Taino Leadership Summit

Timeline of the Word “taino”, 1836 to Today

When the word taino first appears, how it was spelled, and how it moved into books, schools, organizations and DNA claims.

Every entry’s source is linked on the online timeline: tainoleadershipsummit.com/timeline

1836 — **Rafinesque, The American Nations**
The book that coined the word taino.

1847 — **R. H. Major, Select Letters of Christopher Columbus (Hakluyt Society)**
Chanca material drawn largely from Las Casas, with “Tayno” added; it is not in earlier copies of the Historia. The spelling “Taino” does not appear.

1849 — **Manuel A. Alonso, El Gíbaro**
Rural life and identity in Puerto Rico through the Jíbaro. No taino.

1871 — **Brinton, The Arawak Language of Guiana**
Treats Arawak as a language. Criticizes the term taino on page 436.

1872–73 — **Los Diputados de Puerto-Rico en las Cortes españolas (printed 1880)**
Abolition speeches. The criollo delegates are referred to as boriquena (p. 62). No taino.

1883 — **Bachiller y Morales, Cuba primitiva**
The first traceable book with the Dr. Chanca “Taino, Taino” passage.

1889 — **Stahl, Los indios borinqueños**
The island’s original people called borinqueños in the title.

1893 — **Coll y Toste, Colón en Puerto-Rico**
“Tayno Tayno” in the footnotes on page 47, about Guadalupe, not Hispaniola or Cuba. Nitaino on page 136, as a title.

1903–04 — **Fewkes, Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology (Smithsonian)**
Page 26: taino “may be adopted as a convenient substitute for the adjective ‘Antillian’.” He cites “several writers” without naming them.

1916 — **T. A. Joyce, Central American and West Indian Archaeology**
First official book on a taino culture.

1949 — **DIVEDCO founded (Division of Community Education, 1949–1991)**
U.S. government–funded democratization campaign, veiled as arts and culture for the island, implemented as the second phase of Operation Bootstrap, titled Operation Serenity/Serenidad.

1955 — **Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña founded**
Puerto Rico’s government institute of culture.

1960 — **Celia Cruz con la Sonora Matancera, song “Taina” (Mario Tenorio Hevia), Reflexiones de Celia Cruz, Seeco SCLP 9200**
Cuban song by Mario Tenorio Hevia, released in 1960 by Seeco, New York; seven years before Puerto Rico’s public rollout with La Buena Herencia (1967).

1967 — **DIVEDCO film, La Buena Herencia**
First public introduction of taino after a nearly two-decade campaign to marginalize Jíbaro culture and replace it with taino.

1968 — **DIVEDCO, Isla y pueblo**
Primary-school text to place taino in Puerto Rico’s education system, and the first documented text with the spelling Boriken.

1972–73 — **Carrero, Puerto Rico and the Puerto Ricans (Prince George’s County, Maryland)**
The first documented use of taino in U.S. schools outside Puerto Rico.

1977 — **Hernández Aquino, Diccionario de voces indígenas de Puerto Rico**
Dictionary of Indigenous words of Puerto Rico.

1978 — **Paseo Taino founded, Puerto Rico**
First attempt of tainocentric individuals to colonize Jíbaro music as taino.

late 1970s — **Grupo Kaweiro founded, Cuba**
Expansion of taino outside of Puerto Rico.

1982 — **Caney Indian Spiritual Circle founded as a church, Pittsburgh**
New Age–centered taino church, relying heavily on pan–Native American programming.

1988 — **Arrom, edition of Pané’s Relación acerca de las antigüedades de los indios**
Modern interpretation of Pané’s account (volume 2, 1994).

c. 1990 — **Taino Nation of the Antilles founded, New York area**
Pan–Native American organization drawing on broad Native American culture to “revive” taino culture.

1990–92 — **Irving Rouse, The Tainos: Rise and Decline of the People who Greeted Columbus**
Academically standardized, pan-Native modern interpretation of a taino people.

1992 — **Consejo General de Tainos Borikanos and Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-cu A Borikén (nonprofit) founded, Puerto Rico**
Performance-centered groups, often traveling island-wide to perform modern choreographed dances presented as possibly traditional.

1992 — **Piri Thomas and Suzie Dod, Puerto Rico: 500 Years of Oppression (Social Justice)**
Overt taino propaganda article, widely cited as Thomas & Dod.

1998 — **United Confederation of Taino People (nonprofit)**
Internally structured taino organization designed to model a Native American “tribe,” using language such as enrollment, and becoming politically active with a focus on “recognition efforts” (federal recognition as a Native American tribe through the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, and international recognition as a Native American tribe through the United Nations).

2000–present — **More organizations founded**
Ku Karey Spiritual Circle (nonprofit; New York, 2000), Naguake (nonprofit; Puerto Rico, 2004), Guabancex Viento y Agua (Dominican Republic, 2008), Higuayagua Taino of the Caribbean (nonprofit; New York area, 2011), Ya’Ya’ Guaili Ara (Bronx, 2012).

2001 — **Martínez-Cruzado, Mitochondrial DNA Analysis Reveals Substantial Native American Ancestry in Puerto Rico**
Most cited taino talking point, and also the most distorted DNA study used to advance the taino concept (the study is where “60% of Puerto Ricans have taino DNA” comes from).

2006 — **Haslip-Viera, The Politics of Taino Revivalism (Centro Journal)**
Paper criticizing Martínez-Cruzado’s 2001 DNA study; the first real public paper challenging erroneous taino claims.

2015 — **Haslip-Viera, The “Indigenous” or “Neo-Taino” Movement**
Critical insight into the neo-taino movement.

2020 — **Schroeder et al., Genomic Insights into the Early Peopling of the Caribbean**
DNA paper that did not use taino, due to the term being limited in scope.

2021 — **Randle Sloan, La fabricación del taino**
Doctoral thesis debunking the taino concept.

2025 — **Tanya Rodriguez, The Taino Lie; The Genome Grift; The Conversion Code**
Three papers documenting the origin of taino, the methodology of the DNA grift of taino, and how tainoism uses psychological manipulation to convert identity seekers into becoming taino.

2026 — **The Archive – taino**
The most comprehensive resource debunking the taino concept in the world.

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