



# OKLAHOMA

## RED DIRT SYMBOLS

EXPLORE  
AND  
LEARN

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The American Buffalo,  
or Bison, is the  
official animal  
of Oklahoma.

The History  
Behind Oklahoma's  
Symbols







# OKLAHOMA

## SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Dear Oklahoma students and teachers,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Ag in the Classroom program, we hope you enjoy this resource about Red Dirt Symbols.

Oklahoma has a rich history of diverse agriculture production. For generations, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have worked hard to take care of the land and water and grow crops and raise livestock to feed and fuel the world. As you explore our state's Red Dirt Symbols, you'll find that Oklahoma is home to many different types of production agriculture. Cattle, forests, horses, and so much more—the symbols of our state show that Oklahoma can produce almost anything our communities need.

Thank you for taking time to learn more about our great state and Oklahoma agriculture!

Sincerely,

*Blayne Arthur*

Blayne Arthur

Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture





# OKLAHOMA

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Students and teachers,

In the pages ahead, you will learn about some of our state's most iconic symbols and images. Just as each of you are unique in your own ways so is our state. Oklahoma has a rich heritage that is unmatched by any other. Agriculture plays an important role in our state's past, as well as our future. Thanks to resources from Ag in the Classroom, like this booklet, we all get a chance to learn about our state's farms and ranches. I hope you'll enjoy Red Dirt Symbols. I'm proud to be an Oklahoman, and I hope you are too. The place we call home is a place where you can pursue your biggest dreams. I hope this booklet will help fuel your enthusiasm for learning to explore the world around you.

Sincerely,

Matt Pinnell

Oklahoma Lt. Governor





**Wheat is Oklahoma's number one crop.**



**The strawberry is the state fruit of Oklahoma.**



**Agriculture is everywhere in Oklahoma; it is even near the State Capitol.**



**Bees are a valuable part of agriculture.**

## RED DIRT SYMBOLS

The name Oklahoma comes from two Choctaw Indian words, okla, which means "people," and humma, which means "red."

Oklahoma and Indian Territories combined in 1907 to become the State of Oklahoma. There were over 62,000 farms. They produced 8.6 million bushels of wheat, 113 million bushels of corn, 8 million chickens, 347,000 turkeys, 2 million bushels of potatoes, 90,000 bushels of flaxseed, 864,000 bales of cotton, and 60,000 sheep. Three years later, the state had over 190,000 farms.

Today, Oklahoma has more than 77,000 farms and ranches. The average farm size is 431 acres. There are farms and ranches as big as 5 million acres and some as small as 5 acres. About 76 percent of our state's 45 million acres of land is used for farming and ranching.

Red Dirt Symbols contains descriptions and pictures of some of Oklahoma's state symbols including: the state flower, the state meal, the state insect, the state tree, the state bird, the state animal, and the state flag that flies over Oklahoma!

[www.agclassroom.org/ok](http://www.agclassroom.org/ok)





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**Beef cattle are raised in all 77 counties across Oklahoma.**



**Usually, Oklahoma corn is fed to livestock.**

## OKLAHOMA STATE STEAK

State Senator Casey Murdock and State Representative Ty Burns worked to make the rib eye the state steak. Both men are Oklahoma ranchers. The bill was signed into law by Governor Stitt in May of 2019.

Beef is an important part of a healthy diet. It provides many important nutrients — protein, riboflavin, niacin, iron and zinc.

Oklahoma has 4.85 million beef cattle and ranks 5th in the nation in cattle and calf production. There are more cattle in Oklahoma than people.



Rib Eye

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

A rib eye is a steak sliced from the rib area of a beef animal.

Scan this



## OKLAHOMA STATE DRINK

Milk was named the official state beverage of Oklahoma in 1985. Milk was also named the state drink of Oklahoma in 2002.

Daniel Howard was a 4-H member from Guthrie. He noticed there was no state drink. Daniel wanted to change that. He wrote letters to state senators and spoke to committees. His talks encouraged them to support this bill.

Dairy farming is an important part of Oklahoma agriculture.

In Oklahoma, a dairy cow will produce 6.8 gallons of milk per day in an average year. That's more than 2,476 gallons a year!



Milk

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Milk is the official beverage in 20 states, including Oklahoma.



