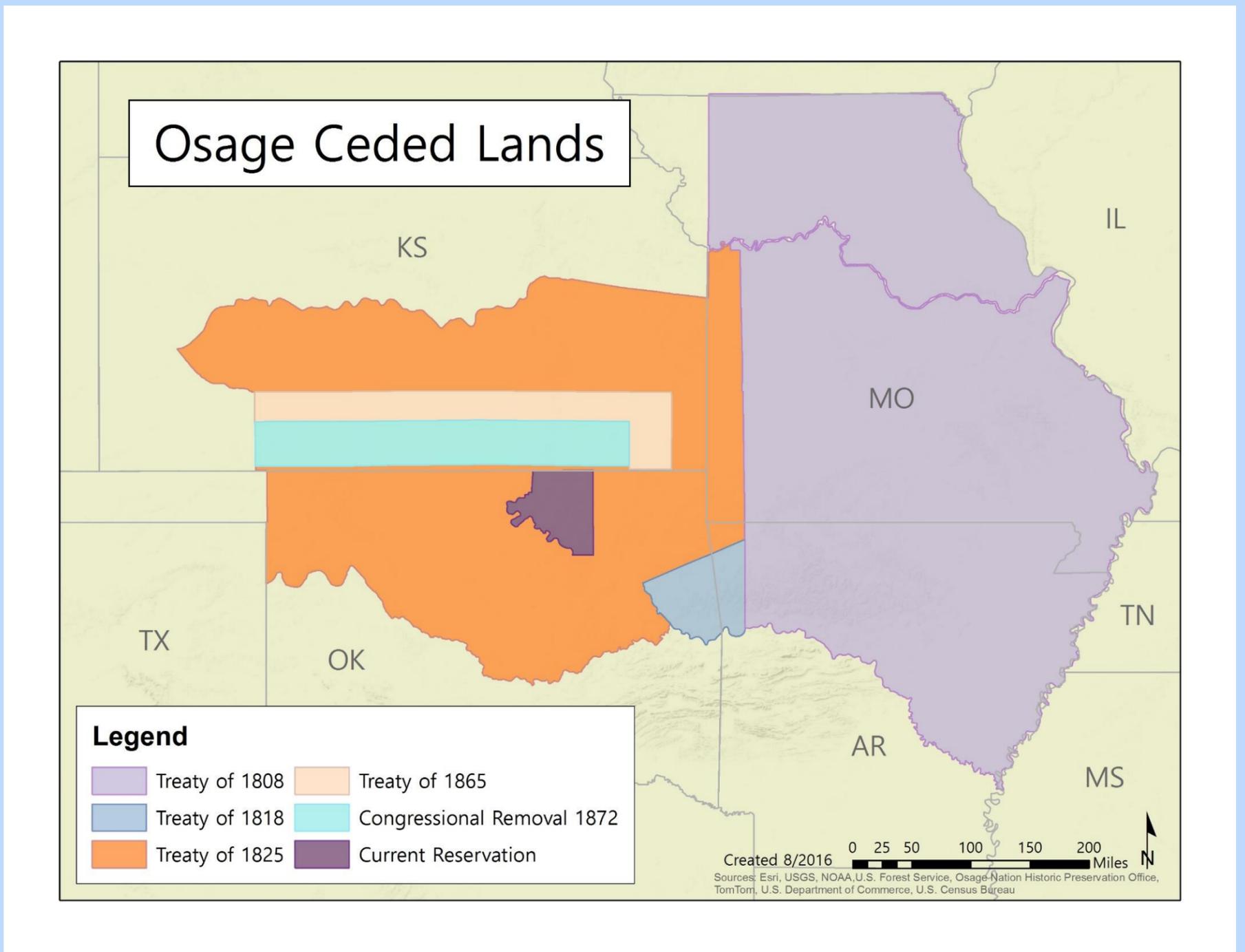


# Osage Ceded Lands

## Cede: Surrender

The Osages once controlled millions of acres in what is now known as Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. However, in 1803, the United States government made the *Louisiana Purchase*, which was an agreement with France. As part of this agreement, the U.S. claimed ownership of Osage land and billions of other acres in North America. The U.S. began to force the Osages off their land, to make way for “white” pioneers. Between 1808 and 1872, the Osages had little choice but to cede all their lands in present-day Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas, and most of their land in Oklahoma, to the U.S. Government. The last land cession was in 1872, when the Osages ceded their reservation in Kansas and moved to a new reservation in Oklahoma. This is the current Osage reservation.



## Interesting Facts

- **Missouri:** The Osages ceded most of Missouri and part of Arkansas to the U.S. in the treaty of 1808.
- **Trail of Tears:** In the 1800s, the U.S. government forced the Cherokee and other eastern tribes to move onto land that had just been ceded by the Osage. This move required the Cherokee to take a long, hard journey known as “The Trail of Tears” to get to their new home in what is now Oklahoma.
- **Little House on the Prairie:** In the 1850s and 1860s, the U.S. government violated its treaty with the Osage people by allowing white settlers to move onto the Osage reservation in Kansas. Many white settlers moved onto the Kansas reservation. These settlers included the Ingalls family. Laura Ingalls Wilder writes about this time in her book *Little House on the Prairie*. Perhaps, as a girl, she did not understand that her family was trespassing on Osage land when they lived in Kansas.

