

**WHOSE LAND IS  
THIS?**

**LYRIQ Music School**

# WHOSE LAND IS THIS?

## INTRODUCTION:

This song alternates between teaching artist and class unison singing. Use the app “Native Land” to create a printout of the map of indigenous land in Illinois for use during the lyric “Let’s all look at the map.” Percussion rhythms can be played with claps, drums, and any other music making devices such as shakers and maracas. At one point towards the end, children will run to a preassigned spot in the room.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

Before beginning the song, the teaching artist will assign a spot in the room to each student, referred to later in the song during the ending tag as their “station.” Students will then be randomly placed around the room, away from their “station.”

The score indicates who sings with boxed text at the top of the measure reading “TA” for teaching artist, and “All” for the entire class.

There are two options for the ending of the song, based on the maturity/age of the children. During these endings, there is a shouted line “everyone move, to your stations!” At this time, the students move quickly to their “stations.” When the line is repeated, the students will move from their “stations” back to their original positions.

## NON-PITCHED ELEMENTS:

In the **vocal line**, parts that are not sung, but shouted instead, are indicated with x-noteheads. The **percussion line** also has x-noteheads, and is in the upper register of the staff.

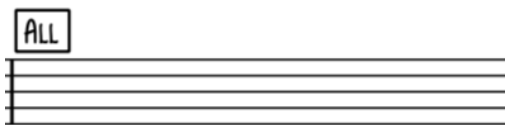


BI-POC B - I - P - O - C

land is this mem - ber Which Who

## SPEAK:

During spoken sections, the measure will appear blank with quoted text below the measure.



"The Council of Three Fires!"

# WHOSE LAND IS THIS?

## KEYWORDS

### NATIONS

Definition:

Before European people ever came to America - Chicago, in fact the whole country - already had groups of people living here. They are called Native Americans. Different groups of Native Americans are called tribes or “nations” and every tribe has its own name.

### THE COUNCIL OF THREE FIRES

Definition:

The alliance between the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi people. Their land is in the Illinois cities of Calumet, Chicago, and Des Plaines.

### “WHAT HAPPENED HERE”

Explanation:

Europeans brought diseases to indigenous people and many of them died - the same thing happened all over North America, and around the world when Europeans made contact with the people who had been living there first. In Chicago and areas of Illinois, Native Americans were almost all forced out of their land through violence and unfair agreements that gave up their land to Europeans. Then, the 1832 Black Hawk War and the 1833 Treaty of Chicago forced out almost all the Native Americans who had survived. Because of this, for hundreds of years, Chicago barely had a Native American population. But, in the 1950’s, the US government did something terrible. They created the “Indian Relocation Act,” which took Native Americans from their land and forced them into cities to “adapt” to society. This was cruel and tore families apart. Even though it was terrible, Chicago has the third-largest Native American population in the US because of what happened. That’s one of the reasons why this song says “Look all around, look all about, they live here.”

Source:

Hautzinger, Daniel. “‘We’re Still Here’: Chicago’s Native American Community.” *WTTW Chicago*, WTTW, 25 Sept. 2020, <https://interactive.wttw.com/playlist/2018/11/08/native-americans-chicago>.

### UPLIFT

Definition:

Another way of saying “lift up.” You can say you want to help, or support someone or a group of people, by saying you want to “uplift them.”

## BIPOC

Pronunciation:

“buy pock” (“pock” as in “pocket”)

Definition:

A short way of saying “Black, or Indigenous, or People of Color.” BIPOC is used in place of just “people of color,” since black people and indigenous people are often unfairly left out of conversations about race. The “I” in BIPOC stands for “Indigenous” which means first, original, or native. In America, indigenous people are also called Native Americans.

## OJIBWE

Pronunciation:

“Oh jeeb way”

Definition:

Also known as the Ojibwa or Chippewa, Ojibwe are an indigenous group who were forced to leave the Illinois area between 1816 and 1833. But, many are here now! See the explanation of the lyric “What Happened Here” on page one of the keyword sheet for more information.