## OKLAHOMA STATE FRUIT



Strawberry

### DID YOU KNOW?

The strawberry is the only fruit with seeds on the outside rather than the inside.

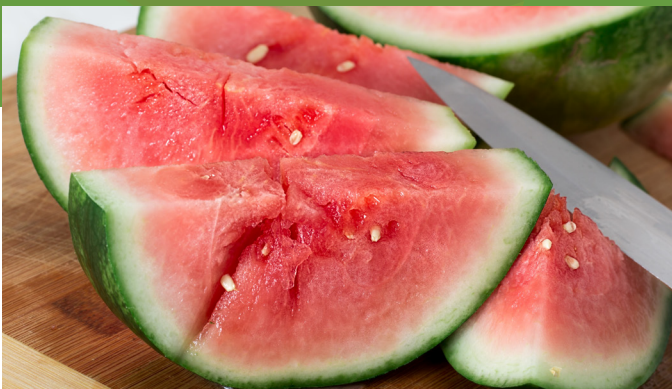
The strawberry became Oklahoma's official state fruit in 2005. Fifth graders from Skiatook wrote letters to Oklahoma's state legislators asking them to make strawberries the state fruit.

The town of Stilwell has held an annual strawberry festival for 60 years to celebrate this delicious fruit.

Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in the spring. The flavor of a strawberry is influenced by weather, the variety, and stage of ripeness when harvested.

Strawberries are a part of Oklahoma's official state meal.

## OKLAHOMA STATE VEGETABLE



Watermelon

### DID YOU KNOW?

Watermelon is 92% water. Early explorers used them as canteens.

Oklahoma named watermelon as the official state vegetable in 2007.

Rush Springs has been home to a watermelon festival since 1948. The area is known for delicious watermelons grown in the sandy soil.

Watermelon comes from the cucumber and gourd families, which are classified as vegetables. Watermelons are usually green on the outside. Their inside flesh can be red, orange, or yellow.

Scan this



## OKLAHOMA STATE HERITAGE HORSE

The Oklahoma Colonial Spanish horse came from Spanish horses brought to the Americas with early settlers. Thousands of these horses were relocated to Indian Territory in the 19th century. They were cared for by families who treasured them. Colonial Spanish horses were good work animals and a reminder of their culture.

These horses were close to extinction after the Civil War and again in the 1970s. Then, these beautiful horses were placed on a special list to protect them. The Colonial Spanish horse was named the Official Heritage Horse of Oklahoma in 2014.



Colonial Spanish Horse

### DID YOU KNOW?

Colonial Spanish horses are generally small; the usual height is around 14 hands.

## OKLAHOMA STATE RAPTOR

Red-tailed hawks are the most common hawk in Oklahoma. They make their home in Oklahoma year-round. These familiar birds have broad wings, and adults often show the namesake red tail.

The red-tailed hawk is a bird of open country. Look for it along fields and perched on telephone poles. They also like fence posts and trees along the edge of fields.



Red-tailed Hawk

### DID YOU KNOW?

Red-tailed hawks are very intelligent birds and they learn quickly.



Scan this



## OKLAHOMA STATE FLYING MAMMAL



Mexican Free-tailed Bat

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Oklahoma named the Mexican free-tailed bat the official state flying mammal in 2006.

The Oklahoma Wildlife Department purchased the Selman Bat Cave and the area around it in 1997. The Wildlife Department now protects the cave from humans. They prevent construction and people from being too close to the cave and bats.

The bats live in the gypsum caves of western Oklahoma. They migrate to South America during the winter. The bats leave their caves in the evenings and may travel hundreds of miles. Bats fly to an altitude of 10,000 feet (almost two miles) to feed on insects during the night. Farmers use less pesticide on their crops when bats eat more harmful insects.

## OKLAHOMA STATE REPTILE



Eastern Collared Lizard

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The mountain boomer can reach 8-15 inches in length.

The eastern collared lizard is the Oklahoma state reptile. It is often called the mountain boomer.

These lizards are easily recognized because of their unique features. They are large in size, have a large head compared to the body, and are brightly colored. Their tails are two times the body length, and they have a distinct black collar on the neck.

