

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Kickapoo, kikapu, Algic/ Algonquin

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):KIC

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Originally started in an area from northwest Ohio stretching to south west Michigan. After contact they were forced into southern Wisconsin eventually being pushed into Indiana. They signed treaties that moved them onto lands in southern Missouri. They would eventually spread into Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. They are currently recognized as being in three primary areas; Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

1.4 Brief history: They lived in their original territory until they were forced out by Iroquois looking for hunting grounds for pelts and other things for trade with the French a direct cause of the Beaver Wars. Because of the constant warfare the Kickapoo were able to take advantage of treaties and other tribes forcible removal to move further south. They split into two groups over the problems of who they should ally with in all of the turmoil. Eventually they would both be drawn into the war with Britain and would be on the losing side, which would cripple them significantly (there was a spread of smallpox and low crop yield that year). After many more treaties and allies made they would move into northern Missouri, just north of current day St. Louis. The Kickapoo would eventually war with everyone from the British to the Americans, they would inevitably lose and were forced out of their lands into southern Missouri, though many would fight either violently or passively to stay in their lands. Some not leaving until the 1880's (they had been forced out as early as 1820). They were not satisfied with their new reservations since they were sharing lands with the Osage (a people they had been fighting for almost one hundred years.) they eventually began separating into Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. Once the civil war broke out most of the remaining Kickapoo sold their lands in Missouri and moved into Kansas and Oklahoma. The Texas and Mexican Kickapoo would spread back into central Texas and would take cattle and land from settlers, which led to even more fighting. Eventually many of the Kickapoo warriors were killed from all groups and they eventually all signed individual treaties that would give them lands in their respective states. The Mexican Kickapoo were given 17,000 acres in the Santa Rosa mountains, the Kickapoo in Texas were recognized in 1983 (no info on lands or reservations), the Kickapoo in Oklahoma were given 22,000 acres, The Kansas Kickapoo were given 19,000 acres (the rest given to Whites), could not find info on lands in Missouri.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Their most common neighbors and most friendly were the Fox and Sac. They also had relations with the Illinois. They also had relations with many tribes while at war with the neighboring cultures ranging from Iroquois to Osage and many others. Missionaries had little to no effect on the Kickapoo. Due largely to their unacceptance of missionary ideals (however they did embrace some of the Christian culture in order to help with certain treaties and relations with them), they never accepted their teachings very well. The Kickapoo had dealing with almost all governments that occupied their territories over the centuries. These ranged from trading and fighting for the French, trading with the Spanish, helping in the Mexican territories, and trading with the Americans.

1.6 Ecology: Typical of Northern tribes, they hunted and farmed.

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Current estimates of Kickapoo population size is 2,500. Average village size not found, however they had large groups that lived together in permanent houses. Nothing found on Density or home range size.

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Originally in Northern states they grew everything from squash, beans, pumpkins, potatoes, corn, and sweet potatoes. Once in the more southern areas they would grow wheat and oats.

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: In both areas they hunted everything from deer, bear, squirrel, and other small animals. They also hunted buffalo very successfully. They also fished from time to time for meat.

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: They Used everything from bow and arrow, clubs, spears, and guns once trade was opened up with Europeans.

2.4 Food storage: In the North they used baskets made of tree bark and reeds. In the south they couldn't do this so they made pots out of clay and soft stone. (this was also done in the north) Meat was usually dried into a jerky like substance.

2.5 Sexual division of production: Typical of most native tribes, Men hunted and cleared the plots for farming. Women would tend to crops, gathering, building shelters, and child care. Once on reservations this would change since primary food source was from farming so they would divide it evenly

2.6 Land tenure: The nomadic was of the Kickapoo led them to not have any sort of land tenure. After being put onto reservations they considered all land to be communal.

2.7 Ceramics: both in the north and later in the south the Kickapoo made pots from clay and stone as well as from reeds and bark

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: all things were shared amongst family groups.

2.9 Food taboos: None found

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Not typical of the Kickapoo, they mostly traveled by land though some references made to them using canoes for fishing

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): not found

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): not found

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): usually between 11-14

- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):n/a
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): really no restriction put on amount of children a family could have since the men could take many wives and women were very promiscuous
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):n/a
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):n/a
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: not found but divorce was very common
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Polygyny was very common in Kickapoo society
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: there was bride service which usually meant that the groom would work for the brides family for about a year providing food and services for the family. There is a kind of bride service where the bride will build a house for the new couple.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: the items are passed on to whom ever the dead wished both male and female. When a woman dies here house was usually given to her eldest daughter.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Parents keep kids in control using fear of witches and super natural things. Parents share responsibility for the child rearing.
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: nothing found but very possible since evidence of transvestitism was found
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Relationships amongst relatives strictly forbidden all marriages were exogamous
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized? Males are important in the role as if the female is expected of having a kid from another man and she can’t get a priest to properly name the child she will most likely have to raise it alone.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: not common but has been present, there is evidence of men who had strong feelings for younger girls and they were ridiculed by the tribe
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): cross cousin marriage forbidden. Marriage usually a tribal family(strictly Kickapoo)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Yes very much now. In older times they didn’t now it is very common.
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: not uncommon for a woman to have an extramarital offspring but if it happens a lot it is very frowned upon.
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? The father and extended family
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: n/a
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: nothing found
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) n/a
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? kin pairing strictly avoided
- 4.24 Joking relationships? It was common for pairs of both heterosexual groups and homosexual groups to be paired into groups and they were essentially confidants in each others deepest secrets.
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: patrilineal decent and the child will bare the name of their tribe.
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules? : Incest was absolutely forbidden, this is seen by parents keeping these things from happening as well as large tribal taboos.
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Yes it usually involved a small exchange of gifts and the families “discovery” of the new couple in bed
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?): marriage is strictly with Kickapoo relatives. It is very rare for them to marry outside there being very few examples to be found
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages are not arranged it is up to the children to decide
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: there is no inter family marriage, the tribe prefers exogamous marriage.

