

# Native Idaho

## Nimipuutímtki –

in the Nez Perce Language

There are five federally recognized Indian tribes in Idaho – the Shoshone-Bannock, the Shoshone-Paiute, the Coeur d'Alene, the Kootenai, and the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce reservation consists of 750,000 acres, located east of Lewiston, Idaho.

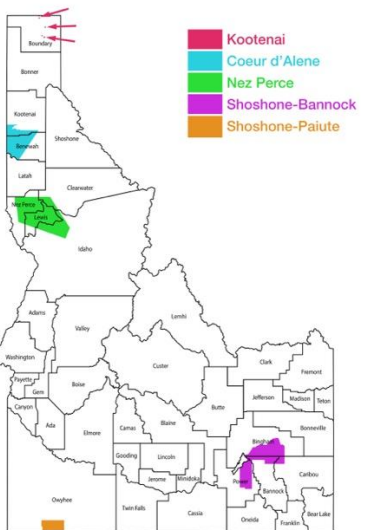
The Nez Perce are centrally located in the region and have their own names for their neighbors. The Nez Perce call themselves **Niimípuu** – the people. Their names for the other Native people in Idaho are...

- **Kúuspel'uu** – Kutenai
- **'iskíicu'mix** – Coeur d'Alene
- **Séelix** - Salish
- **Hey'úuxcpel'uu** – Northern Paiute
- **Pelúucpuu** – Paloos
- **Tiwélqe** – Shoshone-Bannock

Common words and phrases in Nez Perce:



Idaho Tribes' approximate ranges before White contact.



Idaho Tribes' present reservations.

(Source - <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/great-states-idaho-6.4/activity/>)

The lands of the Idaho Tribes were greatly reduced, but they retain their reservations and hunt, fish, and gather across all of their traditional territories.

**Ta'c léeheyn** - good day

**Ta'c méeywi** – good morning

**Ta'c haláxp** – good afternoon

**Ta'c kuléewit** – good evening

**'eehé** – yes

**Wéet'u** – no

**Qe'ciyew'yew'** – thank you

**Qo'c 'ee hexnú'** – See you later (to 1 person)

**Qo'c 'eetx hexnú'** – See you later (to plural)

**'iin wees \_\_\_\_\_**. – I am (your name).

**'iin wees ta'c.** – I am well.

**Manáa 'ee wees?** – How are you?

**'iin wees ...** - I am...

**Niimípuu** – Nez Perce

**Sooyáapoo** – White

**Kúuspel'uu** - Kutenai

**'iskíicu'mix** - Coeur d'Alene

**Séelix** - Salish

**Tiwélqe** – Shoshone-Bannock

**Célmen** – Asian

**Cimúuxcimux** – Black/African

Nez Perce words for animals & some common items

**sík'em** – horse

**ciq'áamqal** – dog

**payóopayoo** – bird

**pícpic** – cat

**xáxaac** – grizzly bear

**yáaka'** – black bear

**'iníit** – house

**'atamóoc** – car/truck

**kuus** – water

**hipt** – food

**hitéemenwees** – school

**tíim'es** – book/paper

Listen to the words and phrases here:

**You can learn a lot more Nez Perce Language by taking classes at LC State with Harold Crook and Angel Sobotta.**