



GILCREASE MUSEUM
Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art

Post-Visit

Sequoyah

In 1824, Sequoyah invented the Cherokee Syllabary, a system of symbols that are an alphabet for writing the Cherokee language. The syllabary assigns a written symbol to each sound in the Cherokee language.

Sequoyah was born in Tennessee in 1770. He never had the opportunity to go to school, and he did not learn how to read and write in English. Not knowing how to read and write makes his invention of the Cherokee Syllabary even more remarkable.

Sequoyah was first inspired to develop the syllabary when he saw the books of white settlers. Sequoyah wanted the Cherokee people to be able to write down their important stories and share information like the white settlers. Prior to Sequoyah's invention, Cherokee people communicated directly through word of mouth. Storytelling was important for passing important Cherokee history from the older generation to the younger generations.

Sequoyah's Oklahoma house is located in Sallisaw, Oklahoma.



SEQUOYAH
Charles Banks Wilson (1918-2013) American
Pencil on Paper, 1964
GM 1327.2013

Syllabary

Look at Sequoyah's syllabary to the right and use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. Have you ever wanted to invent something? What would you invent?

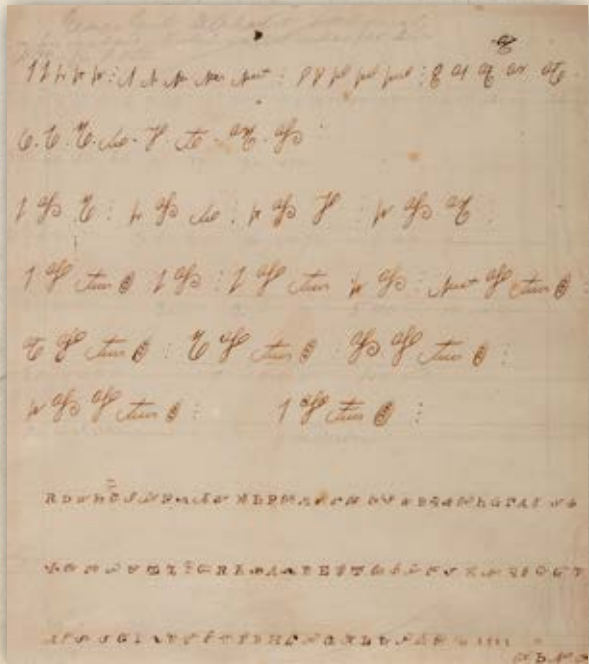
2. How do you think your life would be different if you never learned how to read or write?

3. How many years ago did Sequoyah invent the Syllabary?

Today's year – 1824=_____

4. How old was Sequoyah when he invented the Syllabary?

1824 – 1770=_____



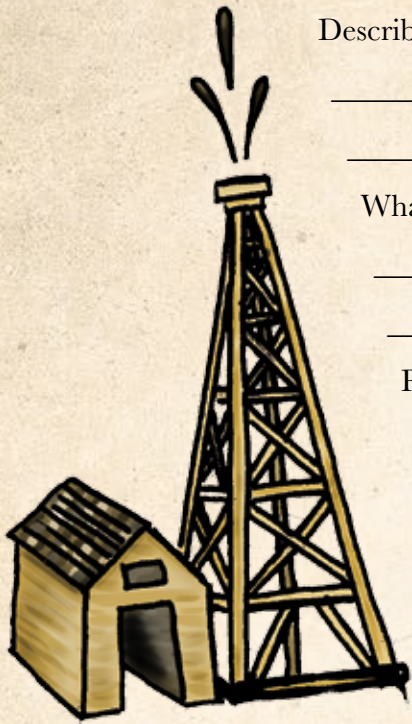
CHEROKEE SYLLABARY SIGNED BY SEQUOYAH
1839
GM 4026.312

Oklahoma Oil

Look at the image to the right. *Salt Creek* by Janet Stevenson is part of the Gilcrease Museum collection. *Salt Creek* is a print. Janet Stevenson made this image by etching a metal plate and then covering the plate with a thin coating of ink. The plate and a piece of paper are pressed together, and the image from the plate is transferred to the paper. A rubber stamp makes an image in a similar way. Covering the stamp with ink, then “stamping” the image onto a piece of paper to transfer the image.



Petroleum pumped from the ground in Oklahoma creates jobs and wealth. Petroleum is turned into gasoline for cars, fuel for jets, and oil to keep engines running safely. Many people called oil, “Black Gold,” because oil is very valuable.



Describe the image. What colors do you see?

What is going on in the picture?

Petroleum is turned into oil after being pumped from the ground. What are some uses for oil and petroleum?

How have Oklahomans benefitted from oil found in the state?

Oklahoma Explorers

Before Oklahoma became a state, explorers from east of the Mississippi and from many different countries traveled to the area in the hopes of finding good land, riches such as gold and silver, or for opportunities to start a new life. Explorers often record what they have seen in diaries, journals or by making maps.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus was exploring for a new trade route to India when he landed on islands in the Caribbean and then the American continent. Spanish explorer Francisco de Coronado was the first European to enter Oklahoma and the surrounding area.

Coronado’s exploration lasted from 1540-1542. His travels took him to Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona. These areas did not become states until many years later. Coronado did not find gold or riches, but he claimed the land for Spain.

The next explorer to travel to the land that is now called Oklahoma was Robert La Salle in 1682. La Salle was a French explorer who travelled down the Mississippi river. La Salle claimed all land west of the Mississippi river for France and named it the Louisiana Territory.

La Salle did not find gold on his exploration, but he did find forests filled with animals with thick fur. These animal furs were very valuable because they could be sold for a lot of money in Europe where the furs would be made into hats and clothing.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The sale was called the Louisiana Purchase.

