

## Oklahoma Government



Oklahoma State Capitol

Executive Branch

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Legislative Branch

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Judicial Branch

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## OKLAHOMA

PLACE MAT

## Famous Oklahomans

Jim Thorpe



Jim Thorpe was a famous athlete born in Indian Territory, in what is now Oklahoma. He was a member of the Sac and Fox Nation and won Olympic gold medals in 1912. He also played professional football and baseball. Thorpe was the first president of the American Professional Football Association.

Wiley Post



Wiley Post was a pilot from Oklahoma who was the first person to fly solo around the world. He helped create a special suit so pilots could fly higher in the sky. He was very brave and loved exploring new ways to fly. His work helped make flying safer for others.

Sequoyah



Sequoyah was a Cherokee man who created a writing system for the Cherokee language. He was the first individual person to create an original written alphabet for his own people. This helped the Cherokee read and write in their own language.

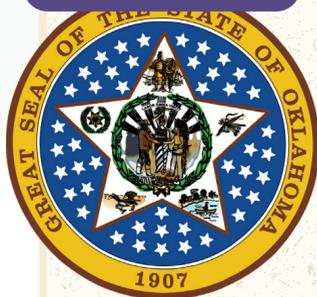
Maria Tallchief



Maria Tallchief was America's first major ballerina and was born in Fairfax, Oklahoma. She was a member of the Osage Nation and became famous for her dancing around the world. She performed in big ballet shows and amazed audiences with her talent. She helped open doors for Native American dancers.

## Oklahoma State Symbols

Oklahoma State Seal



Oklahoma State Flag



Oklahoma's name comes from the Choctaw words *okla* (people) and *humma* (red), meaning "Red People."

Will Rogers



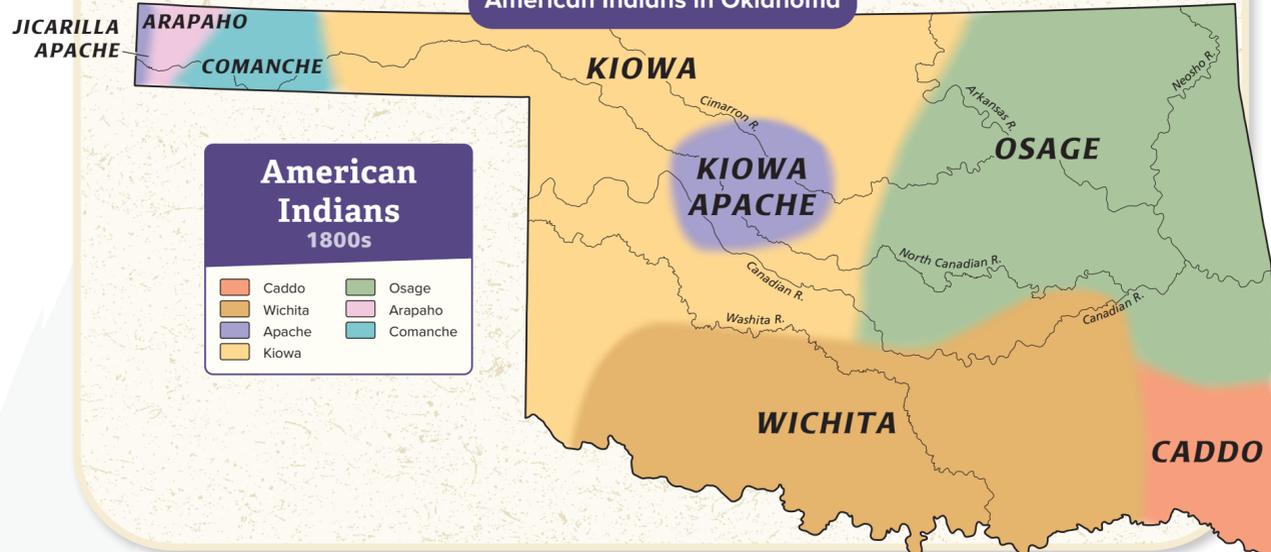
Will Rogers was a cowboy, actor, and humorist from Oklahoma. He made people laugh with his jokes and stories about everyday life. He also traveled around the world and wrote newspaper articles. He is known as "Oklahoma's Favorite Son."

