

## **Tribes of Oklahoma – Request for Information for Teachers**

*(Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies, OSDE)*

**Tribe:** Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma

**Tribal website(s):** <http://www.c-a-tribes.org/>

### **1. Migration/movement/forced removal**

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.3** *“Integrate visual and textual evidence to explain the reasons for and trace the migrations of Native American peoples including the Five Tribes into present-day Oklahoma, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and tribal resistance to the forced relocations.”*

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.7** *“Compare and contrast multiple points of view to evaluate the impact of the Dawes Act which resulted in the loss of tribal communal lands and the redistribution of lands by various means including land runs as typified by the Unassigned Lands and the Cherokee Outlet, lotteries, and tribal allotments.”*

The Cheyenne and Arapaho people formed an alliance together around 1811 which helped them expand their territories and strengthen their presence on the plains. Like the Cheyenne, the Arapaho language is part of the Algonquian group, although the two languages are not mutually intelligible. The Arapaho remained strong allies with the Cheyenne and helped them fight alongside the Sioux during Red Cloud's War and the Great Sioux War of 1876, also known commonly as the Black Hills War. On the southern plains the Arapaho and Cheyenne allied with the Comanche, Kiowa, and Plains Apache to fight invading settlers and U.S. soldiers. The Arapaho were present with the Cheyenne at the Sand Creek Massacre when a peaceful encampment of mostly women, children, and the elderly were attacked and massacred by US soldiers. Both major divisions of the Cheyenne, the Northern Cheyenne and Southern Cheyenne were allies to the Arapaho, who like the Cheyenne, are split into northern and southern divisions. The Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho were assigned to the same reservation in Oklahoma Indian Territory and remained together as the federally recognized Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes after the reservation was opened to American settlement and into modern times. The Northern Arapaho were to be assigned a reservation of their own or share one with the Cheyenne however the government failed to provide them with either and placed them on the already established Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming with their former enemies the Shoshone.

### **Arapaho**

According to the tradition of the Arapaho, they were once a sedentary, agricultural people, living far to the northeast of their more recent habitat, apparently about the Red River Valley of northern Minnesota. From this point they moved southwest across the

Missouri, apparently about the same time that the Cheyenne moved out from Minnesota, although the date of the formation of the permanent alliance between the two tribes is uncertain.

The [Atsina](#) (q. v.), afterward associated with the [Siksika](#), appear to have separated from the parent tribe and moved off toward the north after their emergence into the plains.

The division into Northern and Southern Arapaho is largely geographic, originating within the last century, and made permanent by the placing of the two bands on different reservations. The Northern Arapaho, in Wyoming, are considered the nucleus or mother tribe and retain the sacred tribal articles, viz, a tubular pipe, one ear of corn, and a turtle figurine, all of stone.

Since they crossed the Missouri the drift of the Arapaho, as of the Cheyenne and Sioux, has been west and south, the Northern Arapaho making lodges on the edge of the mountains about the head of the North Platte, while the Southern Arapaho continued down toward the Arkansas. About the year 1840 they made peace with the Sioux, [Kiowa](#), and [Comanche](#), but were always at war with the [Shoshoni](#), [Ute](#), and Pawnee until they were confined upon reservations, while generally maintaining a friendly attitude toward the whites. By the treaty of Medicine Lodge in 1867 the southern Arapaho, together with the Southern Cheyenne, were placed upon a reservation in Oklahoma, which was thrown open to white settlement in 1892, the Indians at the same time receiving allotments in severalty, with the rights of American citizenship. The Northern Arapaho were assigned to their present reservation on Wind River in Wyoming in 1876, after having made peace with their hereditary enemies, the Shoshoni, living upon the same reservation. The Atsina division, usually regarded as a distinct tribe, is associated with the [Assiniboin](#) on Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana. They numbered, respectively, 889, 859, and 535 in 1904, a total of 2,283, as against a total of 2,038 ten years earlier.

