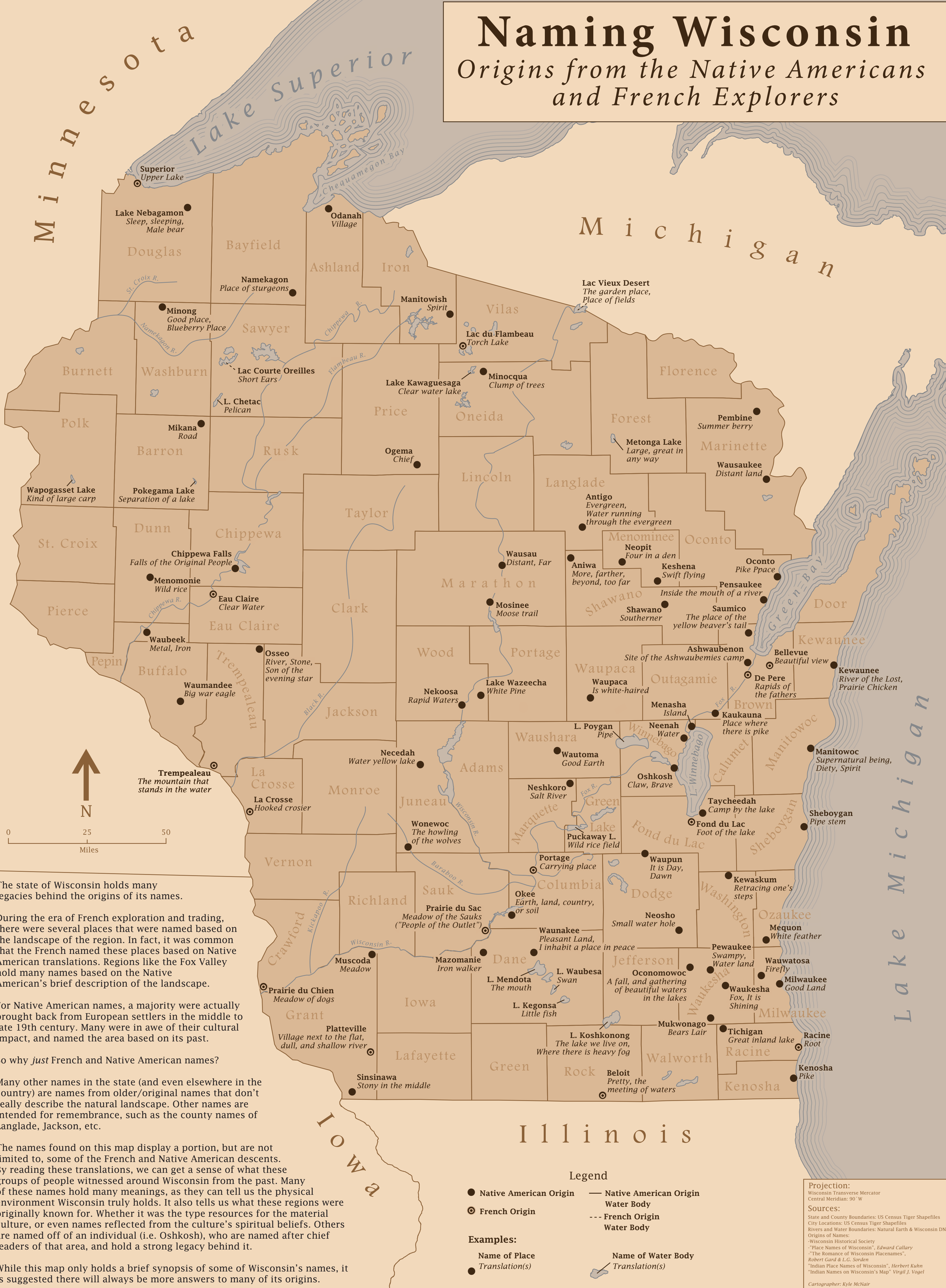


Naming Wisconsin

Origins from the Native Americans and French Explorers



The state of Wisconsin holds many legacies behind the origins of its names.

During the era of French exploration and trading, there were several places that were named based on the landscape of the region. In fact, it was common that the French named these places based on Native American translations. Regions like the Fox Valley hold many names based on the Native American's brief description of the landscape.

For Native American names, a majority were actually brought back from European settlers in the middle to late 19th century. Many were in awe of their cultural impact, and named the area based on its past.

So why just French and Native American names?

Many other names in the state (and even elsewhere in the country) are names from older/original names that don't really describe the natural landscape. Other names are intended for remembrance, such as the county names of Langlade, Jackson, etc.

The names found on this map display a portion, but are not limited to, some of the French and Native American descents. By reading these translations, we can get a sense of what these groups of people witnessed around Wisconsin from the past. Many of these names hold many meanings, as they can tell us the physical environment Wisconsin truly holds. It also tells us what these regions were originally known for. Whether it was the type resources for the material culture, or even names reflected from the culture's spiritual beliefs. Others are named off of an individual (i.e. Oshkosh), who are named after chief leaders of that area, and hold a strong legacy behind it.

While this map only holds a brief synopsis of some of Wisconsin's names, it is suggested there will always be more answers to many of its origins.

Legend

- Native American Origin
- French Origin
- Examples:
- Name of Place ● Translation(s)
- Name of Water Body — Translation(s)

Projection: Wisconsin Transverse Mercator
 Central Meridian: 90° W
 Sources:
 State and County Boundaries: US Census Tiger Shapefiles
 City Locations: US Census Tiger Shapefiles
 Rivers and Water Boundaries: Natural Earth & Wisconsin DNR
 Origins of Names:
 -Wisconsin Historical Society
 -"Place Names of Wisconsin", Edward Callary
 -"The Romance of Wisconsin Placenames", Robert Gard & L.G. Sorden
 -"Indian Place Names of Wisconsin", Herbert Kuhn
 -"Indian Names on Wisconsin's Map" Virgil J. Vogel
 Cartographer: Kyle McNair