://www.doi.gov/cheeroke.html



The Cherokees call themselves Ani-Yunwiya, the "Principal People." They were indeed one of the principal Native American tribes of the southeastern United States until they were forced westward by the arrival of the Europeans. Cherokees were one of the Native American Tribes whose ancestral lands covered an area that included parts of Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Their language and migration legends suggest that the tribe originated to the north of their traditional homeland. An elaborate social, political, and ceremonial structure was reflected in the Cherokee culture. The town was their basic political unit and it consisted of all the people who used a single ceremonial center.

http://www.indians.org/articles/native-american-tribes-2.html



Cherokee Agriculture

The beginning of Cherokee culture is identified with the cultivation of corn by the native people in the Southern Appalachians more than a thousand years ago. From the earliest times in Cherokee history, the raising of corn was interwoven with the spiritual beliefs of the people

Long before the arrival of European settlers, the Cherokee and other tribes in the mountains of the Southern Appalachians were cultivating pumpkins and tobacco and planting beans and squash among the corn. From the Spanish explorers of the 16th and 17th centuries, the native people acquired horses, cattle, peaches and other crops..
Indeed, the Cherokee name for corn, selu, is also the name of the First Woman in Cherokee creation stories. Plants used by Cherokee healers include blackberry, black gum, hummingbird blossoms, cattail, greenbriar, mint, mullein, sumac, wild ginger, wild rose, yarrow and yellow dock.

http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/agriculturalheritage/CherokeeAgriculture/index.html

http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/spfiles/SP284-C.pdf
http://hort.ufl.edu/trees/NYSSYLA.pdf
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_histpubs/Pubs/SB147.PDF

http://www.cherokee.org/

http://www.humanitiestennessee.org/community/articles/firstag.php

http://cherokeehistory.com/fire.html

http://cherokeemuseum.org/index.html

http://www.apptrav.com/smoky-mountain-cherokee-museums.html

The border is "Cherokee Morning Song" in Cherokee type
English/Cherokee Dictionary
http://wehali.com/tsalagi/index.cfm

http://www.safc.org/index.php

http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=2741

http://www.appalachian.org

http://www.uwlax.edu/MVAC/index.htm

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/appalachia/

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Center:
Cherokee Reservation
http://cherokeereservation.ces.ncsu.edu/

http://www.appalachiantrail.org



The White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus), also known as the Virginia deer, is a medium-sized deer found throughout most of the continental United States, southern Canada, Mexico, Central America and northern portions of South America as far south as Peru. The species is most common east of the American cordillera, and is absent from much of the western United States, including Nevada, Utah and California (though its close relatives, the mule deer and black-tailed deer, can be found there). It does, however, survive in aspen parklands and deciduous river bottomlands within the Central and Northern Great Plains, and in mixed deciduous riparian corridors, river valley bottomlands, and lower foothills of the Northern Rocky Mountain Regions from Wyoming to Southeastern British Columbia.

In native american cultures the deer represents gentleness and innocence.

More inforation on the white-tailed deer:
http://www.appalachiantrail.org/site/c.jkLXJ8MQKtH/b.1047401/k.B0E2/Deer.htm



Living in the Appalachian forest : true tales of sustainable forestry
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks SD144.A112 B66 2002



Birth of the Mountains:The Geologic Story of the Southern Appalachian Mountains
http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/birth/



Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks QK187 .H67 2005



A land imperiled : the declining health of the Southern Appalachian bioregion
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks GE155 .A58 N65 2005