As a people the Arapaho are brave, but kindly and accommodating, and much given to ceremonial observances. The annual sun dance is their greatest tribal ceremony, and they were active propagators of the [ghost-dance religion](#) a few years ago. In arts and home life, until within a few years past, they were a typical plains tribe. They bury their dead in the ground, unlike the Cheyenne and Sioux, who deposit them upon scaffolds or on the surface of the ground in boxes. They have the military organization common to most of the Plains tribes, and have no trace of the clan system.

## **Cheyenne**

The Cheyenne Indians were far-ranging people, especially once they acquired horses. By the time the Americans met them they were living on the Great Plains in what is now South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas

The Cheyenne have been really historically known to be coming from the Great Lakes Region area. That was their traditional ancestral homelands. As at the beginnings we were known to be farmers - horticultural people. We planted squash and beans and

lived on different plants in the Great Lakes regional area. There are some accounts that are different or similar in regards to scholarly written materials, but most of our Cheyenne history, our oral historical accounts, are related through oral stories.

The U.S. government forced the Cheyennes to move to Oklahoma during the 1800's, but some escaped and fled north into Montana. Today there are two Cheyenne tribes, one in Oklahoma and the other in Montana.

## 2. Maps

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.3** *“Integrate visual and textual evidence to explain the reasons for and trace the migrations of Native American peoples including the Five Tribes into present-day Oklahoma, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and tribal resistance to the forced relocations.”* Maps of tribal hometowns before 1830; original homeland map

### Original Homelands

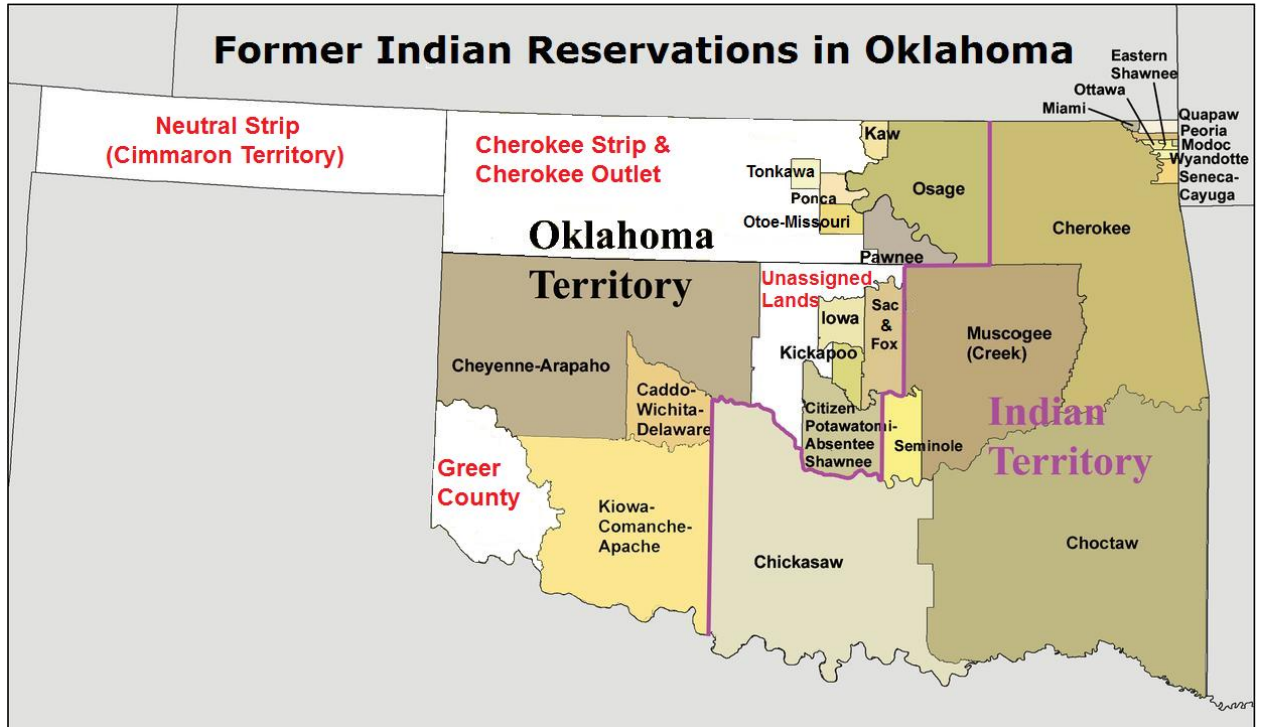
- The original Arapahoe homeland is to the north east/central region: Colorado; Wyoming; Minnesota; Nebraska; Kansas.