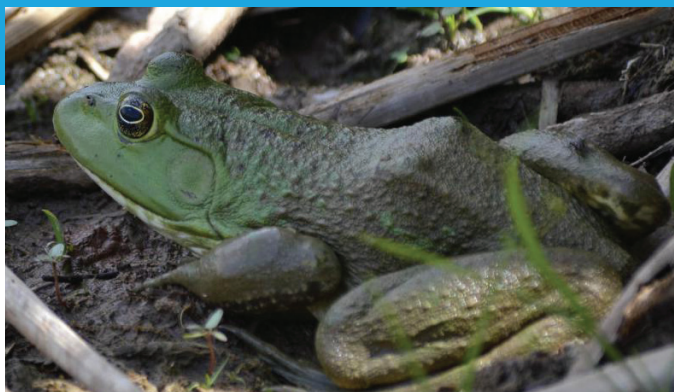
The collar is an irregular black line just behind the head. Then, there is another wider and more distinct broad black marking from the middle of the back to the top of the front limbs.

## OKLAHOMA STATE AMPHIBIAN

The bullfrog was named Oklahoma's amphibian in 2000. Bullfrogs are the largest frogs in Oklahoma and in North America.

Bullfrogs have a deep, long call that can be heard from a long distance. It is a common call heard in summer months around large, permanent farm ponds and lakes.

When they jump, bullfrogs emit a short squeal. Their squeal makes it easy to tell the difference between bullfrogs and southern leopard frogs without seeing them.



Bullfrog

### DID YOU KNOW?

Bullfrogs dig down into mud to hibernate when it turns cold.

## OKLAHOMA STATE FISH

The white bass was named the state fish of Oklahoma in 1974 to represent the importance of lakes and sport fishing in our state.

White bass are also called sand bass. They are silver with narrow horizontal black stripes. White bass are freshwater fish that live in lakes, ponds and rivers in Oklahoma.

White bass are native to Oklahoma. They were not found in great numbers until large reservoirs were built in the 1950s. Reservoirs are man-made lakes. Now, white bass are found statewide.

Fish are high in vitamin D and a valuable protein source for your diet.



White Bass

### DID YOU KNOW?

Shad are white bass's favorite food. White Bass spend most of their lives chasing schools of shad.



## OKLAHOMA STATE BUTTERFLY



Black Swallowtail

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Black swallowtails drink nectar from flowers including red clover, milkweed, and thistles.

Oklahoma chose the black swallowtail butterfly as the official state butterfly symbol in 1996.

Oklahoma is home to a wide variety of colorful butterflies. The black swallowtail is a migratory butterfly. They are found in Oklahoma from May to October.

Butterflies play an important role in agriculture because they are pollinators. They visit flowers to drink nectar or feed off of pollen. Pollinators transport pollen as they move from one place to another.

## OKLAHOMA STATE INSECT



Honeybee

Beekeepers are also called honey farmers or apiarists. The term beekeeper refers to a person who keeps honey bees in beehives, boxes, or other containers.

CAREER  
CONNECTION

Oklahoma named the honeybee as the official state insect in 1992. The honeybee is as an official state symbol in 20 states. Honeybees are the main pollinators of flowers and other crops.

Bees make honey from nectar. Nectar is a sweet liquid found inside flower blossoms. The bees collect the nectar and carry it to the colony in pouches within their bodies.

Honeybees are the only insects that produce food eaten by humans.

Scan this



# OKLAHOMA STATE FLOWER

The Oklahoma rose was chosen as the official state flower of Oklahoma in 2004.

The Oklahoma rose is dark red. It is nearly the color of black velvet in warm weather.

Oklahoma roses are extremely fragrant. They have a wonderfully strong sweet old-rose scent.

The rose is also the national flower of the United States.



Oklahoma Rose

## CAREER CONNECTION

**A horticulturalist is a person who grows flowers, fruit, and vegetables as their job.**

**A florist is a person who sells and arranges plants and cut flowers.**

# OKLAHOMA STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

Oklahoma chose mistletoe as the official state floral emblem. It was adopted in 1893 as the official territorial flower. This was 14 years before statehood.

Mistletoe grows on trees throughout the state. It is common in the southern region of Oklahoma.

The early pioneers of Oklahoma had to work hard and persevere through many struggles. Mistletoe is a symbol of the early pioneers. The green mistletoe must struggle and persevere to survive during the harsh winter months. Mistletoe leaves, or foliage, are green. Its berries are white. Green and white are the state colors of Oklahoma.



