



Teacher's Guide to Wabanaki Flags

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

The symbols include:

Fiddleheads unfurling in the spring, which represents sustenance in spring and the first vegetables of the season- a vital resource for hunter and gatherer communities coming out of a long winter.

A birchbark wigwam looking onto Mt. Katahdan, the sacred mountain for most of the Wabanaki.

The birchbark canoe and baskets represent a tie with traditional and modern life, and economic independence tied to identity as Maliseet people.

For an image of this flag, visit [Currently there is no picture on the web](#)

Source: <http://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/09/13/maliseets-raise-new-tribal-flag-new-logo-dedicated-in-19th-annual-recognition-day-ceremony/>

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

This is the flag used at Sipayik (Pleasant Point). It was adopted in June of 1995.

The design is a white flag bearing the seal of the Passamaquoddy Nation. The seal begins with a circle of people (twenty in all) holding hands in four groups of five. These figures are separated by the three directions and eastern star. This denotes the unity of the Passamaquoddy with all Native Americans from the North, South, East, and West. The star represents the east, where the Passamaquoddy people are located.

Within the ring is a circular seal representing the Circle of Life. In the four prime directional points of the red circle are plants depicted in yellows and greens, representing the homeland and resources important to Passamaquoddy people.

Centered on the circle is a scroll representing the settlement of land with the United States government. This also includes the symbolism of the "dripping feather" that appears in front of the scroll. Upon the scroll, in natural colors, is a sunrise over the land at Passamaquoddy Bay and the reflection of the sun upon the waters of the Bay.

The design is completed by the black dots, tribal name and legend "People of the Dawn."

For an image of this flag, visit <http://www.tmealf.com/DH/pass.html>

Source: <http://www.tmealf.com/DH/pass.html>

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk

This is the flag used at Motahkomikuk (Indian Township). The two communities have separate tribal government systems that work together when decisions are made that affect the tribe as a whole—decisions concerning the individual communities are made by their respective governments.

The shores of the lake represent the physical location of Motahkomikuk, the fresh water community of the



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Passamaquoddy people. The horizon is intentionally left open, a symbol of the Passamaquoddy people's use of waterways for transportation all over their homelands. The rising sun represents the Dawnland, the home territory of the Wabanaki People. Eagle feathers represent a personal connection to the Creator, as Eagle is the Creator's messenger. The position of the feathers on either side of the rising sun represents the Passamaquoddy people's responsibility to the Creator, as People of the Dawn, to serve as stewards of the Dawnland, protecting it and its resources for generations to come.

The flag is bordered by double curve designs—traditional motifs of the Wabanaki peoples—with small colored circles at each corner to represent the four directions: white for north, yellow for east, red for south, and blue for west.

The flag reads “Passamaquoddy Sovereign Tribe,” with the word “Indian Township” flanked by another double curve design.

For an image of this flag, visit <http://www.passamaquoddy.com/>

Source: George Neptune, Passamaquoddy, Abbe Museum Educator

Penobscot Indian Nation

The seal which appears on the Penobscot Nation flag was designed by Senabeh Francis in the mid 1970s. Bur-nur-wurb-skek is the traditional name for the Penobscot- what we would have called ourselves-and it refers to a place along the river (the place of the white rocks). Where once there was a village there is now the main reservation community.

The center of the seal is an unnamed Penobscot warrior. Surrounding the warrior is an ornate border which contains three 'tombstones' adorned with crosses.

The top tombstone has "FAITH" written on the cross, and above is a smaller cross. These elements along with the date 1687, the date of the first Catholic mission on Indian Island, honor our history with the French Jesuits and other Catholic as well as other denominations. Faith is synonymous with trust and belief.

The left tombstone has “PURITY” written on the cross of the tombstone. Above that is a flower, a daisy, which is a symbol for purity. Below is the date 1605. This marks the year when Captain George Weymouth, an explorer for England, kidnapped five Penobscot warriors so he could teach them to speak English, so he could communicate with them better. Purity signifies our dedication to remain a distinct culture, even in the face of acts like these.

The right tombstone has “VALOR” written on the cross. Above that is an arrowhead. This tool was an important tool in the defense of our culture and people. The date 1612 marks a year during wartime. The valor, meaning bravery in the face of danger, shows how Penobscots have fought bravely for their people.

These three virtues comprise the tribal motto.



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At the base of each of these tombstones, outside the circle, are three branches representing tribal growth.

Two dates appear above and below the image of the warrior. The top date, 1669, commemorates the war with the Iroquois. The lower date, 1749, denotes the date of a treaty of peace with Massachusetts Bay Colony, ending King George's War. Together with twelve double-curves, representing fire-starters/flint, these represent the balance between war and peace and the wisdom of our twelve elected council members.

The serrated edge denotes the sun. We are Wabanaki, a people of the dawn.

For an image of this flag, visit

http://www.penobscotculture.com/?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=72

Source: http://www.penobscotculture.com/?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=72

Aroostook Band of Micmac

The circle represents the unity of the Micmac people.

The invisible thunderbird is represented with the triangles across the middle as the wings and triangle at the bottom as the tail feathers, symbolizing strength and wisdom.

The bear claws represent strength and assistance.

The deer represents resources for clothing and food for the community.

The line with four dots in the upper half of the circle represents the four Micmac mothers who supported the tribe and advancement of the people.

The three dots on the bottom triangle represent a council lodge and the three sachems (leaders) or council members who were women.

The original council members of the Aroostook Micmac Council were five women and four men, each with their own household, who worked together for the community and oversaw tribal business for the benefit of the tribe, and they are represented by the four yellow and black triangles on the thunderbirds wings.

The seven feathers represent the seven districts within the Micmac Nation.

For an image of this flag, http://www.micmac-nsn.gov/html/about_our_logo.html

Source: http://www.micmac-nsn.gov/html/about_our_logo.html