



Tohono O'odham Girl  
by Edward S. Curtis, 1907



Great Seal of the Tohono O'odham Nation

## TOHONO O'ODHAM

**Synopsis:** Richard (Rick) L. Zamorano. Title: The Tohono O'odham. Part of the 8th grade curriculum in my district includes a mini-unit on the Tohono O'odham at the beginning of the school year. I knew so very little about these people whom I've lived practically next door to and still live there today. Every year I've taught children from the Nation. This text set has taught me much already and now I'll have the resources at my fingertips and be able to share it with my peers.

**INTRODUCTION:** [▶ tohono o'odham nation traditional song](#)

- The **name Tohono O'odham** (pronounced to-HO-no oh-O-tahm) means “desert people.” The tribe was formerly known as the Papago, a **name** the Spanish called them that came from a mispronunciation of a Pima word meaning “bean people” or “bean-eaters.” The people themselves have rejected this name and officially changed it to Tohono O'odham in the 1980s.

PRONUNCIATION:

- [▶ How To Pronounce Tohono O'odom](#)

**Official website of the Tohono O'odham**

[Tohono O'odham website http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/history-culture/](http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/history-culture/)

## **Spanish Language Video of the Tohono O'odham Nation**

- ▶ Documental: Tohono O'odham, la gente del desierto

## **Maps**

From ancient culture groups to modern-day tribal communities.

<https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/online-exhibit/ancient-and-modern-arizona>

## **Traditions**

Sahuaro Fruit:

[https://tucson.com/news/local/ancient-tohono-o-odham-custom-of-saguaro-fruit-harvesting-kept-alive/article\\_c49da205-8b1a-5404-bbe3-20776652c30c.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/ancient-tohono-o-odham-custom-of-saguaro-fruit-harvesting-kept-alive/article_c49da205-8b1a-5404-bbe3-20776652c30c.html)

Native Fry Bread (Recipe):

- ▶ Tohono O'odham Popovers
- ▶ Virtual Storytime: FRY BREAD with Kevin Noble Maillard
  - Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

## **Religion and Faith**

Mission San Xavier del Bac

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/san-xavier-del-bac/>

Near Tucson, founded in 1700 by the Jesuit missionary and explorer Eusebio Kino, was built by the Tohono O'odham. Though the Catholic priests were there to Christianize the area Indians, the Tohono O'odham villages resisted change for hundreds of years. During the 1660s and in 1750s, two major rebellions rivaled in scale the 1680 [Pueblo Revolt](#). During and after Spanish rule, the desert people preserved their traditions largely intact for generations. Today, the beautiful church sits on the Tohono O'odham reservation.

- ▶ Mission San Xavier del Bac Explained by Clague A. Van Slyke III - October 20, 2017  
You Tube virtual field trip

- ▶ Mission Period History | Friends of Patronato Lecture (Excellent Historical Information)

## **BOOKS of Tohono O'odham Culture and by Tohono O'odham Authors**

Tohono O'odham Grammar

<https://www.amazon.com/Tohono-Oodham-Grammar-Ofelia-Zepeda/dp/0816507929>

**This first pedagogical grammar of the Papago language** features twenty chapters on grammatical constructions and five sample dialogs—plus abbreviations, symbols, summary of grammatical elements, and two glossaries. Classroom-tested for teaching both native and non-native speakers, the text also offers linguists an overview of the Papago language not available elsewhere.

Example: If you'd like to know some easy **Tohono O'odham** words, "Shap kaij" (sounds a little like shop kite-ch) is a friendly **greeting in Tohono O'odham**.

Desert Indian Woman

[https://www.google.com/search?q=Desert+Indian+woman+Frances+Sallie+Manuel&rlz=1C1UEAD\\_enUS938US938&oq=dese&ags=chrome.0.69i59j0i433j46i175i199j46i199j291i433j46i175i199j433j2j46i175i199j2j0i271j2.4863j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on](https://www.google.com/search?q=Desert+Indian+woman+Frances+Sallie+Manuel&rlz=1C1UEAD_enUS938US938&oq=dese&ags=chrome.0.69i59j0i433j46i175i199j46i199j291i433j46i175i199j433j2j46i175i199j2j0i271j2.4863j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on)

Basket weaver, storyteller, and tribal elder, Frances Manuel is a living preserver of Tohono O'odham culture. Speaking to anthropologist Deborah Neff, who has known her for over twenty years, she tells of O'odham culture and society and of the fortunes and misfortunes of Native Americans in the southwestern borderlands over the past century.

A Day with Hu'ul

<https://jose-husi-cazares.square.site/product/a-day-with-hu-ul/3?cs=true>

This book is about a young Native American girl and her grandfather from the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation in Southern Arizona. It also is a children's coloring book.

Review of book and authors by Ernesto Portillo of the Arizona Daily Star

[https://tucson.com/news/local/netos-tucson-preserving-oodham-language-culture-though-chil-drens-books/article\\_b09b7f59-c7d5-5d40-ae7a-1c2ed0b1d86b.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/netos-tucson-preserving-oodham-language-culture-though-chil-drens-books/article_b09b7f59-c7d5-5d40-ae7a-1c2ed0b1d86b.html)

Review and order form of A Day with Hu'ul

<https://jose-husi-cazares.square.site/product/a-day-with-hu-ul/3?cs=true>

When It Rains/Mat Hekid O Ju Tohono O'odham and Pima Poetry. Edited by Ofelia Zepeda (Bilingual) Excerpt Only.

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/When\\_It\\_Rains/yEqEDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/When_It_Rains/yEqEDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)

## **The O'odham Oral History Project**

<https://tribalcollegejournal.org/unlocking-the-past-the-oodham-oral-history-project-keeps-language-and-culture-alive/>

## **The Trump Wall**

<https://culturalpropertynews.org/tohono-oodham-nation-u-s-blasts-a-monument-to-build-a-wall/>

▶ At US-Mexico border, a tribal nation fights wall that would divide them

## **National Museum of the American Indian-Smithsonian**

Unlearning Columbus Day Myth: Celebrating Indigenous People's Day

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources/Unlearning-Columbus-Day-Myths-Indigenous-Peoples-Day>

American Indian Perspectives about Thanksgiving-Tohono O'odham featured

[https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving\\_poster.pdf](https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf)

