



Piccadilly Puppets Classroom Guide

Cherokee Tales



Sequoyah teaches students about Cherokee culture and history. The storyteller uses tabletop hand and rod puppets to tell Cherokee myths about the creation of Cherokee land and how the brave Spider brought fire to the animals. Then the students learn about the Trail of Tears with the help of shadow puppetry. This 15-minute version is appropriate for grades preK4-2nd. It was written by a Cherokee playwright and adapted for the screen.

HISTORY

Piccadilly Puppets has been entertaining and educating students for fifty years! Our professional puppeteers 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

1

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARD

SS2H2 Describe the Georgia Creek and Cherokee cultures of the past in terms of tools, clothing, homes, ways of making a living, and accomplishments.

2

LITERACY STANDARD

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

3

THEATRE ARTS STANDARD

TA.RE.2 Critique various aspects of theatre and other media.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to discuss the Cherokee people and the Trail of Tears.

Students will recognize how myths try to explain how or why things in nature are the way they are.

Vocabulary

◆ Culture

◆ Tribe

◆ Ember

◆ Ancestors

◆ Settlers

◆ Syllabary

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?

Why did Sequoyah have to work so long and hard to make the Cherokee syllabary?

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. Have the students’ images of the Cherokees 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)

<https://cherokeesmokies.com/> (Site about the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Books:

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

Cunningham, Maggie [Cherokee Tale Teller](#)