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### **The Mohegan Journey: A Historical Timeline**

- The Mohegan Tribe lived for generations in the upper Hudson River Valley in what is now upstate New York, migrating to the Thames River Valley in southeastern Connecticut shortly before the arrival of the first European settlers.
- Europeans began intruding into Mohegan native lands in large numbers by the mid-seventeenth century. One of their first influences: two smallpox epidemics that reduced the Tribe's numbers by roughly 30 percent.
- The Mohegan's greatest leader, Chief Uncas, leads the Tribe's separation from the Pequot Tribe and befriends the English settlers in hopes of ensuring his Tribe's survival.
- During the seventeenth century, the Mohegans maintain their political, cultural and territorial integrity through the leadership of Uncas.
- In the American Revolution, the Mohegan Tribe sides with their neighbors, the colonists, against the British Crown.
- Development decimated the Mohegan Tribal hunting and fishing grounds in the late eighteenth century.
- Before 1790, the Tribe held about 2,700 acres of property. That year, Connecticut violated a law established by President Washington protecting Indian lands, and allowed overseers to sell Tribal lands. This illegal land grab continued for generations.
- Mohegans resist federal tribal relocation efforts in the 1830s by complying with federal requirements of "Christianization" and "civilization" through the founding of Mohegan Church and school on their reservation in 1831.
- For decades, desecrations and theft of Tribal land continue, motivating the Tribe to petition for freedom from state-appointed overseers in 1861. By 1872, the only remaining Tribal lands are the Mohegan Church and the Tribe's Shantok burial ground.
- Hundreds of Tribespeople remain living on or near Tribal lands, working in local businesses, in the military, whaling and domestic service.

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- In the twentieth century, the Mohegan culture survives through the heroic efforts of the Tribe's leaders, despite prejudice and persecution. In 1931, John Tantaquidgeon and his children, Harold and Gladys, founded the Tantaquidgeon Museum. The Museum becomes the primary archive of Mohegan culture and artifacts.
- Throughout the 1950s, the Mohegan culture is oppressed and repressed, but in the 1960s Tribal leaders begin to be encouraged by growing support for minority rights. In the 1970s, an initiative is launched to formalize the Tribal constitution, and begin the effort to apply for federal recognition from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- In 1978, the first application for federal recognition is filed. In 1989, the Tribe is denied federal status due to "insufficient evidence" of tribal, social and political activities in the 1940s and 1950s. These activities were in fact curtailed because many Mohegan men were serving in the United States armed forces during WWII and the Korean Conflict.
- The Tribe submits more evidence and the BIA conducts a Field Review in 1993. On March 7, 1994, Mohegan Federal Recognition is approved.
- In October 1994, the Mohegans and Mashantucket Pequots sign a compact with the state of Connecticut in which the Mohegans agree to settle their ancient land claims under the 1790 Trade and Intercourse Act. In return, the State acknowledges the Tribe's right to pursue the economic development of their choice on their traditional reservation.

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