Source:

Tanner, Helen Hornbeck. *Ojibwa*, Encyclopedia of Chicago, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/925.html>.

## ODAWA

Pronunciation:

“Oh daa wuh”

Definition:

Also known as the Ottawa, the Odawa are an indigenous group who speak the Algonquian language. The name “Odawa” means “traders”, and they were known to trade a lot with other indigenous tribes and Europeans.

Source:

Weiser-Alexander, Kathy. “Ottawa Indian Tribe.” *Legends of America*, Legends of America , Oct. 2018, <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ottawa-tribe/#:~:text=The%20Ottawa%2C%20also%20known%20as,as%20intertribal%20traders%20and%20barterers>.

## POTAWATOMI

Pronunciation:

“Poh tuh waa tuh mee”

Definition:

An indigenous group that speaks the Algonquian language. The name “Potawatomi” means “people of the place of the fire.” They originally lived in Wisconsin, but then settled in Illinois as European colonies expanded into their lands. They were then forced to move further West by the US military in the early-mid 1800s. Along the way, they adopted some customs from the Plains Indians, especially in Kansas. They are now known as the “Citizen Potawatomi.”

Source:

Sheets, Kathleen. “Potawatomi.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 20 June 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Potawatomi>.

## ALLIES

Definition:

To be an “ally” or practice “allyship” means to try to make life more fair for people who are brought down by people in power, or systems that need to change. Part of being an ally is to remember some things are easier for you than others, and that you need to stand up for those who need your support. That can mean talking out loud about something that’s unfair, going to meetings and talking to nearby leaders about something that needs to change, and more. We can all be allies!

## HO-CHUNK

Pronunciation:

“Hoh chunk”

Definition:

An indigenous nation of people who speak the Siouan language. Sometimes called The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, “Ho-chunk” means “people of the sacred voice.” But, since “Winnebago” is an Algonquian word, say “Ho-chunk”! The Ho-chunk nation owns 14 counties in Wisconsin, and live in large numbers because they kept returning to their land in Wisconsin and Illinois every time the US government kicked them out. Because they never gave up, they rose up from the US’s attacks on their culture. It was very scary for them to do this though, and people were lost along the way.

Source 1:

“Ho-Chunk Nation - The People With The Big Voice.” *Wisconsin First Nations*, American Studies in Wisconsin , 2 Aug. 2021, <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/ho-chunk-nation/>.

Source 2:

“Ho-Chunk.” *Milwaukee Public Museum*, MPM, <https://www.mpm.edu/educators/wirp/nations/ho-chunk>.

## KICKAPOO

Pronunciation:

“Kick uh pooh”

Definition:

An Algonquian-speaking indigenous group related to the Sauk and Fox people, organized into clans. They first lived between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, but had a lot of land - from Texas and Mexico, to New York Pennsylvania. In the mid-1700s, part of the tribe moved to Illinois. They were forced by American settlers to give up their Illinois lands in the early 1800s.

Source:

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Kickapoo.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 3 Feb. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kickapoo>.

## MENOMINEE

Pronunciation:

“Muh nah minnie”

Definition:

An indigenous tribe that speaks the Menominee language, which came from the Algonquian language. They have land in Wisconsin, and parts of Michigan and Illinois. During the 1800s, like the other tribes mentioned in this keyword sheet, unfair agreements forced the Menominee to give up their land or leave. Then, in the 1950s, the US made the “Menominee Termination Act,” which tried to erase the tribe by taking away their name. Luckily, in 1973, the Menominee fought for the “Menominee Restoration Act” which brought back their title.

Source:

“Brief History - About Us.” *Menominee*, The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin , <https://www.menominee-nsn.gov/culturepages/briefhistory.aspx>.