Clara Luper

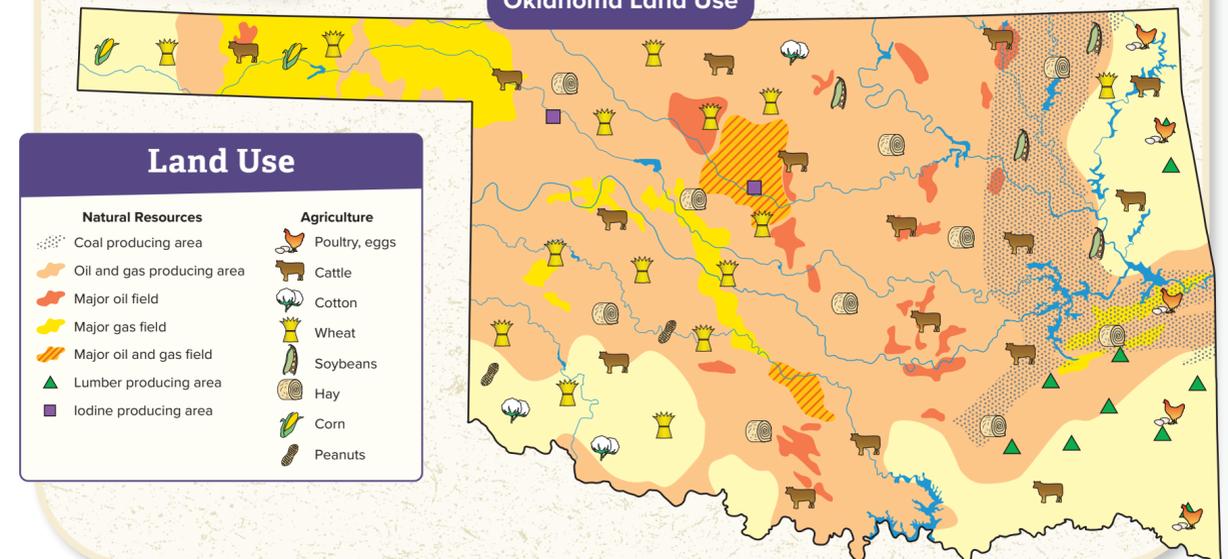


Clara Luper was a teacher and civil rights leader. She helped lead peaceful protests to fight against unfair treatment of Black people. One of her most famous protests was a sit-in at a lunch counter in Oklahoma City. Her actions helped desegregate hundreds of establishments in Oklahoma.

