

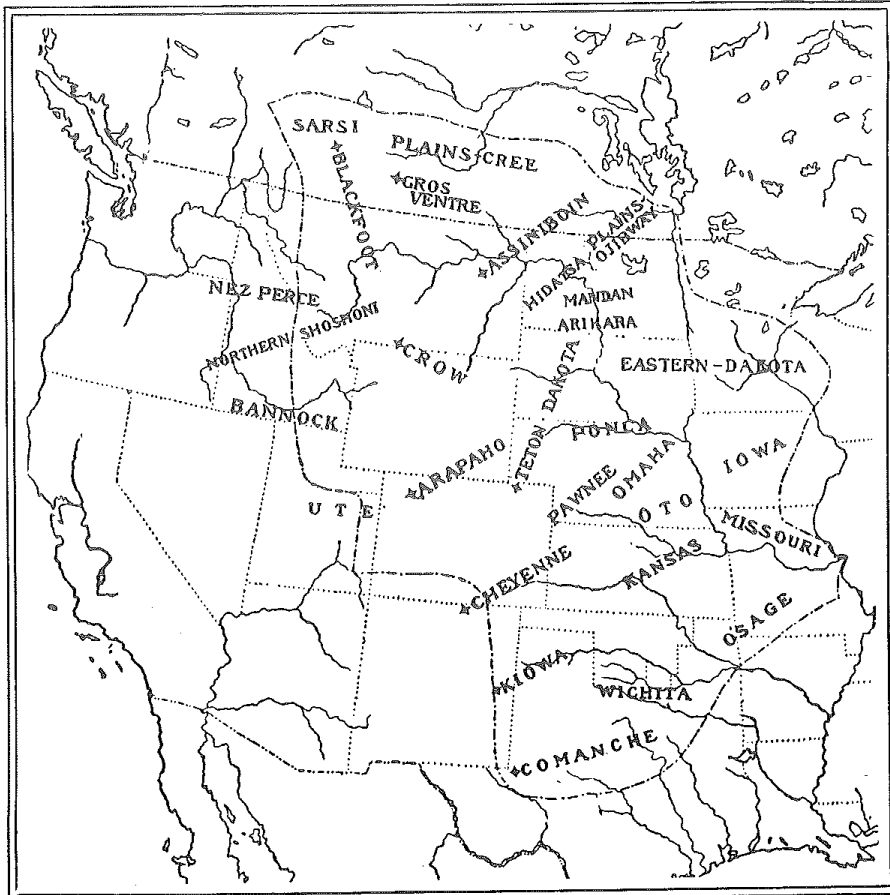
# DENVER ART MUSEUM

1300 LOGAN STREET, DENVER, COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN ART

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### PLAINS TRIBES AND LOCATIONS

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## THE PLAINS INDIAN TRIBES LOCATION, POPULATION AND CULTURE

**THE PLAINS INDIANS** are the members of those tribes whose names and the extent of whose range are shown by the map on the cover.

**CULTURE.** "The chief traits of this culture are the dependence on the buffalo or bison, and the very limited use of roots and berries; absence of fishing; lack of agriculture; the tipi as a movable dwelling (see Leaflet 19); transportation by land only, with the dog and the travois (in historic times with the horse); want of basketry and pottery; no true weaving; clothing of buffalo and deerskins; a special bead technique; high development of work in skins; special rawhide work (parfleche, cylindrical bag, etc.); use of a circular shield; weak development of work in wood, stone, and bone. Their art is strongly geometric, but, as a whole, not symbolic; social organization tends to the simple band; a camp circle organization; a series of societies for men; sun dance ceremony; sweat house observances, scalp dances, etc." "The American Indian"—Wissler.

**LOCATION.** The names on the map give the approximate centers of the ranges of each tribe in the 19th century, but it must be remembered that all the tribes wandered far and wide over the area. Most of the true Plains tribes reached that area from west, northeast and southeast relatively recently, within about the last 500 years perhaps.

The rest of this leaflet is devoted to a list of the tribes which were in any way connected with the Plains culture, giving their linguistic stock, present locations, population, and degree of full bloodedness.

**POPULATION CHANGES.** Approximate estimates indicate that the tribes listed in this leaflet numbered about 125,000 early in the 19th century; that they declined steadily in numbers until roughly the turn of the century, numbering then about 55,000; and that since then there has been a steady increase to about 70,000. A considerable part of this increase, however, is due to the admixture of white blood.

### TRUE PLAINS TRIBES

The following tribes are those among whom the Plains culture above described reached its fullest development.

**ARAPAHO** (Ah-ráh-pah-ho) Algonkin linguistic stock. 1945 population about 1,346 for the northern Arapaho who live on the Wind River, or Shoshoni, Reservation in Wyoming. The southern group shares a reservation with the Cheyenne in west central Oklahoma. The combined population is about 3,102.

**ASSINIBOINE** (As-sí-ni-boin) Siouan linguistic stock. 1945 population about 1,910. 63% full blood in 1910. About half the tribe lives on the Stoney reserve in Alberta. The remainder lives on the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations in northern Montana.

**BLACKFOOT.** Algonkin linguistic stock. 1945 population about 5,164 an increase since 1922. 55% full blood in 1910. There are three divisions of the tribe. The Sik-sik-a, or Blackfoot proper, and the Blood, or Kainah, live in southwestern Alberta. The Piegan (Pee-gan) live in northwestern Montana, with a few in Alberta.

