



Piccadilly Puppets Classroom Guide

Cherokee Tales



Piccadilly's Chief One Feather puppet introduces students to the history, lifestyle and religious practices of Georgia's earliest inhabitants - the Cherokee. With the help of puppets and audience volunteers, the puppeteer/storyteller then recounts Cherokee creation myths about how the earth was formed, how animals came to live on the earth, and how fire was discovered. Students learn about the achievements of this noble tribe and the journey remembered today as the Trail of Tears. They also see the puppeteer in action, as this show takes place in the open rather than behind a curtain.

HISTORY

The Piccadilly Puppets have been entertaining and educating students for over four decades. Our performers are professional puppeteers who also have extensive experience working with children. We use a variety of puppetry styles and offer a large repertoire of programs that relate to curriculum.

- ◆ Awarded the UNIMA Citation for Excellence in the Art of Puppetry
- ◆ Formerly on the Artist Roster for Arts For Learning

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SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARD

SS2H2. The student will describe the Georgia Cherokee culture of the past...

2

LITERACY STANDARD

ELAGSE2RL2. Recount stories, including folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message.

3

THEATRE STANDARD

#TH:Cn11.1 Relate artistic works with cultural and historical context.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to discuss the ways the Cherokees used fire and why it was so important.
Students will recognize how myths try to explain how or why things in nature are the way they are.

Vocabulary

◆ Culture

◆ Nation

◆ Natural Resource

◆ Heritage

◆ Tribe

◆ Council

Assess the Learning : Questions to Ask the Students Following the Program

Cultures use myths and legends to explain the reasoning behind things in nature. Give some examples from this show. Can you think of any other stories that do this? (known as “pourquoi” tales, using the French word for “why”)

Why was fire so important to the Cherokees?

What was the Trail of Tears? Where did the Cherokees go?

In legends, we see both exaggerations and little morsels of truth. Can you think of some parts of the story that were true? Can you think of some parts of the story that were exaggerated?

Do the Cherokees still exist?

Extend the Learning: Post-Show Activities

Most Native Americans are proud of their heritage. Discuss how students’ images of the Cherokees have changed since viewing the show.

Discuss the national and cultural heritage of the students - are they Irish, Italian, Ethiopian, Chinese, etc.

Encourage students to create a book about their heritage. In this “All About Me” book, include favorite foods, traditions, natural resources and clothing. Can they think of any legends from their heritage?

Find Oklahoma on a map. Calculate how many miles the Cherokee people had to travel from North Georgia to Oklahoma, and locate any rivers or mountain ranges they had to cross.

Additional Resources

Websites:

www.cherokee.org (Official site of the Cherokee Nation)

www.cherokeesmokies.com/history_culture.html (Site about the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Books:

Bird, Traveller [The Path to Snowbird Mountain](#)

Cunningham, Maggie [Cherokee Tale Teller](#)