## American Indians in Oklahoma



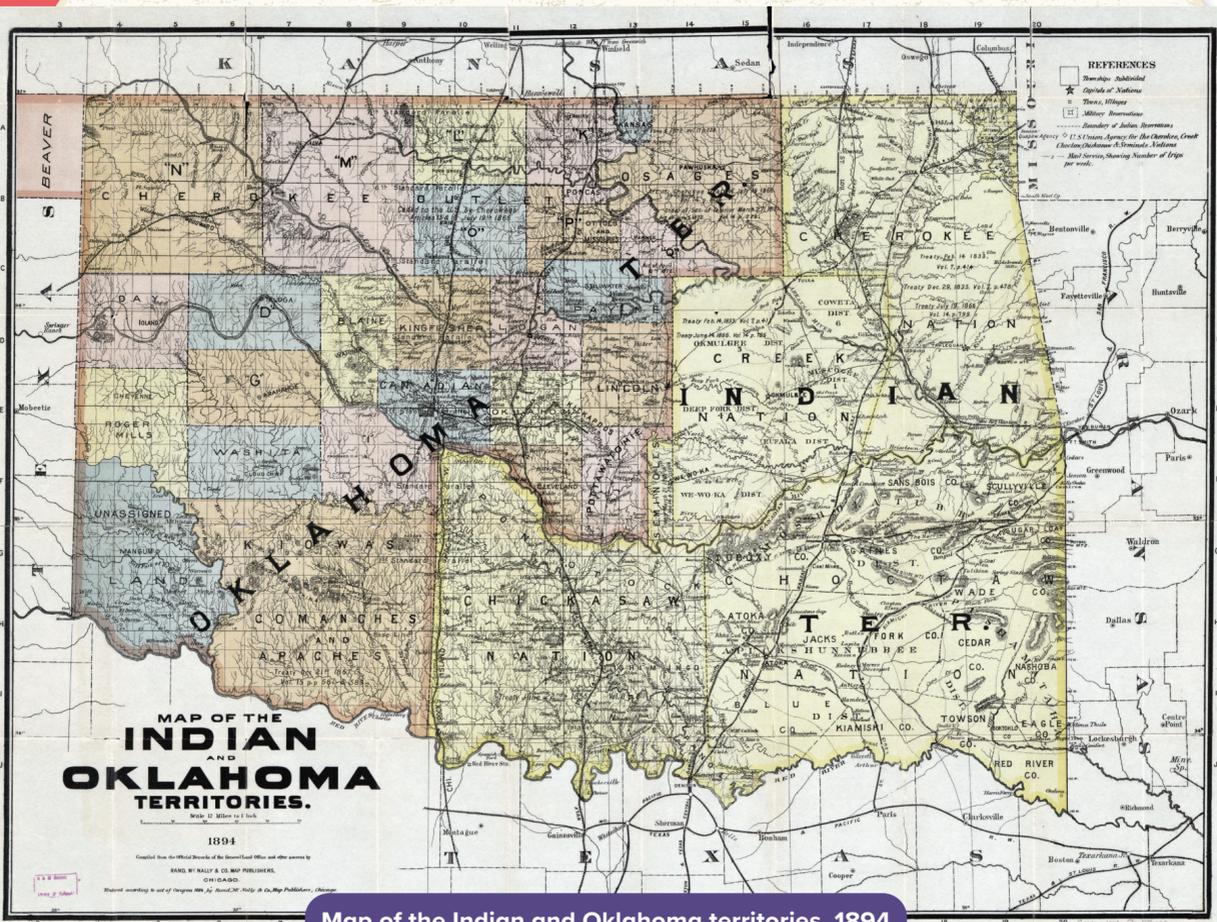
## Oklahoma Land Use



Primary Sources

Famous Explorers

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Map of the Indian and Oklahoma territories, 1894

“In wagons, and with steamboats, as may be found necessary, the United States agree to remove the Indians to their new homes, at their expense, and under the care of discreet and careful persons, who will be kind and brotherly to them. They agree to furnish them with ample corn and beef, or pork for themselves and their families, for twelve months, after reaching their new homes. It is agreed further, that the United States will take all their cattle, at the valuation of some discreet person to be appointed by the President, and the same shall be paid for in money after their arrival at their new homes, or other cattle, such as may be desired, shall be furnished them....”

—Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, 1830



Time Line

<b>1800</b>	<b>1825</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>1925</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>2000</b>					
c. 850-1405 CE Pre-contact American Indian cultures: The Spiro Mounds were built by a highly advanced civilization before Europeans arrived.	1541 Francisco Vázquez de Coronado travels across western Oklahoma.	1830-1842 Indian removal and the Trail of Tears: Many tribes, including the Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole, are forced to move to Oklahoma.	1866 African American cavalymen, known as Buffalo soldiers, form units stationed in Oklahoma and other areas of the American frontier.	1868 Battle of Washita: General George A. Custer attacks Black Kettle's settlement on the Washita River near modern-day Cheyenne, killing dozens of Cheyenne men, women, and children.	1889 Land run opens part of region to White settlers.	1898 Curtis Act abolishes tribal courts and governments, placing American Indians under federal control.	1907 Oklahoma becomes the 46th state by joining Indian and Oklahoma Territories.	1918, 1941 Code Talkers: Choctaw soldiers use their language to send secret messages during World War I and World War II.	1921 Tulsa Massacre: White people burn the flourishing African American Greenwood District to the ground, causing millions of dollars of property damage. The death toll estimates range from 39 to 300.	1930s Dust Bowl: Severe dust storms force many Oklahomans to leave the state.	1950 McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents mandates school integration.	1995 Terrorist bomb destroys Oklahoma City federal building.	2002 Chickasaw astronaut John Herrington becomes the first American Indian to reach space on the space shuttle Endeavour.

**Francisco Vázquez de Coronado**

Coronado was a Spanish explorer who came to the land that is now Oklahoma in the 1540s. He was searching for a city made of gold called Cíbola, but he never found it. His journey helped other explorers learn more about the land and people in the region.

**Washington Irving**

Washington Irving was a famous American writer who visited Oklahoma in the 1830s. He joined a U.S. government tour to learn more about the land and the American Indians who lived there. After his trip, he wrote a book called A Tour on the Prairies that shared his experience with readers.

**George Catlin**

George Catlin was an artist who traveled to Oklahoma in the 1830s to paint pictures of American Indian people and their way of life. He wanted to show others how they lived and what their culture was like. His artwork helps us understand what life was like for many tribes long ago.

Oklahoma's Economy



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