

# Red Dirt Groundbreakers

## Activities

1. Students will use one of the Red Dirt Groundbreaker biographies to write a news article.
  - Keep your articles brief. (No more than three short paragraphs.)
  - Read articles in the newspaper for hints on first, second, and third paragraph information.
  - Include the five Ws: “Who?” “What?” “When?” “Where?” and “Why?”
2. On a separate sheet of paper, students will create a grid with enough space in each grid for recording information about the groundbreakers presented in this booklet.
  - Students will list the groundbreakers down the left side of the grid, using one space for each name.
  - Across the top, students will list areas for comparison. Some examples might be:
    - Nationality or culture
    - Where the person lived in Oklahoma
    - Area of agricultural work or contributions to agriculture
    - Other interesting facts
    - Historical era
  - Students will complete the grid by finding information from the bios presented and/or using the library or internet for research. Look for commonalities and differences.
  - Students will compare information with others within a small group or discuss as a class.
3. Students will place the groundbreakers on a timeline and correlate with significant historical events (statehood, Dust Bowl, Civil War, etc.)
4. Students will select one or more groundbreaker for further research and write a short paper to share with the class.
5. A groundbreaker is someone who breaks new ground to plant crops or a garden. The dictionary defines it as someone who does something in a new way. Students will identify the new things these groundbreakers did in Oklahoma agriculture.
6. Students will use online or library search engines to find details about wanted posters in the late 1800s to early 1900s.
  - Students will create wanted posters, using the information from the bios in the booklet.
  - Students will use calligraphy or other bold fancy lettering to add details to the posters.
  - Display the posters in the classroom or in the hallway.
  - Students will compare the information given on the posters.
  - Discuss how a wanted poster from today would differ from the posters created by students?

## Oklahoma Academic Standards

### GRADE 3

Citizenship: 3. Economics: 3. Geography: 1AC, 2ABC. History: 1,3,6,7,9,10,11

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.2. Critical Reading and Writing: R.7; W.2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2,3

### HIGH SCHOOL

Geography: 1. Oklahoma History: 2.1; 3.2; 4.3; 5.2E

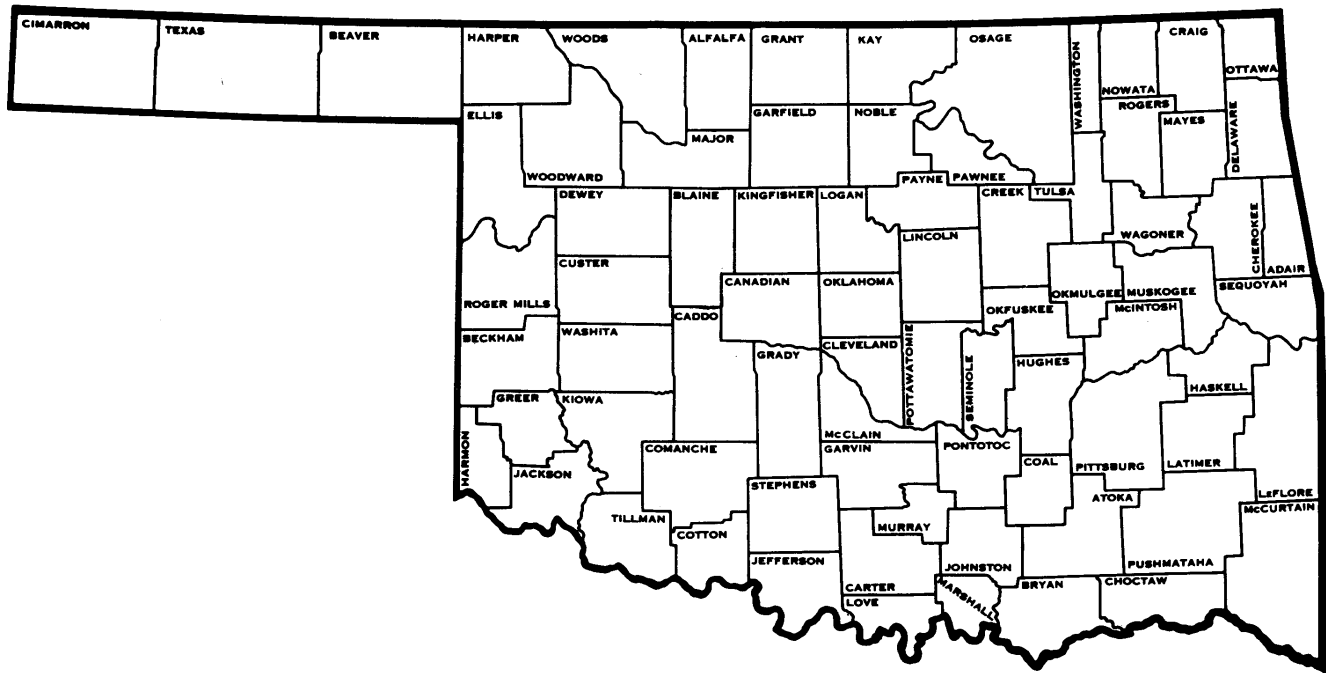
Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Critical Reading and Writing: W.2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3

7. Students will use online or library resources or interviews to research an agriculturalist in Oklahoma, past or present.
  - Students will pay attention to details, since they are going to pretend to be this person.
  - Students will write 3-5 questions on a notepad that they would like to ask about another person, leaving space for answers between the questions.
  - Students will pair up to conduct interviews.
  - Students will have 1-2 minutes to interview their partner using the prewritten questions.
  - At the end of the 2 minutes, students will reverse roles.
  - After the interviews are complete, students will discuss what they learned from the interviews as a class.
  - Each student will introduce the person interviewed and tell 1–2 interesting things about that person.
  - Students will discuss the broad range of people, common traits and the most interesting trait or story.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Red Dirt Groundbreakers

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1. Locate and color in the counties represented by each of the Red Dirt Groundbreakers
2. Create a map key to show which colors represents which groundbreakers.
3. Use the key from an Oklahoma road map to compute the distance from your county to each of the counties represented. Use the center of each county as a guide.
4. The Arkansas River is one of Oklahoma's major bodies of water. Draw the Arkansas River on this map.

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.