Mistletoe

## DID YOU KNOW?

Mistletoe is the oldest of Oklahoma's symbols.

Scan this





## OKLAHOMA STATE WILDFLOWER



Indian Blanket

### DID YOU KNOW?

The flower's name came from the legend of an Indian blanket maker.

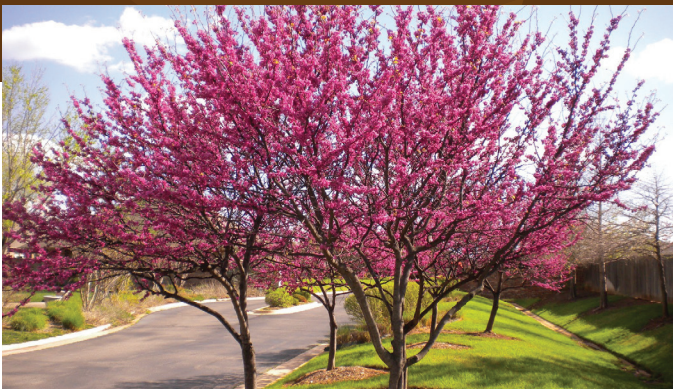
The Indian Blanket was adopted as Oklahoma's state wildflower on May 7, 1986.

The Indian Blanket is also called firewheel. It is a symbol of Oklahoma's scenic beauty and Indian heritage. The lovely red flowers with yellow tipped petals bloom along Oklahoma's roadsides from May to August. The Indian Blanket can be found in all 77 Oklahoma counties.

Scan this



## OKLAHOMA STATE TREE



Redbud

### DID YOU KNOW?

Redbud trees can reach between 20 and 30 feet in height.

Oklahoma named the redbud as the state tree in 1937. The redbud is a small tree with heart-shaped leaves. It has gorgeous reddish-pink blossoms that brighten the Oklahoma landscape in early spring.

The eastern redbud is native to North America. It grows across Oklahoma in valleys, ravines, and along creek beds.

Redbud tree flowers are edible. Some people use them in salads and baked goods.





The Survivor Tree is an American elm tree in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. The tree survived the April 19, 1995 bomb blast. It witnessed one of the worst terrorist attacks on American soil.

Before the bombing, the tree was important because it provided the only shade in the downtown parking lot. People would arrive early to work just to be able to park under the shade of the tree's branches. On April 19, 1995, the tree was almost chopped down in order to recover pieces of evidence that hung from its branches after a 4,000 pound bomb that killed 168 and injured hundreds exploded just yards away.

The Survivor Tree has been around since the early days of Oklahoma statehood. It has seen many changes. The Oklahoma City bombing was one of the hardest things it has gone through.

This simple urban tree that was often ignored is now an iconic symbol of hope.

\*Adapted from the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum website



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# CREATE YOUR OWN

Design and create a new state symbol

My new Oklahoma state symbol is \_\_\_\_\_

I chose this symbol because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_




My symbol has a connection to agriculture: YES NO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_





## SYMBOLS 3-2-1

Three facts I learned

		
---	---	---

Two questions I still have

	
--	--

One opinion I now have


---



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## FACT AND OPINION

**Label each statement fact or opinion. Change the opinions to facts.**

1. Buffalo meat is the best source of protein people can eat. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Native Americans used buffalo for meat, clothing, and medicine. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Rib eye steaks are Oklahoman's favorite steak. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Rib eye steaks are a good source of protein, iron, and zinc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Honeybees are needed for crop production. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Honey is the greatest way to sweeten food. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The song "Oklahoma!" is an easy song to learn. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The song lyrics in "Oklahoma!" mention many agricultural products. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Write a fact about your favorite symbol. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Write an opinion about your favorite symbol. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## SENTENCE OR FRAGMENT

Is it a sentence or a fragment? Write the numbers in the correct box. Then, rewrite each line to make a complete sentence with correct punctuation and capitalization.

Sentence	Fragment
_____	_____

1. milk builds strong bones \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. across the prairie, the buffalo \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. red port loam soil \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. croaked loudly on the beautiful summer night \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. appear in open country \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. the current Oklahoma flag has a blue background \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## TEXT A SUMMARY

After reading a section of Red Dirt Symbols, think what you would tell a friend about the passage. Summarize the article in a 2-3 sentence text message. Use the checklist as you write your summary.

### Summary Checklist

A summary should ...

