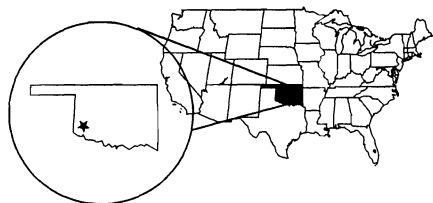
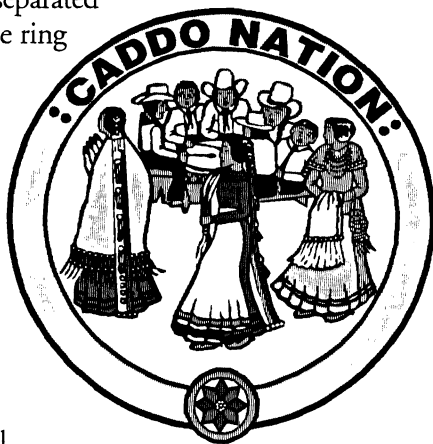


## CADDO



The modern Caddo Nation of Oklahoma descended from many different tribes that once inhabited Louisiana, southern Arkansas, and coastal Texas as far west as the Brazos River (ENAT, 33-34). These included the tribes of the Hasinai Confederacy, the Nachitoches Confederacy, and the Kadohadacho Confederacy (from which the name “Caddo” is derived).

Today the more than 1,200 Caddo, along with the Western Delaware and Wichita Nations, share small parcels of tribal lands around Fort Cobb and Fort El Reno, Oklahoma. Over their lands flies the orange flag bearing their tribal seal. On the flag the seal is separated from the orange field by a medium blue ring bearing “: CADDO NATION :” in black at the top. This blue ring recalls the spirit’s journey through life and beyond. The current flag replaces a previous version with a light buff field and the tribal name on the seal as “: CADDO INDIAN NATION IN OKLAHOMA :”.



The seal of the Caddo Nation depicts three women in 19th-century Caddo dress performing the traditional “Turkey Dance”. This dance is still performed today (“Flag of the Caddo Nation”, *Caddo Nation*, 1997), by women and children of the tribe who sing while they dance, accompanied by the men who sing and play the drums. The Turkey Dance fosters a sense of confidence and well-being, releases mental stress, and promotes exceptional physical endurance since it can last as long as a full day.

The three dancing women wear dresses of green (left), red-orange and white (center), and lavender with a white apron (right). The background of the tribal seal shows five Caddo men, in outline, playing music for the

Turkey Dance. At the base of the seal, a small round design in yellow, red, green, and white symbolizes the door to the world beyond and recalls the four stages of life and the four primary directions of the compass.

The flag was designed by Billie Hoff, a member of the Caddo tribe, and has been manufactured commercially by the Homer Miller Company of Oklahoma City. 🍀

[Thanks to LaRue Parker of the Caddo National Council for supplying information on this flag.]