

Origin of the Alabama and Coushatta Tribes

The Alabamas and Coushattas were made from clay in a big cave under the earth. They lived in this cave a long time before some of them decided to go to the surface of the earth. After they started upward, they camped three times on the way. Finally they reached the mouth of the cave.

Here they saw that a large tree stood in the cave entrance. The Alabamas and Coushattas went out of the cave on opposite sides of a root of this big tree. This is why these two tribes differ somewhat in speech, though they always have lived near each other.

At first these people stayed outside only during the night, returning to the cave when day came. One night when they left the cave to play, they heard an owl hooting. Most of the people became so scared that they ran back into the cave and never returned to the surface of the earth. This is why the Alabamas and Coushattas are so few. Had the owl never hooted, all the people would have remained on the surface of the earth, and the Alabamas and Coushattas would be more numerous.