The Arapahoe are considered to be buffalo hunters of the plains but also have traditions of a time when they lived in the east and planted corn. The Arapaho, numbering in all about 1800, live in two divisions. The larger body lives with the Cheyenne in Oklahoma, while the northern division resides with the Shoshoni on a reservation in Wyoming. The Grosventres of Montana, formerly associated with the Blackfeet and numbering now about 700, are a detached band of Arapaho.

- The homeland for the Cheyenne occupied the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas. The Cheyenne followed the buffalo herds throughout the Great Plains. Living in teepees allowed the tribe to pack quickly and move from place to place using sleds, called *travois*, pulled by dogs or horses. The Cheyenne relied primarily on buffalo and traded with other tribes using Plains Sign Language.



- Location in Oklahoma



### 3. Population Past/Present

- Total tribal enrollment – 12, 000 approximate enrolled members
- Membership criteria- ¼ blood quantum required.
- Membership criteria: <http://www.c-a-tribes.org/enrollment>

#### 4. Government; Chiefs vs Chairman; Elected or Paternal

**US Government C3 Standard 3.4** “Summarize and explain the relationships and the responsibilities between national and state governments including tribal and local governments.

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard** “The student will analyze the formation and development of constitutional government in Oklahoma. 1) Compare and contrast the development of governments among the Native American tribes, the movement for the state of Sequoyah. 2) Describe and summarize attempts to create a state constitution joining Indian and Oklahoma Territories including the impact of the Progressive and Labor Movements resulting in statehood on November 16, 1907.”

### CONSTITUTION OF THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

#### PREAMBLE

We, the People of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, in order to sustain and promote our cultures, languages, and way of life, protect our religious rights, establish and promote justice for all People, promote education, establish guidance and direction for our government, respect and protect our natural environment and resources, and advance the general welfare for ourselves and our posterity, do establish this Constitution.

- The tribal government has three branches: legislative, judicial and executive. They have a Governor as head of the Government.

#### 5. Language Group

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 4.1** “Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the United States policy of assimilation of the Native Americans in Oklahoma including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the effects of the Indian Boarding Schools (1880s-1940s) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”

- The Cheyenne of Montana and Oklahoma speak the Cheyenne language, known as *Tsêhésenêstsestôtse* (common spelling: *Tsisinstsistots*). Approximately 800 people speak Cheyenne in Oklahoma.<sup>[3]</sup> Only a handful of vocabulary differs between the two locations. The Cheyenne alphabet contains 14 letters. The Cheyenne language is one of the larger **Algonquian-language** group.

- The Arapaho language (also spelled Arapahoe or Arrapahoe) is an Algonquian language spoken by 1000 people, most of them in Wyoming. It is a polysynthetic language with long, complex verbs and fairly free word order. [Gros Ventre](#) is considered an Arapaho dialect by most linguists--though the two tribes maintain distinct identities, the languages are primarily mutually comprehensible. Most Arapaho and Gros Ventre speakers are elderly, but the Arapaho tribe is working to revitalize the language by teaching it to younger Arapahos.