## MIAMI

Pronunciation:

“My am-eee”

Definition:

The Miami nation is an indigenous group that used to have land in Northern Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. “Miami” means “the downstream people.” They fought

Europeans who were stealing their land a lot. In the 1800s, unfair agreements made them give away most of their land to the US, and they had to move to southeast Kansas. Because of this, 73% of the Miami died of hunger and diseases that Europeans brought over. Now, they have land in Oklahoma and Indiana, and are split into two groups: the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Miami Nation of Indiana.

Source:

Weiser, Kathy. "Miami Tribe." *Legends of America*, Legends of America, May 2020, <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/miami-tribe/>.

## SAC AND FOX NATION

Pronunciation:

"Sack" "Fox"

Definition:

An indigenous tribe speaking the Algonquian language, made up of the Sauk/Sac "People of the Yellow Earth", and the Fox "Red Earth People." They used to be two different tribes, but the Sac and Foxes joined together when the French attacked the Foxes. An 1815 agreement forced the tribe out of their Iowa and Illinois lands, into Missouri. The Sac and Fox Nation has three different bands - the Meskwaki, Sa ki wa ki, and Ne ma ha ha ki. Now their land is in Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Source:

"History of the Tribe." *History Of The Tribe | Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri*, <https://www.sacandfoxks.com/>.

## ILLINOIS NATIONS

Definition:

The Illinois were a group of indigenous tribes that lived in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. They speak the Algonquian language, and were enemies with the Dakota Sioux, Fox, Odawa, Iroquois, and other northern tribes, which forced them to live by French settlers. When this happened, Sac and Fox nation, the Kickapoo and Potawatomi moved into their land. The Illinois sold the land left after that, and they eventually moved to Kansas and Oklahoma in 1832.

Source:

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Illinois." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 21 June 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Illinois-people>.

# LYRICS

**All:**

Whose land is this  
Whose land is this  
Which nations  
Which nations  
Whose land is this  
Whose land is this  
Let's all look at the map

**TA:**

Remember, among other nations,  
We live on land belonging to...

**All:**

The Council of Three Fires!

**All:**

Remember  
Remember  
Who lived here  
Who lives here  
Remember  
Remember  
They still live here and near

**TA:**

Remember that your home,  
Isn't where you'd roam,  
Native people here were forced to leave  
So support them  
Stand with them  
Together we will fight

Those who were here first,  
Still are getting hurt,  
What happened here was very sad  
So uplift them  
Unite with them  
Stand up for what's right

**All:**

Don't forget!  
Don't forget!  
We're all here  
Together  
Don't forget!  
Don't forget!  
There's more work to be done

**All:**

Remember  
Remember  
Who lived here  
Who lives here  
Remember  
Remember  
They still live here and near

**TA:**

Look down at the ground  
This land that was found  
It belonged to someone else  
So be thoughtful  
Be mindful  
And stand up for their rights

The ground beneath your feet  
The people who you meet  
We're all neighbors sharing land  
So be thankful  
Be helpful  
Support with all our might!

**All:**

Look over here!  
Look over there!  
They live here  
They live there  
Look all around  
Look all about  
They still live here and near!

Whose land is this  
Whose land is this  
Which nations  
Which nations  
Whose land is this  
Whose land is this  
Let's all give them a cheer!



**Ending #1:**

**TA:**

The “i” in BIPOC, B.I.P.O.C

**All:**

The “i” in BIPOC, B.I.P.O.C

**TA:**

We are allies, you and me!

**All:**

We are allies, you and me!

**TA:**

Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi

**All:**

Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi

**TA:**

Ho-chunk, Kickapoo, Menominee

**All:**

Ho-chunk, Kickapoo, Menominee

**TA:**

Miami, Sac and Fox, Illinois Nations

**All:**

Miami, Sac and Fox, Illinois Nations

**TA:**

Everybody move, to your stations!

**All:**

Everybody move, to your stations!

