



## *The North American Indian*

by Edward S. Curtis

Maps of Each Volume's Nations, Tribes, and Bands

A Report of the **Curtis Legacy Foundation**



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## Introduction

Edward Curtis (1868-1952) spent more than thirty years of his life on his masterwork *The North American Indian*. By the time the project was completed, Curtis and his expedition crews traveled an estimated 10,000 miles throughout western North America. They alternated their transportation between trains, boats, cars, horses, and human power, often spending months in various Indian communities, camps, and gatherings.

Although *The North American Indian* credits say “written, illustrated and published by Edward S. Curtis”, he was primarily responsible for the photographs and the overall look of the publication. Each of the trips documented in the books involved a small company of individuals, including guides, interpreters, cooks, horse handlers, and camp hands. Much of the ethnological research in the field was done by William E. Myers, a former newspaper reporter, and the entire book series was edited by Frederick Webb Hodge, Ethnologist-in-Charge at the U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology. Throughout the project, dozens of individual Indian leaders and hundreds of tribal members participated in staging the events that Curtis portrayed.

In addition to the people involved, each expedition transported an enormous amount of equipment, supplies, food, and water. Curtis used a large view camera for the portfolio pictures, and each plate had to be developed in a large darkroom tent that was carried on their trips.

In the end, Curtis took an estimated 40,000 exposures, and he and his assistants made approximately 10,000 wax cylinder recordings of songs, dances, and ceremonies. They also documented hundreds of tribal histories, stories, vocabularies, and genealogies for many of the Peoples they met.

Published in twenty volumes from 1907 to 1930, *The North American Indian* is acknowledged as one of the most important photographic and ethnographic works of all time.

These maps are provided by the Curtis Legacy Foundation as an aid to understanding the breadth and the depth of Curtis’s project. They are intended to be used as a guide for further research, and we hope they will be freely used by scholars, researchers, students, and others interested in this work.

Tim Greyhavens  
The Curtis Legacy Foundation



## About the Maps

The maps in this document show the general areas where it is thought that Curtis visited the Indian Nations, tribes, and bands. The maps are arranged by the volume number of *The North American Indian*, with one map for each volume.

Curtis did not keep detailed records of where he worked. The locations shown are not intended to represent all or a specific part of the territories of a nation, tribe or band. All locations are approximate and are relative to the time that Curtis visited an area, based on the historical information now available.

All spellings of nation, tribe, and band names are taken directly from the books and may not reflect current spellings.

Some names are presented in different type sizes. This was done to accommodate the densities of tribal or band names in certain regions and does not reflect in any way upon the significance of an individual group.

The wording in the "Locale" section of each map is copied verbatim from a typewritten list, thought to be authored by Edward Curtis, entitled "List of Volumes of The North American Indian." This document is now in the Special Collections Department of the University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington.

## Sources for the Map Locations

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Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*

Volume I, 1907

Locale: Arizona, New Mexico. Desert, pine forest,  
oak forest, mountains, and mountain streams.





Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*  
Volume III, 1908

Locale: The Dakotas. Prairie, prairie streams, Badlands.





Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*  
Volume V, 1909

Locale: Upper Missouri River region of North Dakota.  
Prairie, wooded valleys, high sheer bluffs.





Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*  
Volume VII, 1911

Locale: Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana. Sagebrush region of the Columbia River Valley and the Rocky Mountains. Pine forests, mountain streams, mountain lakes, great variety of beautiful forested streams.



Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*

Volume VIII, 1911

Locale: Eastern Washington and Columbia River Valley,  
sagebrush, pine forested streams, and rock bluff streams.



Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*

Volume IX, 1913

Locale: Coast of Washington. Heavy fir and spruce forest,  
coast surf, heavily forested streams and lake.







Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*

Volume XII, 1922

Locale: Central Arizona. Desert, cliff areas, cliff dwellers.









Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of  
*The North American Indian*  
Volume XVI, 1926

Locale: New Mexico. Cliff dwellers and pueblo villages,  
pine forested streams, aspen forests.







# Maps of the Nations, Tribes, and Bands of *The North American Indian*

Volume XIX, 1930

Locale: Oklahoma, streams, hardwood forest, wooded hills.



This document was originally created for the Curtis Census, which is now a project of the **Curtis Legacy Foundation**. Please send comments or corrections to [info@curtiscensus.com](mailto:info@curtiscensus.com).