## 6. Cultural Identifiers - ie. Mound Builders; Plains

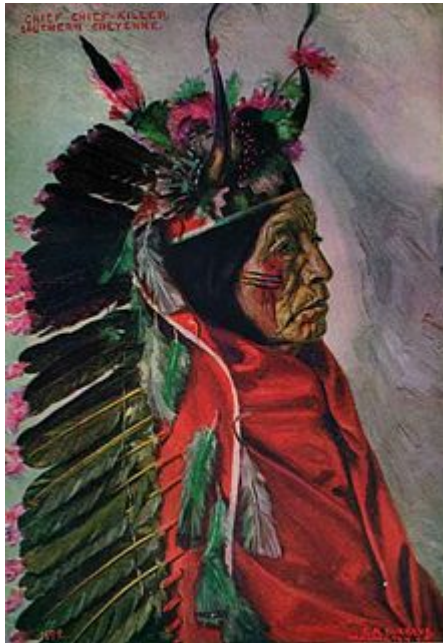
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- **History:** Though the Sioux, Shoshone, and Pawnee knew them as formidable warriors, history tends to label the Arapaho Indians a "peaceful people" because they did not fight the Americans. Unfortunately, their strategy of making treaties with the invaders rather than fighting them did not bring them to any better end. The increasing influx of settlers into areas promised to the Arapaho by treaty forced them away from their traditional lands, disrupted the buffalo routes, and ultimately split the Arapaho tribe in half, a split that still exists today. The Southern Arapaho joined the Cheyenne, where they together became victims of the most egregious massacre in American history, the Sand Creek massacre of 1864 (in which one Colonel Chivington deliberately attacked a reservation of peaceable Cheyenne and Arapaho people under US protection and killed more than 150 men, women, and children despite their repeated attempts to surrender. "Nits," he famously proclaimed, "breed lice.") Meanwhile, the Northern Arapaho fled to what is now Wyoming and petitioned their old foes the Shoshone for a home there. Finally, the Arapaho had made a treaty which would be honored: the land granted to them by the Shoshone remains theirs to this day.

## 7. Fine arts

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 4.1** *“Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the United States policy of assimilation of the Native Americans in Oklahoma including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the effects of the Indian Boarding Schools (1880s-1940s) upon Native Americans’ identity, culture, traditions, and tribal government and sovereignty.”*

Painting of Chief Killer, a Southern Cheyenne war chief wearing society headdress. Painted by [E.A Burbank](#), 1899.



#### **8. Significant events (i.e. Massacres, Battles, Supreme Court cases...)**

**Oklahoma History C3 Standard 2.4C** *“Summarize the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction Treaties on Native American peoples, territories, and tribal sovereignty including the a) Required enrollment of the Freedmen, b) Second Indian Removal and the role of the Buffalo Soldiers, c) Significance of the Massacre at the Washita, d) Reasons for the reservation system, and e) Establishment of the western military posts of Fort Sill, Fort Supply, and Fort Reno.”*