**\*everyone scrambles to a pre-assigned spot in the room\***

**TA:**

One more time everybody.....

*\*Repeat Ending #1 up until the line: “One last time everybody”\**

**All:**

Yaaaaay! \*applause\*

**Ending #2:**

**All:**

Ojibwe,

Odawa,

And more,

And more,

Potawatomi,

Ho-chunk,

Kickapoo,

Menominee

Miami,

Sac and Fox Nation,

And more,

And more,

Illinois Nations,

To your stations....**\*everyone scrambles to a pre-assigned spot in the room\***

Support, support, support! **\*Everyone squats and lifts their hand up with each “support”\***

**TA:**

One more time everybody.....

*\*Repeat Ending #2 up until the line: “One last time everybody”\**

**All:**

Yaaaaay! \*applause\*

# WHOSE LAND IS THIS?

COMPOSED BY  
MAIA THOMAS

PLAYFULLY ♩ = 76

VOICE

Whose land is this      Whose land is this      Which na-tions—      Which  
Re - mem - ber      Re - mem - ber      Who lived here      Who

na - tions—      Whose land is this      Whose land is this      Let's  
lives here      Re - mem - ber      Re - mem - ber      They

all      look      at      the      map  
still      live      here      and      near

"Remember, among other nations,

we live on land belonging to..."      "The Council of Three Fires!"

LOLLABY-LIKE

Re - mem - ber that your home      is - 'nt where you'd roam, Na - tive peo - ple      here were forced to  
Those who were here first      still are ge - tting hurt,      What ha - ppened here was ve - ry

leave.      So su - pport\_ them      Stand with them\_      to -  
sad      So up - lift them      Unite with them\_

ge - ther up      we will      fight  
Stand      up      for      what's      right

Don't for - get!  
Re - mem - ber      Re -

Don't for - get!  
mem - ber      We're all here.      To - ge - ther!  
Who lived here      Who lives here      Re -

B B7

Don't for-get! mem - ber Re - Don't for-get! mem - ber There's more work to be They still live here and

*LOLLABY-LIKE*

E B E B

done near The Look down at the ground feet This land that was found, the peo - ple who you meet

CDIM G#/C C#m B

It be-longed to some - one else land So be thought - ful Be We're all neigh-bors shar - ing land So be thank - ful Be

B7 E

mind - ful and stand up for their rights help - ful su - pport with all our might!

*PLAYFULLY*

ALL E F#

Look o - ver here! Whose land is this Look o - ver there! Whose land is this They live here\_ Which na - tions\_ They

B

live\_ there na - tions\_ Look all a - round Whose land is this Look all a - bout Whose land is this They Let's

B7 E

still all live give here them and a cheer!

# ENDING FOR OLDER CHILDREN

## CHANT

VOICE

The "I" in BI-POC B - I - P - O - C (The "I" in BIPOC We are a - llies you and me! (We are allies you and me!) B-I-P-O-C)

Oji - bwe, Oda - wa, Po - ta - wa - to mi! (Ojibwe, Ho - chunk, Ki - cka - poo, Me - no - mi - nee! (Ho - chunk, Kickapoo, Menominee!)

Mia - mi, Sac and Fox, Ill - i - nois Na tions (Miami, Sac and E - very - bo - dy move, to your sta tions! Fox, Illinois Nations!)

1. TA | 2. \*class applause\*

"One last time everybody!" "Yay!"

## PLAYFULLY

# ENDING FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

VOICE

O - ji - bwe O - da - wa And mo - re\_\_ and mo - re\_\_

mo - re\_\_ Po - te - wa - to - mi Ho - chunk

Ki - cka - poo Me - no - mi - nee Mi - a - mi Sac and Fox

Na - tion and mo - re\_\_ and mo - re\_\_ I - lli - nois

Na - tions to your sta - tions... Su - pport su - pport su - pport!!

1. TA | 2. \*class applause\*

"One last time everybody!" "Yay!"