

# HUNTING *FOR* WILL ROGERS

The fun and famous student scavenger hunt to find facts in the galleries and halls of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum at Claremore, Oklahoma



**W**hen Will Rogers was eight years old, he was sent away to school at Harrell International Institute in Muskogee for fourth grade. Late in the year, he became homesick and briefly returned home to the family ranch near Oologah, sick with the mumps.

Will Rogers started school at Drumgoole, an Indian school near Chelsea. The tuition was a \$1.00 per month, and most students were full-blood Cherokee. English was their second language. Following Harrell and the death of his mother, Mary America Schrimsher, he enrolled at Willie Halsell Institute at Vinita, then Scarritt College at Neosho, Missouri, and completed his formal education at Kemper Academy, a military school in Boonville, Missouri.

As an adult, Will Rogers said he learned in two ways: "one is reading. The other is association with smarter people." Will read several newspapers every day for most of his life. As a child at home, his mother taught him to read. He never stopped reading.

# WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM LEARNING HUNT

## West Gallery and Charles Banks Wilson

1. Name the artist and former Oklahoma Governor that worked on the picture book *Will Rogers: An American Legend*. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the name of the large painting (also Will's cattle brand)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who gave Will the black Western Saddle? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name one of Charles Banks Wilson's paintings? \_\_\_\_\_

## Heritage Gallery

1. What year was Will Rogers born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Rogers County was named after Will's father. What was his first name? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Will was approximately 1/4<sup>th</sup> Indian. What tribe? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Will's wife's name and where was she from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Will's mother, a sister and his daughter shared what first name. \_\_\_\_\_
6. In a family photograph, what unusual pet is shown in the living room? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Near what town was Will born? \_\_\_\_\_

## Rotunda, Radio Gallery, Mini Theater and Study

1. Complete this phrase, "I never met a man \_\_\_\_\_."
2. What is the name of the famous radio speech Will gave before President Herbert Hoover came on the air in 1931? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What year was Will's 1<sup>st</sup> radio broadcast? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what city was Will's ranch house in California? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What office did the city of Beverly Hills give to Will Rogers? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name a movie Will starred in by Hal Roach. \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many movies did Will star in for Fox Studios? \_\_\_\_\_

### **South Gallery**

1. Name a celebrity that Will Rogers knew? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name one of Will's favorite sports? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What stage name did Will use in his early vaudeville and Wild West acts?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What instrument did Will use to do most of his writing? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the name of the 1991 musical about Will? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name the western artist friend of Will's who sculpted a small statue of Will on a horse with no name. \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what movie did Will play the captain of a boat? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Vista, Diorama, East Hall and Final Journey**

1. What year did the Will Rogers Memorial open? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name the stone that covers the outside walls of the museum. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name a type of sea faring vessel named after Will? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What country did Will travel to help after an earthquake? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the name of Will's dog? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who was the pilot of the plane that crashed with Will aboard? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what territory did Will die? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What year did Will die? \_\_\_\_\_
9. List one item that was found in the crash? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Gift Shop**

1. Find a Will Rogers quote that is on a shirt.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What prop did Will twirl in his Vaudeville act? \_\_\_\_\_

# WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

## Guide for LEARNING HUNT

### West Gallery and Charles Banks Wilson Introduction:

Will Rogers was the most popular entertainer in America. He was #1 in stage, newspapers, radio, movies and as an events speaker. He traveled the world and met dignitaries, but never lost touch with the common man. He treated everyone he met as a friend and was considered a friend in turn. In this gallery are some of Will's saddles and paintings by artists dedicated to helping remember Will Rogers.

Answers: 1. Frank Keating and Mike Wimmer 2. The Dog Iron (name of large painting)  
3. Fred Stone 4. (several to choose from)

### Heritage Gallery Introduction:

Will was born into a family that was steeped in Native American history. His father's side of the family came over before the Trail of Tears and his father was on the Cherokee Tribal Council. Will's dad fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War and later served at the Constitutional Convention that created the state of Oklahoma. His parents met at school in Tahlequah. Will grew up on the ranch and he always wanted to be a cowboy. Through his heritage, family and friends, he learned how to respect others and he learned a special skill that would help him in the future, roping.

Answers: 1. 1879 2. Clem 3. Cherokee 4. Betty, Rogers, Arkansas 5. Mary 6. Cow 7. Oologah

### Rotunda, Radio Gallery, Mini Theater and Study Introduction:

The Rotunda is the focal point of the Memorial. The statue was created by Jo Davidson and there is a replica in Statuary Hall in Washington D.C, facing the entry into the House of Representatives. It is said the Presidents rub Will's foot for good luck before they give the State of the Union address. The glass doors were the original entrance to the Memorial and thousands of people a day would come to pay their respects to Will. The Sunken Garden below was started in 1941 and completed in 1942. 1944 is the year Will's body was brought from California and laid to rest here. The radio gallery touches on Will's experience in radio. His show would air on Sunday nights causing some churches had to change their meeting time so the congregation wouldn't skip church to hear Will talk. The Mini Theater shows some of Will's "talkie" movies and the study is a replica of his study at his ranch in California.

Answers: 1. "I didn't like" (on the statue) 2. Bacon Beans and Limousines (Radio room just above the screen on the right) 3. 1922 (in the panel with large text next to TV with Will talking). 4. Pacific Palisades (panel) 5. Mayor (picture on right of study) 6. (several on right side of room in the mini theater) 7. 21 (on the panel by the County Chairman posters)

### **South Gallery Introduction:**

Will Rogers dominated the media of his day; stage, newspaper, radio and movies. Beloved by millions, he came to know some of the most famous people in the world. He started in Wild West shows doing his trick roping and later added commentary on the news of the day. His shows became more and more popular, which led to greater opportunities. His newspaper column ran in 600 papers. He started a weekly article in 1922, then added a daily column in 1926 and continued both until the day he died. He was in 71 movies, 50 of which were silent. He was the #1 movie star in 1934 and the #1 male movie star in 1935, only surpassed by a young Shirley Temple. The mural on the wall was dedicated in 1966.

Answers: 1. (several – listed at the top of the walkway) 2. Baseball or Polo (by walkway) 3. The Cherokee Kid 4. Typewriter (pictures “Writer” pod) 5. The Will Rogers Follies 6. Charles Russell 7. Steamboat Round the Bend

### **Vista, Diorama, East Hall and Final Journey Introduction:**

This wing of the Memorial was built in 1982. There were office spaces down the hall and the diorama room was built in 2012. This property, with a beautiful view overlooking Claremore was purchased by Will and Betty in 1911 for them to build a home to retire. After Will’s death, Betty gave the land to the State of Oklahoma for the Memorial to be built. There were several renditions before the final design was chosen. The Oklahoma Legislature created the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, a state agency, and built the Memorial in about 9 months. It opened on Will’s birthday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Final Journey exhibit details the last week of Will’s life.

Answers: 1. 1938 2. Oklahoma Limestone (far corner of Vista Room) 3. Liberty Ship or Nuclear Submarine (display going into diorama) 4. Nicaragua (diorama room) 5. Jocko (The Family Room diorama panel) 6. Wiley 7. Alaska (Alaska did not become a state until 1959) 8. 1935 9. (several)

### **Gift Shop:**

Thank you for visiting the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Will’s memory lives on and many of his comments are still relevant today. Please share your experience with your family and friends and we hope you were inspired by Will Rogers.

Answers: 1. (several) 2. Ropes