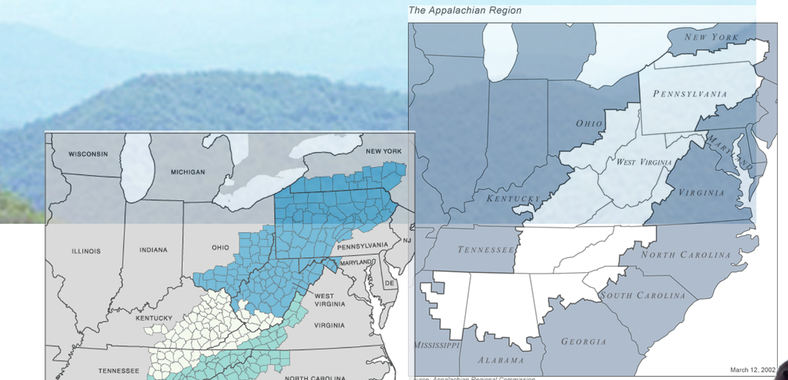
Culture, environment, and conservation in the Appalachian South
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks F217.A65 C85 2002

Selu and Kana'Ti: Cherokee Corn Mother and Lucky Hunter
http://www.ferrum.edu/applit/bibs/tales/selu.htm

Native harvests : American Indian wild foods and recipes
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks E98.F7 K37 2005

Native American gardening : Buffalobird-Woman's guide to traditional methods
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks E99 .H6 W337 2005

Native American gardening : stories, projects, and recipes for families
Ag-Vet. Med Library Stacks E98.A3 C24 1996





The bald eagle is truly an all-American bird -- it is the only eagle unique to North America. It ranges over most of the continent, from the northern reaches of Alaska and Canada down to northern Mexico.

While our national symbol was in danger of extinction throughout most of its range 25 years ago, the bald eagle has made a tremendous comeback, its populations greatly improving in numbers, productivity, and security in recent years.

Male bald eagles generally measure 3 feet from head to tail, weigh 7 to 10 pounds, and have a wingspan of about 6 1/2 feet. Females are larger, some reaching 14 pounds and having a wingspan of up to 8 feet. This striking raptor has large, pale eyes; a powerful yellow beak; and great, black talons. The distinctive white head and tail feathers appear only after the bird is 4 to 5 years old.

In native american culture the eagle represents patients, solitude and vision

More on bald eagles:
http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/baldeagle.pdf



Perhaps no other animal has so excited the human imagination as the bear. References to bears are found in literature,folk songs, legends, mythology, fairy tales, and cartoons.

The American black bear inhabits wooded and mountainous areas throughout most of North America, from Alaska to Florida, Canada to Mexico

The black bear is approximately 5 feet long and varies in weight from 125 to 400 pounds. It has small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, a large body, and a short tail. The shaggy hair varies in color from white through chocolate brown, cinnamon brown, and blonde to black, but most black bears are indeed black or a darker shade of brown.

In native american culture the bear represents strength and introspection.

More on bears:
http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/ambear.pdf
http://www.bear.org/Black/BB_Home.html



Originally, the red wolf roamed as far north as Pennsylvania and as far west as central Texas. Like its relative the gray wolf, the red wolf was extirpated from its former range by large scale predator control programs. By the late 1930s, only two populations are believed to have remained; one in the Ozark/Quachita Mountain region of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, and the other in southern Louisiana and southeastern Texas. Nearly extinct only a few decades ago, the red wolf has begun to recover with the help of captive breeding and reintroduction programs.

The red wolf derived its name from the reddish color of the head, ears, and legs. However, its coloring can range from very light tan to black. Weighing 45 to 80 pounds, the red wolf is smaller than the gray wolf and larger than the coyote. Also, the head is broader than the coyote's but more narrow than the gray wolf's. The red wolf's most distinguishing features are the long ears and legs

Historically, most Native Americans revered gray wolves, trying to emulate their cunning and hunting abilities. However, wolves became nearly extinct in the lower 48 states in the early part of the 20th century because settlers believed wolves caused widespread livestock losses. Constantly persecuted and targeted by large scale predator eradication programs sponsored by the federal government, wolves have been pursued with more passion and determination than any other animal in U.S. history. By the time wolves were finally protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, they had been exterminated from the lower 48 states, except for a few hundred that inhabited extreme northeastern Minnesota.

In native american culture the wolf represents family and community

More information about wolves:
http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/graywolf.pdf
http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/red%20wol.pdf.

A printed list of resouces for this display is available.