- ☐ tell the main idea.
- ☐ be your own words.
- ☐ state facts, not your opinion.
- ☐ include key details.

### Extra Credit:



Draw two emojis for your summary!

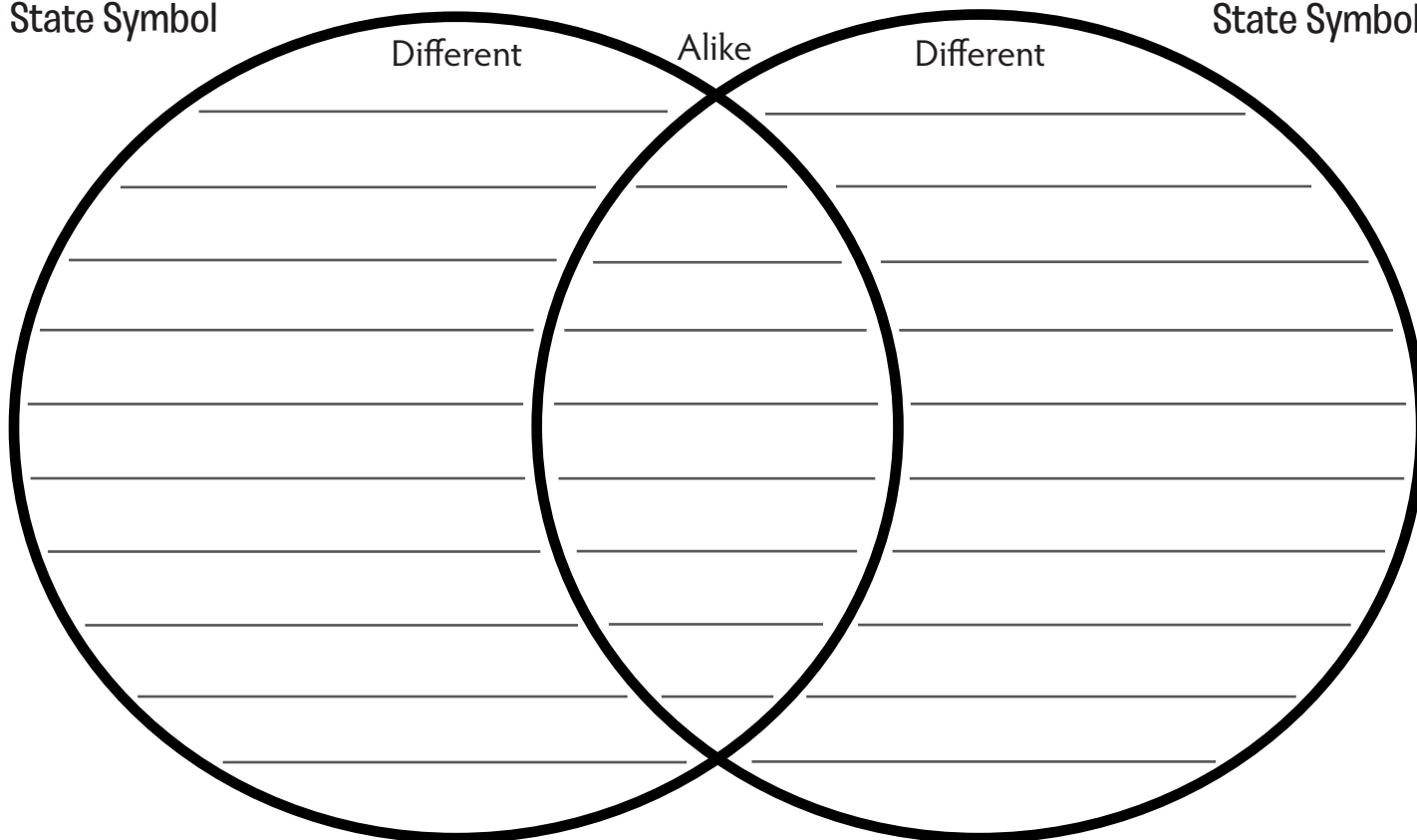
A stylized illustration of a smartphone. The screen displays a text input area with ten horizontal lines for writing. Below the screen is a virtual keyboard with keys for letters Q through P, A through L, Z through M, and symbols for arrow, smiley face, microphone, space, and return. A circular home button is located at the bottom of the phone.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# COMPARE AND CONTRAST

State Symbol



State Symbol

Write two paragraphs. In the first paragraph, tell how they are alike. In the second paragraph, tell how they are different. Give each paragraph a title.