**CHEYENNE** (Shéye-én) Algonkin linguistic stock. 1945 population about 1,713 for the northern group on the Tongue River Reservation in south central Montana. The southern group shares a reservation with the Arapaho in Oklahoma. 87% full blood in 1910.

**COMANCHE** (Ko-mán-chee) Shoshonean linguistic stock. 1945 population about 2,694. There has been a steady increase since 1905. 63% full blood in 1910. The tribe lives on the Kiowa reservation in southwestern Oklahoma.

**CROW**. Siouan linguistic stock. 1945 population about 2,488, an increase since 1910. 69% full blood in 1910. The tribe lives on the Crow reservation in south central Montana.

**GROS VENTRE** (Grow Vawnt) or **ATSINA** (Aht-see-nah). Algonkin linguistic stock. 1945 population about 1,013, with a steady slight increase. 76% full blood in 1910. The tribe lives on the Fort Belknap reservation in north central Montana.

**KIOWA** (Kéye-o-wah) Kiowan linguistic stock. 1945 population 2,692 with a considerable increase in recent years. 72% full blood in 1910. The tribe now lives on the Kiowa reservation in southwestern Oklahoma. Long associated with the Kiowa is the small band of Athabaskan **Kiowa-Apache**, 175. They are not part of the southwestern Apache.

**TETON SIOUX** (Tée-ton Soo) Siouan linguistic stock. 1945 population about 35,654. 75% full blood in 1910. The Teton is the largest division of the Sioux or Dakota tribe. It is split into many bands, which are now living on five reservations, Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Lower Brule in South Dakota and Standing Rock in both North and South Dakota.

#### VILLAGE TRIBES ON THE EAST

These tribes had many features of the true Plains culture, but depended much more on agriculture for food and tended to live in permanent villages of earth lodges (see Leaflet 20) a large part of the time.

**ARIKARA or REE**. Caddoan stock, 782 in 1945, slightly increasing. 85% full blood 1910. Fort Berthold reservation, North Dakota.

**HIDATSA or MINITAREE**. Siouan stock. 849 in 1945, slightly increasing. 76% full blood in 1910. Fort Berthold reservation, North Dakota.

**IOWA**. Siouan stock. 654 in 1945, slightly increasing. 24% full blood in 1910. The larger number live in Kansas, the rest on the Shawnee reservation in Oklahoma.

**KANSA or KAW**. Siouan stock. 544 in 1945, slight increase of mixed bloods. 30% full blood in 1910. Kaw reservation, Oklahoma.

**MANDAN**. Siouan stock. 387 in 1945, slightly increasing. 79% full blood in 1910. Fort Berthold reservation, North Dakota.

**MISSOURI**. Siouan stock. About a dozen in 1910. The survivors, if any, live on the Oto reservation in Oklahoma.

**OMAHA**. Siouan stock. 1,840 in 1945, slight steady increase. 80% full blood in 1910. Omaha reservation, northeastern Nebraska.

**OSAGE**. Siouan stock. 4,621 in 1945, considerable increase of mixed bloods. 43% full blood in 1910. Osage reservation, Oklahoma.

**OTO**. Siouan stock. 886 in 1945, slight steady increase. 63% full blood in 1910. Oto reservation, Oklahoma.

**PAWNEE.** Caddoan stock. 1,149 in 1945, steady increase. 86% full blood in 1910. Pawnee reservation, Oklahoma.

**PONCA.** Siouan stock. 1,330 in 1945, slight increase. 53% full blood in 1910. About one-third on the Ponca reservation in Nebraska and the rest on the Ponca reservation in Oklahoma.

**SIoux** (Eastern). Siouan stock, about 16,243 in 1945. About 70% full blood in 1910. The six divisions and many bands of the eastern Sioux live on a number of reservations in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Montana and Minnesota.

**WICHITA.** Caddoan stock. 1,644 in 1945, considerable increase. 97% full blood in 1910. Wichita reservation, Oklahoma.

### PLATEAU TRIBES ON THE WEST

These tribes were less developed ceremonially and politically than the true Plains tribes, but carried basketry making much farther. To a considerable extent they lived in pit lodges dug in the earth.

**BANNOCK.** Shoshonean stock. About 337 in 1945. 78% full blood in 1910. Fort Hall reservation, Idaho.

**NEZ PERCE.** Sahaptin stock. 1,525 in 1945. 77% full blood in 1910. Fort Lapwai reservation, Idaho.

**SHOSHONI.** Shoshonean stock. About 5,526 in 1945. 87% full blood in 1910. Wind River Reservation, Wyoming; Fort Hall Reservation, Utah and Idaho; Western Shoshone reservations, Nevada, also the Owens Valley area, California.

**UTE.** Shoshonean stock. About 2,505 in 1945, slight decrease. 94% full blood in 1910. Southern Ute reservation, Colorado and Uintah reservation, Utah.

### NORTHERN TRIBES

The small Athabaskan tribe of the Sarcee, and those bands of the Algonkin Cree and Ojibwa, or Chippewa, which live to the north of the Plains culture area, have much in common with the Plains tribes, as well as with the Canadian tribes to the north who have a somewhat different culture.

Compiled from the following sources by F. H. Douglas :

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