President Jefferson sent Meriwether

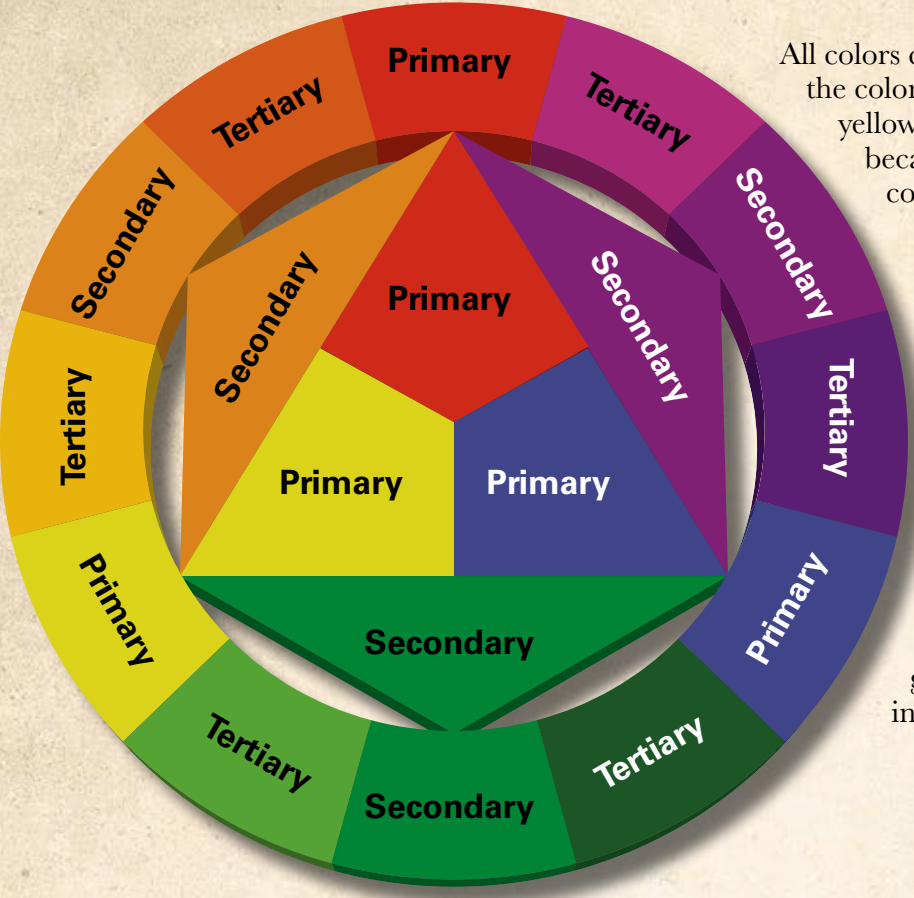


*This painting titled **The Lewis and Clark Expedition**, by Charles M. Russell, depicts Meriwether Lewis with a group of Shoshone Indians and the expedition’s guide Sacagawea. This painting is part of the Gilcrease Museum collection.*

Lewis, William Clark and a small company of men to explore the Louisiana Territory and to find a safe route to the Pacific Ocean. The Lewis and Clark party travelled from St. Louis, Missouri to the West Coast in 18 months.

Much of what became the state of Oklahoma was included in the Louisiana Purchase. Look at a map of the Louisiana Purchase. Can you find Oklahoma? In what year did Oklahoma become a state?

Where Does Color Come From?



All colors can be made from just three colors. Look at the color wheel to find the three primary colors — yellow, red, and blue. These colors are called primary because when combined together, they make other colors called secondary and tertiary colors.

Just as 1+1=2, yellow + blue= green. Green is a secondary color because it is made by combining two primary colors.

When combining colors, you can make a color brighter or darker by adding more of one color than the other. Look at the color wheel and the color green. If more blue than yellow is added, the green will be darker. If more yellow is added, the green will be lighter in color.



Color Wheel Questions

1. Name the three primary colors. _____

2. What secondary color is made by mixing the primary colors red and blue together? _____

3. How many plants, fruits, and vegetables can you name that are red? _____

4. What are your favorite fruits and vegetables? What color are they? _____

Color the Picture

Experiment by mixing color.



Art Project

Art project: Make a “leather” or “buckskin” vest from a paper bag

1. Cut two arm holes, one head hole, and a straight line up the front following the model.
2. Carefully turn the bag inside-out. Decorate with symbols using markers, paint, ribbon, foil, and glitter and let dry.
3. Wear your new “leather” vest!



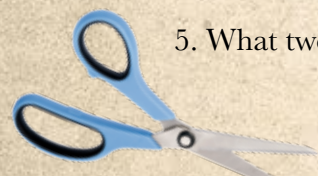
Make your own “leather” or “buckskin” vest like the ones worn by Native Americans and settlers on the frontier. This painting of Davy Crockett is located at the Gilcrease Museum.

Native American Symbols



Summary Quiz

1. What president purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803? _____
2. What is “Black Gold”? _____
3. In what city is Sequoyah’s Oklahoma cabin located? _____
4. In what year did Christopher Columbus arrive in the Americas? _____
5. What two primary colors mix together to produce green? _____



2017-V1.12

Museum Pass

Please redeem this pass for admission for two adults at the Gilcrease Museum ticket desk. Children under 18 receive free admission. Expires 12/31/17.



GILCREASE MUSEUM
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1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road ■ Tulsa, OK 74127 ■ 918-596-2700
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday ■ 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ■ gilcrease.org
Restaurant Hours: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ■ 918-596-2720

Parent/Guardian _____

Date of visit _____

Email address (optional) _____

Phone number (optional) _____

Would you like to receive information about Gilcrease Museum? ☐ Yes ☐ No