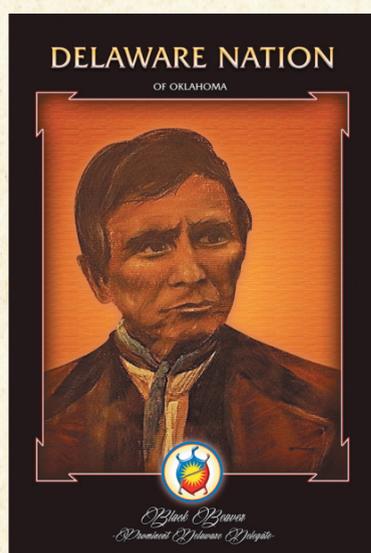


NATIVE AMERICAN

Heroes & Legends

While Native Americans are often referred to as a collective group of people, the fact is, every tribe has its own history, its own culture and its own heroes and legends. History is about more than a list of dates and a series of events, it is about the people that lived and led others through these events. History is being made every day. Let us explore some of the many Native American Heroes and Legends that have led different tribes through both historical and contemporary times.

HISTORICAL TIMES



Captain Black Beaver [Suck-tum-mah-kway] (1806 – 1880) of the Delaware (Lenape) Nation

Born in Belleville, Illinois in 1806, Black Beaver was already a part of the forced western migration of the Lenape people following the Revolutionary War. As had been the method of trade between the Natives in the woodland areas of eastern North America and the Europeans, Black Beaver would begin working for the *American Fur Company* owned by John Jacob Astor. Black Beaver, who spoke his native Lenape language, would become fluent in English, French and Spanish along with several other Native languages during his ten years of employment with the company. He was also proficient in sign language which was used extensively across the plains and the western frontier. In 1824 came the first of many events where his presence and voice are noted and recorded. At age 18, Black Beaver joined with other Lenape people in asking for help from military General William Clark, as they struggled in this "... country where we do not find all as stated to us when we was asked to swap lands with you..." (Black Beaver, *In The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, P. 369, Foreman).

In 1834, at the age of 28, Black Beaver would act as an interpreter for Colonel Richard Irving Dodge when he met with the Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita tribes on the upper Red River. In 1834, he would also come into great demand as a guide and interpreter as part of General Henry Leavenworth's Dragoon expedition. In 1849 Captain Randolph B. Marcy would

engage Black Beaver as guide and interpreter to escort 500 "emigrants" to California; this is also the year that the California Gold Rush began. Captain Marcy would establish a reputation for being a noteworthy pathfinder thanks to the knowledge Black Beaver would share with him. Black Beaver and Marcy would establish what would come to be known as the California Trail, a short cut Black Beaver discovered in his anxiousness to return home. The relationship between Marcy and Black Beaver continued into the 1850s. Black Beaver would settle near Marcy's post at Fort Arbuckle until, along with the Caddo, the Lenape living among the Wichitas were allowed to select land north of the Washita River on Sugar Tree Creek. Black Beaver was mentioned in an 1860 report by Indian agent, Matthew Leeper, who noted he had built a sturdy double log house, fenced his property and was cultivating crops.

1860 would mark the beginning of the Civil War. In 1861, Black Beaver would guide Colonel William H. Emory from Fort Cobb to Fort Leavenworth after his capture of the Confederate Texas troops advanced guard. Black Beaver voluntarily left his property and it would come to be commandeered and destroyed by the Confederate forces. Sadly, the Federal government would only compensate for a small amount of his overall loss. Perhaps his sacrifice was meaningful to the men he guided because it is said that upon arriving at their destination several of the military officers "testified to the patriotism of Beaver and the great value of his services" (280).

Do your research and complete the following...

1. Black Beaver's ability to negotiate with the U.S. Government in combination with the respect he garnered from various tribes made him instrumental in negotiating the _____ Treaty signed in 1867.
2. Find a map of the California Trail. If you were to follow the trail, and you began your journey in Missouri, what four states would you travel through before making it to Northern California? 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____ and 4) _____.



Te Ata Thompson Fisher (1895 – 1995) of the Chickasaw Nation

Te Ata Thompson Fisher, whose name means "Bearer of the Morning," was born Dec. 3, 1895, near present day Emet, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Te Ata was an accomplished actor and Native American storyteller. She received her early education in Tishomingo, and eventually went to the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, Oklahoma. While there, it was evident Te Ata

Her alma mater, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (formerly Oklahoma College for Women) has presented Te Ata with multiple honors. In 1972, she became the first inductee into the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In 2006, USAO renamed its auditorium in Trout Hall "Te Ata Memorial Auditorium." In 2014, she was further honored with the dedication of a statue in her likeness in the center of the campus.