#### **TREATIES BY YEAR**

Treaty of Fort Laramie with Sioux – 1851

Treaty with the Apache, Cheyenne, and Arapaho – 1865

Treaty with the Arapaho and Cheyenne – 1861

Treaty with the Cheyenne and Arapah – 1865

Treaty with the Cheyenne and Arapaho – 1867

Treaty with the Cheyenne Tribe – 1825

Treaty with the Northern Cheyenne and the Northern Arapaho – 1868

## INDIAN BATTLES

First Conflict – 1854

Sand Creek Massacre – November 29, 1864

Roman Nose's Fight – 1865

Colorado War – 1863-1865

Battle of Platte Ridge – July 24-26, 1865

Battle of Tongue River – August 1865

Grand Council of 6000 Tribes @ Bearbutte – 1867

Red Cloud's War – 1866-1868

Battle of Washita – November 27, 1868

Sand Hill Battle – 1868

Red River War – 1874-1875

Battle of Little Big Horn – June 25, 1876

## 9. Current Information on tribe

### Brief Timeline

- 1700: Living in Minnesota River valley
- 1700's: During the 1700's, migrated to the Cheyenne River valley in North Dakota.
- 1800's: Pressures forced them to the Missouri River, North and South Dakota.
- 1820's: Formed an alliance with the Oglala Sioux and fought the Crow Indians.
- 1825: "Friendship Treaty of 1825" – Fifteen Cheyenne leaders received a medal which bore the design of clasped hands .
- 1825: Tribe division of the Cheyenne into northern and southern bands.
- 1830: Bent's Fort established.
- 1850: Migrated to North Platte River in eastern Wyoming.
- 1851: Treaty at Fort Laramie gave the Cheyenne and other tribes land between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers, in what became Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and western Kansas.
- 1857-1879: The Cheyenne fought an ongoing war with the U.S. Army.

- 1864: Sand Creek Massacre; 400-500 Southern Cheyenne under leadership of Black Kettle and Arapaho were killed by U.S. Soldiers.
- 1864-65: Southern Cheyenne, and allies Arapaho and Sioux angered by the Sand Creek Massacre raided the South Platte area, and wagon trains.
- 1866-1868: **Northern Cheyenne**, Sioux (Miniconjous, Oglala, Sans Arcs, Brules), and Northern Arapaho were opposed to the construction of the Bozeman Trail. At the battle of Massacre Ridge (December 1866) 2,000 warriors killed eighty-one soldiers under the command of Captain William J. Fetterman. Three forts were built to protect the developing trail and workers -- Fort Reno, Fort Phil Kearny and Fort C.F. Smith. The Bozeman Trail was abandoned as the Union Pacific Railroad would make the trail obsolete.
- 1868: May 10<sup>th</sup> – Treaty at Fort Laramie with the **Northern Cheyenne** and Northern Arapaho.
- 1875: The Indian Homestead Act precluded the need for a reservation. By this land law, Indians were free to file claims of 160 acres.
- 1875-76: There were approximately 15,000 gold seekers in the Black Hills
- 1876: Battle of Powder River -- U.S. Army under command of Colonel Mackenzie -- 1,100 soldiers attacked and burned the Northern Cheyenne village on Powder River.
- 1876: the **Northern Cheyenne** participated in the Battle of the Little Big Horn
- 1876: Battle of Wolf Mountain
- 1877: In April the **Northern Cheyenne** divided into four groups: The first group, Two Moon's group, went to Fort Keogh where they surrendered to Colonel Miles, and the warriors became scouts, later fighting against Sioux and Nez Perce Indians. The second group, the largest group, moved east and joined other Cheyenne bands, who surrendered at Red Cloud Agency in Nebraska. The third group went to Oklahoma and joined the Southern Cheyenne. The fourth group joined the Northern Arapaho at Wind River Agency in Wyoming.
- 1877 May 28: Northern Cheyenne tribe left Red Cloud Agency for the Cheyenne-Arapaho Agency at Darlington, Oklahoma. The Fourth Cavalry under Lieutenant Henry W. Lawton escorted them and two days later they arrived at the Cheyenne-Arapaho Agency. Some of the Northern tribesmen not welcomed.
- 1877: Cheyenne surrendered and were removed to the Southern Cheyenne Reservation in Indian Territory
- 1878: A part of the **Northern Cheyenne** was allowed to go back north.
- 1880-1891: the tribe gathered to southeastern Montana
- 1884: The Tongue River Reservation was established for the **Northern Cheyenne** on 16 November by executive order of President Chester A. Arthur.
- 1884: **Northern Cheyenne** Reservation is established

- 1884: [St. Labre Catholic Indian Boarding School](#) was established at site of Ashland, Montana
- 1900: The Tongue River Reservation was enlarged by executive order on 19 March 1900 to include from the west bank of the Tongue River to the eastern boundary of the Crow Reservation
- 1935: Constitution and bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne was approved on 23 November 1935, under the Indian Reorganization Act.

**10. Other information (ie. Elder testimonials; Guest speakers; Literature; Famous Tribal members...)**