_____
_____
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_____

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_____
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_____
_____



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## CHART IT!

Fill in the year each Oklahoma State Symbol was adopted. Circle Yes or No to answer if students were involved in the adoption process. Answer the questions under the chart.

State Symbol	Adoption Year	Students Involved in the Adoption Process	
Milk		Yes	No
Strawberry		Yes	No
Watermelon		Yes	No
Honeybee		Yes	No
Rib Eye		Yes	No
Port Silt Loam		Yes	No
Wild Turkey		Yes	No

1. List the Oklahoma state symbols adopted in the last ten years: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which is the oldest Oklahoma state symbol on the chart? Which is the most recent adoptee?

\_\_\_\_\_

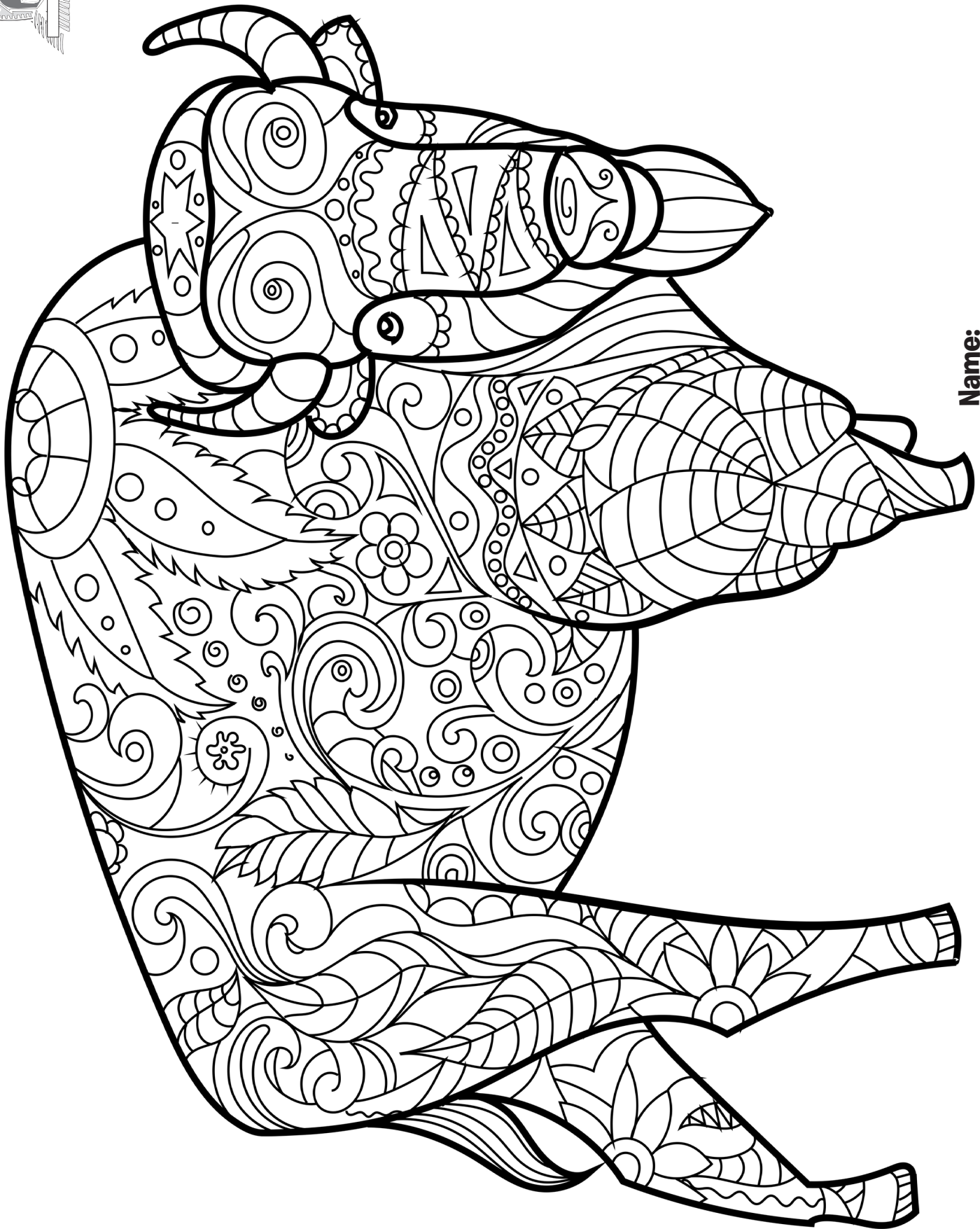
3. List the number of Oklahoma state symbols students have helped adopt. Then, list this number as a fraction of the list. \_\_\_\_\_

