



The Kaw were removed several times before final settlement in Oklahoma.

# Gaxá khéji baskú a<sup>n</sup>góli<sup>n</sup>be *We Lived along the River*

The Kanza Indians left their homelands east of the Mississippi River during the 1600s. They settled into what is today the northeast part of Kansas. Within 100 years, they had built two large villages on the Missouri River. Waterways provided the sustenance for their people and were part of the tribe's culture. The Kanza's next moves were forced.

## Leaving Home

By treaty, more than 1,600 Kanza were relocated to a reservation near Council Grove, Kansas, in 1846. The Santa Fe Trail had become a successful trade route that passed through the reservation. As more people headed west, either for trade or to settle, the Kanza were yet again forced to move, this time to Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma.

## Living Heritage

The Kaw Nation is headquartered today in Kaw City, Oklahoma. The tribe has grown to over 3000 people and provides its members with social, cultural, and health care benefits under the governance of the Kaw executive and general councils.

*We are still here.*



*You treat my people like a flock of turkeys. You come into our dwelling place and scare us out. We fly over and alight on another stream, but...you come along and drive us farther and farther. In time we shall find ourselves across the great mountains and landing in the bottomless ocean.*

Chief Allegawaho's description of removal and treatment of the Kaw.

Kanza leader Hard Hat addressed the US Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1857.

