Amerindian Language Families

Actually, Amerindian languages do not belong to a single language family, but 25-30 small ones; they are usually discussed together because of the small numbers of native speakers of the Amerindian language families and how little is known about many of them. There are around 25 million native speakers of the more than 800 surviving Amerind languages. The vast majority of these speakers live in Central and South America, where language use is vigorous. In Canada and the United States, only about half a million native speakers of an Amerindian tongue remain.

Click on a language family to see a linguistic tree of that family and links about the group. Click on a language name to see a description and links about that language, as well as information about the Native American people who speak it.

● Algic Amerindian Language Family
　　Abnaki-Penobscot, Algonquin, Arapaho, Atikamek, Blackfoot (Siksika, Blackfeet), Cheyenne, Cree, Etchemin, Gros Ventre (Atsina), Kickapoo, Lenape (Delaware), Loup A/Loup B, Lumbee (Pamlico, Croatan), Maliseet-Passamaquoddy, Menominee, Mesquakie-Sauk (Sac and Fox), Miami-Illinois, Michif (Metis), Mi'kmaq (Micmac), Mohegan/Pequot, Mohican/Mahican, Montagnais Innu, Munsee, Nanticoke, Narragansett, Naskapi Innu, Ojibwe (Chippewa, Anishinaabemowin), Potawatomi, Powhatan, Shawnee, Wampanoag, Wiyot, Yurok; possibly Beothuk (Red Indian)
● Arawakan Amerindian Language Family
　　Arawak, Ashaninka, Garifuna, Taino
● Athapaskan Amerindian Language Family
　　Ahtna, Apache, Beaver, Carrier, Chilcotin, Chipewyan-Dene, Gwichin, Haida, Hupa, Kaska, Navajo-Dine, Slavey, Tlingit
● Caddoan Amerindian Language Family
　　Arikara, Caddo, Pawnee
● Cariban Language Family
　　Carib, Makusi
● Hokan Amerindian Language Family
　　Chimariko, Chumash, Havasupai, Karuk, Kashaya, Mohave, Pomo, Quechan
● Iroquoian Amerindian Language Family
　　Cayuga, Cherokee (Tsalagi), Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Susquehannock, Wyandot
● Kiowa-Tanoan Amerindian Language Family
　　Kiowa, Tewa, Tiwa, Towa
● Muskogean Amerindian Language Family

Alabama, Apalachee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Coushatta, Miccosukee, Muscogee

Penutian Amerindian Language Family

Alsea, Cathlamet, Chinook, Chinook Jargon, Coos, Klamath, Maidu, Miwok, Nez Perce, Nisgaa-Gitxsan, Ohlone, Tsimshian, Wintu, Yakama, Yokuts

Salishan Amerindian Language Family

Bella Coola, Chehalis, Coeur d'Alene, Cowichan, Cowlitz, Flathead Salish, Lillooet, Quinault, Saanich, Squamish, Snohomish

Siouan Amerindian Language Family

Assiniboine, Biloxi, Catawba, Crow, Dakota-Lakota, Hidatsa, Hochunk, Kansa, Mandan, Osage, Ponca-Omaha, Otoe, Quapaw, Tuscarora

Uto-Aztecan Amerindian Language Family

Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Cocopah, Comanche, Diegueno, Hopi, Huichol, Juaneno, Luiseno, Nahuatl, Paiute, Papago-Pima, Shoshone, Tarahumara, Tongva, Ute, Yaqui

Wakashan Amerindian Language Family

Bella Bella, Haisla, Kwakiutl, Makah, Nootka

Other Native North American Languages

Aleut, Atakapa, Cayuse, Chitimacha, Inuktitut, Keres, Kootenay, Natchez, Timucua, Tonkawa, Yuchi, Yupik, Zuni

Other Native Central American Languages

Bribri, Cofan, Itza, Yucatec Mayan, Zapotec

Other Native South American Languages

Aymara, Bora, Guarani, Quechua