

INDIANA

HISTORY

Native nations, French traders and American settlers each helped build Indiana.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Indiana for at least 10,000 years. About 900 years ago, Native farmers built a town of earth mounds, now called Angel Mounds, beside the Ohio River. By the 1700s, the Miami lived along the Wabash River and the Potawatomi lived to the north. Shawnee and Delaware people moved in from the east. All of them farmed, hunted and traded.

French Forts and Fur

The French explorer La Salle crossed northern Indiana in 1679. French traders followed, bought furs from Native hunters and built forts along the Wabash. Vincennes, founded in 1732, is Indiana's oldest city. Britain won the land from France in 1763. In 1779, George Rogers Clark captured Vincennes for the Americans.

Wars for the Land

After the Revolution, settlers crossed the Ohio River for farmland. The Miami leader Little Turtle led Miami, Shawnee and other warriors against them. His forces defeated two American armies, in 1790 and 1791. An American army under Anthony Wayne beat the allied nations in 1794. In the **Treaty** of Greenville in 1795, the nations gave up most of Ohio and a strip of Indiana.

Tecumseh and Tippecanoe

Congress made Indiana a **territory** in 1800. Its governor, William Henry Harrison, bought millions of

acres from the tribes by treaty. The Shawnee leader Tecumseh said no single tribe could sell the land. He joined many nations in a **confederacy** based at Prophetstown. In 1811, Harrison marched an army there. Warriors attacked his camp before dawn near the Tippecanoe River. The soldiers held their ground and then burned the town. Tecumseh fought for Britain in the War of 1812 and was killed in battle in 1813.

A New State

Indiana became the 19th state on December 11, 1816. A 1787 law had banned slavery here, but some settlers still held enslaved workers. The first state constitution banned slavery, and the state's top court enforced the ban in 1820. In later treaties the tribes sold nearly all of their Indiana land. In 1838, state militia moved about 860 Potawatomi to Kansas. Many Miami were moved there in 1846, and some families stayed. Native people live in Indiana today.



Building Indiana

Settlers cleared forests for farms and built towns, schools and mills. The National Road crossed the state through Indianapolis, the capital since 1825. The Wabash and Erie **Canal** reached Evansville in 1853. At 468 miles, it was the longest canal in the country. In 1906, U.S. Steel began building the city of Gary and its mills.

INDIANA THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Little Turtle	Miami war leader. Signed the Treaty of Greenville.
Tecumseh	Shawnee leader who joined many nations together.
Madam C.J. Walker	Built her hair care company in Indianapolis.
Wilbur Wright	Born near Millville. Built the first airplane with his brother.
Gus Grissom	Astronaut from Mitchell. Second American in space.

WORDS TO KNOW

treaty	a written agreement between nations
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state
confederacy	a group of nations that join together
canal	a waterway dug by people for boats