Te Ata died Oct. 26, 1995, in Oklahoma City, though her legacy and influence on the Native American storytelling traditions continues to this day. A feature film based on Te Ata's life will be coming soon. For more information on Te Ata or Te Ata the movie, visit TeAtaMovie.com.

Practice your own story telling...

Story telling can be a great way to share history or to pass down information, values or morals with others. We can all be story tellers.

Try this:

- 1) Select an animal or object in nature that you can use to tell your story and create your own storybook (5 – 8 pages).
- 2) Be creative and provide illustrations for each page of your story.
- 3) Use your story to highlight a piece of history, a set of values or to illustrate your own morals.
- 4) Get into groups of 3 – 5 students and take turns telling your story to your classmates.

Have fun with your story telling – be expressive, change your voice for different characters and feel free to act out various parts of the story if you wish.

Enter to win and have your story featured on NIE.newsok.com and shared on NewsOK.com.

Mail in your homemade story book to:

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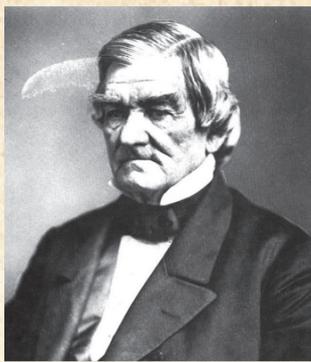
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Chief John Ross [Koo-wi-s-gu-wi] (1790 – 1866) of the Cherokee Nation

Chief John Ross was a native to Turkeytown, located in present day Alabama. Ross was not a full blooded Cherokee, but he gained the respect of both the Cherokee people and the white settlers at a very young age.

Ross led the Cherokee's resistance to being removed from their native lands by the U.S. Government as the President of the Cherokee National Council.

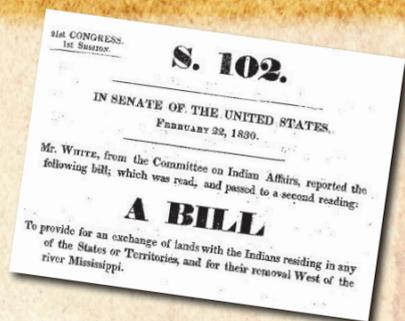
In 1831, Chief John Ross, of the Cherokee Nation, hired former attorney general William Wirt to represent the Cherokee Nation in a U.S. Supreme Court Case, Cherokee Nation vs. Georgia. This court case sought sovereignty for the Cherokee Tribe. The ruling, in favor of the

Cherokee Nation, determined that the state of Georgia could not legally create and enforce laws on behalf of the Cherokee people. The Cherokee Indians fought to maintain their rights to over 43,000 square miles of native lands; however, despite this ruling and their efforts, the Cherokee people were still forcibly removed from their lands under the Treaty of New Echota signed in 1835. Ross protested the treaty and produced a petition with the signatures of over 16,000 Cherokee Indians indicating that the treaty did not represent the Cherokee people as a whole. Chief Ross would eventually be forced by the United States military to lead members of the Cherokee Nation west on a journey that would come to be known as the Trail of Tears.

Do your research to answer the following questions:

1. It is estimated that more than 5,000 Cherokee Indians died attempting the 1,200 mile Trail of Tears. Name three causes that led to the death of Native Americans forced into removal via the Trail of Tears: 1) _____, 2) _____ and 3) _____.

2. Define the term sovereignty and explain what it meant for the Cherokee Tribe:



Chief Menominee (1791 – 1841) of the Potawatomi Nation

Chief Menominee of the Potawatomi Nation is known for his refusal to sign the treaty for the removal of the Potawatomi Indians from their native lands. Though he refused to sign the Treaty, his people would still be forced to leave at gunpoint via what would come to be known as the Trail of Death in 1839. The Trail of Death involved the removal of 859 Potawatomi Indians from their native lands located in present day Indiana; 41 lives were lost along the way. In the year 1883, Chief Menominee gave a speech in Fulton County and in that speech he stated:

"The President does not know the truth. He like me has been imposed upon. He does not know that your treaty is a lie and that I never signed it. He does not know that you made my young chiefs drunk and got their consent and pretended to get mine. He does not know that I have refused to sell my lands, and still refuse. He would not, by force, drive me from my home, the graves of my tribe and my children who have gone to the Great Spirit, nor allow you to tell me that your braves will take me, tied like a dog, if he knew the truth. My brother, the President, is just; but he listens to the word of his young chiefs who have lied; and when he knows the truth, he will leave me to my own. I have not sold my lands. I will not sell them. I have not signed any treaty, and I shall not sign any. I am not going to leave my lands, and I do not want to hear anything more about it."

