

# TEACHER'S OUTLINE

## LESSON 1: "Young Will"/GRADES 4TH – 6TH

### **Key Concept: Indian Territory and the Cherokee Nation**

Will Rogers was born and lived his youth in Indian Territory as a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Will's father, Clem Rogers, played an influential role in American and Cherokee history. Clem Rogers' active involvement in Cherokee politics as a Cherokee Nation district judge and Cherokee senator significantly influenced Will's understanding of American politics and the Cherokee Nation.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Recognize the historic role of Indian Territory in early American history
2. Increase student knowledge and perspectives of the Cherokee Nation
3. Examine Will Rogers' early life as a Cherokee
4. Demonstrate an increased understanding of Indian Territory through student-produced presentations

### **Video Clip:**

Before completing the Learning Activity or Student Handouts for this lesson, students should watch Chapter 1 of the documentary Will Rogers & American Politics. If time or resources do not allow, students should at a minimum, view these short video clips for Lesson 1. These clips can be viewed online by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53d-ZNYCSAdk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkNRidHAJK0>

### **Learning/Media Activity: Indian Territory Map**

Students will be provided the opportunity to demonstrate an increased understanding of Indian Territory by outlining the Cherokee Nation Territory, locating the capital, and determining the location of Will Rogers' Oklahoma home.

### **Student Handouts**

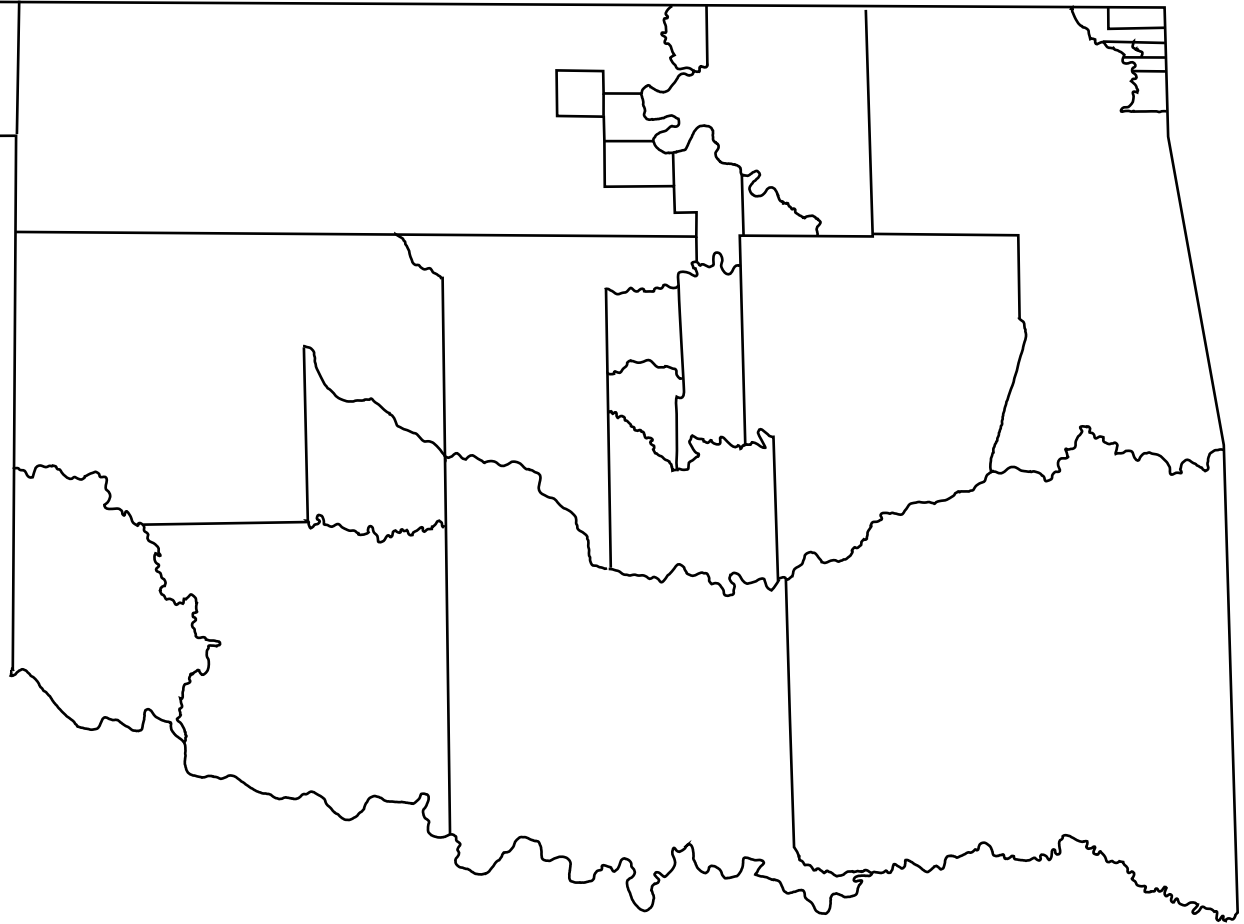
Students will be challenged to demonstrate their comprehension of material covered in Lesson 1. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to further explore and discuss various topics covered in the lesson material.



Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society

Part 1: Outline and color in the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

Word List:  
Cherokee Nation



# INDIAN TERRITORY

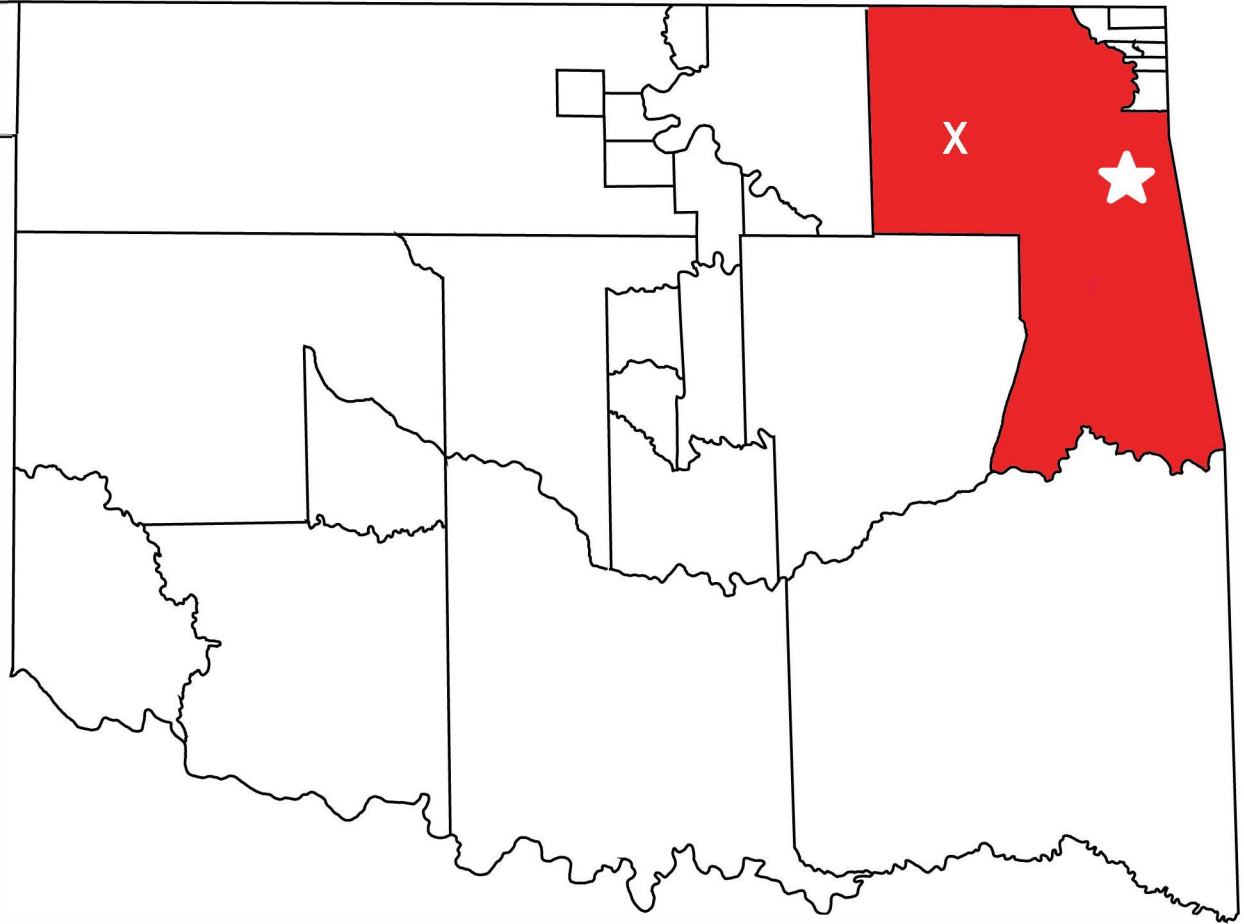
PART 2:

A. Place an X to mark the spot of Will Rogers' home in Oklahoma.

B. Place a star on the map to mark where the Cherokee Nation Capitol resides.

Part 1: Outline and color in the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

Word List:  
Cherokee Nation



**INDIAN TERRITORY**

PART 2:

A. Place an X to mark the spot of Will Rogers' home in Oklahoma.

B. Place a star on the map to mark where the Cherokee Nation Capitol resides.

# STUDENT HANDOUT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTENT REVIEW

1. Indian Territory became the state of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1907.
2. Which of Will Rogers' parents were citizens of the Cherokee Nation?
3. Name one of the elected positions Clem Rogers held in the Cherokee Nation.
4. What family member played the biggest role in building Will Rogers' interest in the world of politics?
5. Did Will Rogers ever run for public office?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was Will Rogers' early life like, living as a Cherokee in Indian Territory?
2. From viewing the film and pictures of Cherokees in Indian Territory, how did Will Rogers and other Cherokees of this time dress? Did they dress/look as you would have expected Indians to look, living in Indian Territory?

## CONTENT REVIEW

1. Indian Territory became the state of OKLAHOMA in 1907.
2. Which of Will Rogers' parents were citizens of the Cherokee Nation?  
**BOTH parents were citizens of the Cherokee Nation.**
3. Name one of the elected positions Clem Rogers held in the Cherokee Nation?  
**District Judge and/or Cherokee Senator**
4. What family member played the biggest role in building Will Rogers' interest in the world of politics?  
**His father, Clem Rogers**
5. Did Will Rogers ever run for public office?  
**No, though he was often encouraged.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was Will Rogers' early life like, living as a Cherokee in Indian Territory?  
**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**
2. From viewing the film and pictures of Cherokees in Indian Territory, how did Will Rogers and other Cherokees of this time dress? Did they dress/look as you would have expected Indians to look, living in Indian Territory.  
**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**