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...learning about the history of the Cherokee.

# Cherokee Nation

(Eastern Band)

When my family visited the Smokies, I took notes for a school report. Here is my poster and part of my report:

Archaeologists think the first people to live in North America were the Paleo-Indians. At the end of the last Ice Age (around 12,000 years ago) these people moved from Asia into North America on a land bridge that existed then. It is believed that they lived in small family groups and moved constantly to **hunt** animals like the mastodon (an elephant-like animal that is now extinct) and to **gather** foods like berries and nuts. Arrowheads for spears and other tools mark places they lived.

In the next period, called the Archaic (8,000 to 1,000 BCE), these families had homes with wooden poles covered with hides, which could be **moved**. In the spring they would move to the river valleys to **fish** and **collect** shellfish. In the fall they would move to the forest to hunt deer or turkey and gather nuts and berries. Archaeologists have studied **tools**, soapstone bowls, cemeteries and pottery to understand these people's ways.

In the third period, called Woodland Indians, people were thought to have had villages, as well as seasonal camps. **Corn**, a key part of the Indian diet, was introduced. The first evidence for the bow and arrow were found. It is believed that there was **trading** between people: of salt, beads, shells, fish, pottery and animal skins.

During the next period, of the Mississippian Indians, settlements became more permanent. Squash, corn and beans, known as the **Three Sisters**, were important and foods from hunting and gathering were now added to the foods harvested from gardens. Beautiful **jewelry** and pottery were created too.

After 1650, when the first Europeans moved into the area, there were many years of both peace and fighting. In 1836, the U.S. Senate accepted a **treaty** signed by a small group of **Cherokee** to sell their land and the Cherokee were forced to leave the east to be **resettled** in Oklahoma. They were expected to walk 1,000 miles to get there! On this hard walk, it is estimated that 4,000-8,000 people died. The path is now called the "Trail of Tears." Some Cherokee refused to move and **hid** in the mountains. Their descendants are the Cherokee, many of whom now live on Qualla Boundary, a preserve.

## WELCOME

### CHEROKEE INDIAN

#### PRESERVE

About 13,000 Cherokee Indians live in North Carolina, mostly on tribal land.

The town of Cherokee is in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Find the 14 words or phrases in **bold print** in Forest's story. Fit them into the crossword.

## Sequoyah Invents a Cherokee Alphabet

Sequoyah was a young Cherokee who learned how to work with silver. He wanted to sign his work like the white silversmiths did, so he went to visit Chief Charles Hicks who could write in English. After Sequoyah learned to write his name using the alphabet letters, he began to think about having a writing system for the Cherokee language. With it they would be able to read and write letters, write down stories and record their history. He created a system where each sound was represented by a symbol, so each letter was a syllable of a word. His system was easy to use and many Cherokee learned to read and write using it.

Sequoyah liked papers and books that had print and could help people exchange ideas. He called them:

Y = Yellow  
G = Green

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## Arts and Crafts

The Cherokee people create many beautiful arts and crafts that have been taught from generation to generation. Match the art or craft to what may be used to create it:

- pottery
- beadwork
- doll
- baskets
- wooden items
- belt made by finger weaving
- masks
- stone artwork
- jewelry

- woven from river cane, white oak or honeysuckle
- carved from maple, cherry, butternut
- formed from clay, fired in pits of wood fires
- made of glass, used on clothing and for jewelry
- traditionally made from tree bark, gourd or animal fur
- may be made of buffalo fur, mulberry bark, some beads
- carved from soapstone, pipestone (a clay stone used for making pipes)
- may be made with stone, silver, beads
- made from cornshucks, cloth