CONTEMPORARY TIMES



Governor Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation

Governor Bill Anoatubby has served as governor of the Chickasaw Nation since 1987. He began work for the Chickasaw Nation in 1975 as its health services director. A year later, he was asked to direct its finance department. In October 1978, he was promoted to the position of special assistant to the governor and controller. In 1979, he was elected as the tribe's first Lt. Governor. Gov. Anoatubby was elected to his first term as governor in 1987.

In his first term, Gov. Anoatubby established goals of economic development and self-sufficiency for the Chickasaw Nation and its people. Since then, tribal assets have grown two-hundredfold. In 1987, the tribe had about 250 employees. Today, the Chickasaw Nation employs more than 13,000 people.

Gov. Anoatubby graduated from Tishomingo High School in 1964 and from Murray State College in 1970. In 1972, he completed his bachelor's degree in accounting at East Central State College. He was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Bacone

College in 2012, the University of Oklahoma in 2014, Oklahoma City University in 2015 and Oklahoma State University in 2016.

Gov. Anoatubby began his eighth term in office in 2015. He is committed to enhancing the overall quality of life of Chickasaw people. Under his leadership, the Chickasaw Nation provides nearly 300 different programs and services, and operates many diverse tribal businesses.

Gov. Anoatubby has dedicated efforts to improving the Chickasaw Nation's finances, education, economic development, cultural preservation and health care. As governor, he has encouraged self-sufficiency for the Chickasaw Nation and its people. Tribal assets have increased dramatically, and the Chickasaw Nation was one of the first Native American governments in the U.S. to be designated as an A-102 tribe, with a superior rating for both management and fiscal controls.

An economic impact study conducted by Oklahoma City University revealed that the Chickasaw Nation, under Gov. Anoatubby's leadership, has an economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion annually in Oklahoma. The study also demonstrated the tribe is responsible for creating thousands of jobs.

Governor Anoatubby and his wife, Janice, have two sons, Chris and Brian and five grandchildren, Brendan, Eryn, Chloe, Sydney and Preslea.



Vice Chairman Linda Capps of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Born in the community of Harrah, Oklahoma, Linda Capps began her professional career as a business teacher at Dover Public Schools. In 1977, she moved to Tecumseh Public Schools, where for seven years she taught business and served as the district's Indian education director. She also served for a decade at the Oklahoma Bid Assistance

Program and as an adult education instructor at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Capps has served in government and education and has a wide range of experiences as the result of being a small business owner. She attended the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma where she retained her Bachelors of Arts in Education and went on to retain her Masters of Science in Education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. She also received an honorary Doctorate in Humanities from Oklahoma Baptist University in 2014.

In addition to her educational service, Capps has served as the vice-chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation since 1987. During her tenure with Chairman Barrett, the Nation has increased its assets at an incredible pace, and today is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County.

Capps has also served on the board of directors of numerous institutions, including the Federal Reserve Bank branch of Oklahoma City, Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc., Gordon Cooper Technology Center Foundation, Foundation Board for Seminole State College and First National Bank and Trust Co., the largest tribally-owned bank in the United States.

President Kerry Holton of the Delaware Nation

Born in Enid, OK Kerry Holton grew up in Marietta, GA where his parents, Woody & Helen Holton, instilled civic duty and an entrepreneurial spirit. Holton worked for 25 years alongside his father, in the family business, maintaining a fleet of small aircraft. He went on to earn his technician license, inspector's authorization and a pilot's license at a young age. Always encouraged to maintain connections with his Delaware Nation, Holton craved and sought news and information. Attending yearly meetings, Holton became very interested in the tribal government. In 2006 he declared his candidacy for President of the Delaware Nation and won that race by 1 vote.

President Holton has strived to build a foundation of transparency and accountability; starting with improving communication between government and citizens. He would go on to promote a robust and growing economic development arm that has successfully entered into military contracting services in internet technology. Other successes include establishing one of the largest solar arrays in Oklahoma that powers its government complex.

Gaming has grown exponentially with Holton acquiring and placing into trust 100 acres in Hinton for the Nation's largest casino to date, Casino Oklahoma. Future development is expected to include hotels, shopping and entertainment venues. Gaming has been a great stepping stone towards the Nation's growth and self-sufficiency.

President Holton has used this growth to start the Nation's much needed court systems. This in turn strengthens the Nation's government, economic development and sovereignty. President Holton works tirelessly to assist other tribal governments as well; serving on boards that include the Anadarko Hospital board, numerous intertribal boards and within the local community of Anadarko.

One of President Holton's favorite quotes and mantras is from Bruce Lee. "Real living is living for others."

