The Geography of the Cherokees

The Cherokee nation was spread out through several states, which is why a written communication system was useful.

The Cherokees originally lived in the northeast of the Unites States. Later on, they moved in the south east, mainly in the now states if Tennessee, North Carolina, and Arkansas. After years of conflict and treaties with the new settlers which saw the Cherokees move more into Arkansas and Georgia, the white settlers decided they wanted them to move further west.

The Cherokees did not want to move from their home, and so further conflict broke out between the tribe and the Unites States Army. The Cherokees suffered greatly, and so they were forced to walk west to Indian Territory, or the modern state of Oklahoma. So many people died during the journey is since known as the Trail of Tears.

Activity

Plot the he journeys of the Cherokee nation on the map. First identify the mentioned states, and the draw a line between the ones travelled in between by the Cherokees.

Then, plot the birth and death of Sequoyah using the same map.

How We Communicate

How do we communicate over long distances today? Why do we communicate with those who live far away from us?

What effects does not being able to communicate with people over long distances have? In addition, if other people have that ability, how would that make you feel? How could other people use their communication?

Why do you think that some people rejected Sequoyah's syllabary at the beginning? Why did they think he was crazy?

Apart from more accurate communication, what else does writing down information do? What else can it help with?

Cherokee Syllabary

Here are the sounds that Sequoyah recognized as being repeated in the Cherokee language

Ꭰ a	Ꭱ e	Ꭳ i	Ꭴ o	Ꭵ u	Ꭶ v
Ꭷ ga Ꭸ ka	Ꭹ ge	Ꭺ gi	Ꭻ go	Ꭼ gu	Ꭽ gv
Ꭾ ha	Ꭿ he	Ꮀ hi	Ꮁ ho	Ꮂ hu	Ꮃ hv
Ꮄ la	Ꮅ le	Ꮆ li	Ꮇ lo	Ꮈ lu	Ꮉ lv
Ꮊ ma	Ꮋ me	Ꮌ mi	Ꮍ mo	Ꮎ mu	
Ꮏ na Ꮐ hna	Ꮑ ne	Ꮒ ni	Ꮓ no	Ꮔ nu	Ꮕ nv
Ꮖ qua	Ꮗ que	Ꮘ qui	Ꮙ quo	Ꮚ quu	Ꮛ quv
Ꮜ sa Ꮝ s	Ꮞ se	Ꮟ si	Ꮠ so	Ꮡ su	Ꮢ sv
Ꮣ da Ꮤ ta	Ꮥ de Ꮦ te	Ꮧ di Ꮨ ti	Ꮩ do	Ꮪ du	Ꮫ dv
Ꮬ dla Ꮭ tla	Ꮮ tle	Ꮯ tli	Ꮰ tlo	Ꮱ tlu	Ꮲ tlv
Ꮳ tsa	Ꮴ tse	Ꮵ tsi	Ꮶ tso	Ꮷ tsu	Ꮸ tsv
Ꮹ wa	Ꮺ we	Ꮻ wi	Ꮼ wo	Ꮽ wu	Ꮾ wv
Ꮿ ya	Ꮐ ye	Ꮑ yi	Ꮒ yo	Ꮓ yu	Ꮔ yv

Can you pronounce the sounds?

Cherokee Language

Each symbol in the syllabary represents sounds that are present in Cherokee words, rather than individual letters like the English Alphabet.

Fill in the symbols using the syllabary!

Hello: (O si yo)

Thank you: (Wa do)

Welcome: (U li he li s di)

Write: (Go we lo di)

Newspaper: (Go we li ga le ya ta nv)

Find more words online!

What sounds do we repeatedly use in the English Language?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Sequoyah's Legacy

Sequoyah's legacy is forever present in his syllabary, which is still used today. Not only are his words preserved for future generations, but so is his old cabin in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Sequoyah's widow sold his cabin to another Cherokee family, and it survived the Civil War and the years that followed. The Oklahoma Historical society preserved the cabin, and built a stone building around it. In 1966, the cabin and its surrounding area became a designated National Historical landmark; an important part of America's history that is available for the generations to come.

Why is important the Sequoyah cabin has been preserved?

How important is it to remember historical figures like Sequoyah? How do you think they should be remembered?

Write a story about a museum or historical landmark you have visited or seen on TV. What was it? Where was it? Why is it important? Would you change anything about it?

Quiz

Name:

Where was Sequoyah born?

What was his real name?

What did Sequoyah invent?

What did he call paper?

Is the syllabary made up of repeated sounds or single letters?

Who helped him convince people that the syllabary was a good thing?

Where did Sequoyah die?

What is this building?