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:n/a
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: most deaths came from outgroup fighting because they were so war like. Far fewer deaths caused by ingroup fighting apart from ingroup Kickapoo fighting from different tribes.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: outgroup killing related to taking of lands, food, and encroachment from the Europeans. Fighting amongst a women or tribal disagreements were the most common form of fighting leading to deaths in inter-fighting
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):
- 4.18 Cannibalism? Ritual cannibalism was found in the Kickapoo

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: current estimates are that there are roughly 2,500 in the US and 700 in Mexico. That averages out to be about 1,066 per reservation

- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): They were very mobile during the growing seasons with elders, children, and women left to take care of crops while men wandered to hunt. They would make permanent camps in the winter. Now they are strictly in permanent housing on the reservations.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): there were chiefs that lead the tribes and made all important decisions for the tribe. He however rules with influence instead of power. The tribal council also had sway in every day life.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: the couple would build their new house in the same tribe and wouldn't move far away.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): there were no actual barriers but the Kickapoo were very protective of their lands
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): all groups interacted with each other no matter age or sex. The whole tribe was like a tight knit community.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: certain relationships were almost treated like marriages and had an actual ceremony and they would be paired for life, this was however not an actual marriage.
- 5.8 Village and house organization: built in a close community organization. The compound has a menstrual hut, a cook house, a wiikiaapi, and sometimes a storage facility.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): the only special structure made was for women who were menstruating. There was a special menstrual house that they had to stay in till they were no longer menstruating.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? They slept on the ground on top of mats.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: non-stratified society that didn't value wealth or material objects.
- 5.12 Trade: They traded with neighbors and other governments they were currently in contact with.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? no real hierarchies

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:?

- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Similar to a shaman. It was a person who went through years of training both in healing and religious ceremonies.
- 6.2 Stimulants: frequently use tobacco
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): for puberty once the males voice changes he is considered a man and all the responsibilities follow. For females however it is a little more complicated. Once they have their first period they are considered to be a women. They are told about their new responsibilities and what must be done. They must then (based on the clan) be subjected to a beating to allow them into womanhood. For death see 6.10.
- 6.4 Other rituals:
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): it is believed that Kisiihiat created the earth and that it lives in the sky.
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Dancing and singing are very important to Kickapoo ceremonies, as well as music involving instruments like drums, flutes, and rattles.
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: there is no sexual division. All sexes participate in the ceremonies and the religious leader can be male or female
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Literally none
- 6.9 RCR revival: Since they are so proud of their traditions they never really let their religious beliefs drop off but the Kansas Kickapoo did adopt some parts of Christianity into their religion.
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: When a person dies their spirit will go to some place in the west. There is some fear of the dead and that the immediate family is at risk of death. Burial takes place after an all night wake where chants are said and ritual ceremonies take place. Several times a year the clan gets together to feed the dead since they too get hungry like the living. After the death a selected family member will adopt the name and role of the passed individual.
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? none
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? Not found
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) the Kickapoo were animist. They also had two main deities. Kisiihiat, who made the earth and lives in the sky, and Wisaaka, who created Kickapoo society.

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: Doesn't seem to be any
- 7.2 Piercings: Little to none
- 7.3 Haircut: Nothing specific, most wore what they felt fit them best. Ranging from flowing locks to war like haircuts for men (mow hawks and scalplock)
- 7.4 Scarification: none
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Very elaborate clothing worn by both male and female ranging from beads to metal arm bands.
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Very ornate robes and beads used for these ceremonies
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: the clothing was very similar amongst males and females. The only important clothing article found was that a feather in a cap or hair was to signify a chief or upper level leader.
- 7.8 Missionary effect: Very little effect
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: not much of a revival since the Kickapoo are so resistant to outsiders and outside cultures

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: Traditional kin terms follow the Omaha Kinship system i.e. patrilineal

8.2 Sororate, levirate: No evidence of levirate marriage, traditionally all marriage was exogamous

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): all relationships follow the Omaha system

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. <http://www.tolatsga.org/kick.html>
2. <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0827596.html>
3. <http://www.angelfire.com/realm/shades/nativeamericans/kickapoo.htm>
4. <http://www.texasindians.com/kickapoo.htm>
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8. The Mexican Kickapoo Indians – Felipe A. Latorre, Dolores L. Latorre
9. <http://www.ethnologue.com/>