



Indigenous Terms Glossary

Note

We provide this resource for general orientation to Indigenous terms, concepts, and cultural identities found within these HOM resources. However, communication of Indigenous identity and affiliation is complicated by settler colonialism and often clouded over by European interpretations of the social and geographical relationships of Indigenous peoples.

Spellings and pronunciations of Indigenous words vary as a result of cultural and geographical diversity, as well as their transcription into European writing conventions. This glossary of terms does not attempt to capture the full diversity and expression of the corresponding Indigenous cultures, but serves as a tool for continual learning.

Terms and Definitions

- **Abenaki** [a-BEN-a-kee]-- Indigenous tribe that is part of a larger group of Indigenous people who called themselves **Wabanahkik** [wah-bah-NAH-keek], translating to "people of the dawnland". The Indigenous nation that spans **N'dakinna** [n-DAH-kee-nah] (VT and NH to parts of MA, ME, NY, and Canada).
- **Coosuk** [COH-wah-suk] (Also spelled Goasek, Koasek, Kowasek, Cowasuck) -- Western band of the Abenaki Nation
- **Nulhegan** [nul-HEE-gan]-- band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation based around what is known as Vermont's Northeast Kingdom
- **Pennacook** [PEN-nuh-cook]-- Indigenous peoples whose traditional homelands stretch across central NH and northeastern MA and southern ME
- **senômozi** [se-NOH-moh-ZEE]-- Abenaki word for sugar maple tree
- **senômozibagw** [se-NOH-moh-zee-bahk]-- Abenaki word for maple syrup
- **Mi'kmaq** [MEEG-mah]-- Tribal name of a First Nations people who are Indigenous to the **Mi'kma'ki** [MEEG-mah-KEE] homeland, which spans Canada's Atlantic Provinces and northeastern Maine

Terms and Definitions (continued)

- **Gluskabe** [gloo-ska-bay]-- Legendary figure in Abenaki stories
- **Pequot** [PEE-kwaht]-- Tribal nation Indigenous to CT
- **wojape** [woh-ZHAH-pee]-- A Lokata berry sauce/pudding
- **Sioux** [soo]-- Tribal nation Indigenous to what is known as South Dakota and parts of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota
- **Mohican** [moh-hee-kuhn]-- Tribal nation Indigenous to what is known as the Hudson river valley of NY as well as southwest VT, western MA, northwest CT, and portions of PA and NY

Sources

Thank you to Patricia Sweet Austin and each of the authors of the following resources for sharing their research and knowledge.

- [Malian's Song -- Abenaki Language Glossary](#)
- Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe [webpage](#)
- Cape Breton University Indigenous Affairs [webpage](#)
- [Pequot tribal history](#)
- Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center's [Understanding the Great Sioux Nation](#)
- [Mohican history](#)

