



## Story Guide

### CROSSING BOK CHITTO

BY  
TIM TINGLE

Watch the video of storyteller Tim Tingle live at the 2019 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).  
(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.

Story run time is 00:00 to 20:45.

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



### explore it

- The Bok Chitto (officially spelled “Bogue Chitto”) River is in southern Mississippi. Use a map to find it. How far is it from you?
- Tim explains, “My great-great-great-grandfather survived the Trail of Tears...” What do you know about your family members who came before you? What historical events did they live through?
- The song “Bound for the Promised Land” is important in this story. Click [here](#) to listen to a recording of the song from 1939, now housed in the Library of Congress.



### think it

- When Tim first mentions “The Beast that Must be Fed,” what did you picture?
- How does Tim use a drum beat to enhance the story?
- What does the phrase “The path to freedom is always there if you learn to see it” mean to you?
- An allusion is a reference to a person, place, thing, or idea of historical, cultural, or literary importance. What is Little Mo’s real name? How is his name an allusion?



### create it

- Create a picture of Martha Tom and her friends walking across the river to rescue Little Mo and his family. Try using artistic tools other than pencils or crayons. For example, try using paint, yarn, fabric, or natural elements like grass and sticks!
- With permission, make your own drum using materials you have at home, and then use it to tell a story. Empty coffee cans, soup cans, and oatmeal containers all make great drums! (Need some how-to ideas? Check out this [WikiHow page](#) on DIY drum making.)



### tell it

- Tim is Oklahoma Choctaw and this story comes from the Choctaw Nation, a Native American nation originally from Mississippi. Write a story about where you are originally from and share it with a friend.
- Imagine that for one whole day you are able to be completely invisible. Journal about where you go and what you do. What are you able to do that you normally wouldn't be able to do because you're invisible? What are you unable to do?