4. In which century were more state symbols adopted? The 20th (1900-1999) or 21st (2000-present).

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Watermelon is the state vegetable. What vegetable would you choose if you could change it?

\_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# OKLAHOMA STATE SONG



"Oklahoma!" (music by Richard Rogers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II) was adopted as the state song and anthem in 1953. The song was first performed in the Broadway Musical "Oklahoma!" in 1943.

Lyrics to "Oklahoma!"

Brand new state, Brand new state, gonna treat you great!

Gonna give you barley, carrots and pertaters,

Pasture fer the cattle, Spinach and Termayters!

Flowers on the prairie where the June bugs zoom,

Plen'y of air and plen'y of room,

Plen'y of room to swing a rope!

Plen'y of heart and plen'y of hope!

Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain,

And the wavin' wheat can sure smell sweet

When the wind comes right behind the rain.

Oklahoma, ev'ry night my honey lamb and I

Sit alone and talk and watch a hawk makin' lazy circles in the sky.

We know we belong to the land

And the land we belong to is grand!

And when we say - Yeeow A-yip-i-o-ee ay!

We're only sayin' You're doin' fine, Oklahoma! Oklahoma - O.K.

## FIND THE WORDS

Circle all the  
agriculture words in  
the song lyrics.



Scan this

## DID YOU KNOW?

When Governor George Nigh was a state representative, he was the main author of the legislation that named "Oklahoma!" the official state song.



# OKLAHOMA STATE MEAL

Oklahoma's official state meal became a reality when the 41st Legislature approved it in 1988. The meal includes many foods. It shows Oklahoma's cultural backgrounds. This meal honors the state's historical and modern agriculture. Most of the meal's 12 items can be found in small restaurants and cafes throughout the state.



Chicken Fried Steak



Fried Okra

Scan this



Squash



BBQ Pork



Black Eyed Peas

## DID YOU KNOW?

Louisiana is the only other state that has an official state meal.



Cornbread

A farmer is a person who grows plants and raises animals for human use. Some Oklahoma farmers grow crops like wheat, soybeans, and pecans. Oklahoma farmers also raise animals like cows, pigs, and chickens. Other farmers in Oklahoma grow fruits and vegetables. Sometimes farmers have a variety of crops and animals on their farm.

## CAREER CONNECTION

## CAREER CONNECTION

Scan this



A chef is a trained cook and works with food all day. The chef is in charge of everything about the food in a restaurant. He buys the food, creates recipes, and decides what food will be served. A chef is the director or head of the kitchen. Chefs manage other people who work in the kitchen.



## OKLAHOMA STATE ANIMAL

Oklahoma named the buffalo (American bison) as the official state animal in 1972.

Buffalo once roamed the American prairie by the tens of millions. Today, you can see buffalo in several places across Oklahoma, including the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Pawhuska.

The buffalo is an important part of Oklahoma's history. Native American tribes relied on buffalo for food, shelter, clothing, and as a powerful spiritual symbol.

There are several farms and ranches in Oklahoma that raise buffalo. Buffalo meat is a good source of protein.



Buffalo

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The American bison was named the official mammal of the United States in 2016.

## OKLAHOMA STATE GAME ANIMAL

Oklahoma chose the graceful white-tailed deer as the official state game animal in 1990.

Both Native Americans and settlers relied on the white-tailed deer for buckskin and food. White-tailed deer are animals of incredible beauty and power. The white-tailed deer is able to run up to 40 miles per hour, jump nine foot fences, and swim 13 miles per hour. The white underside of the deer's tail waves when it runs. Deer flash it as a warning when danger is sensed.

Deer meat is called venison. It is a great source of protein.



White-Tailed Deer

**CAREER  
CONNECTION**

A game warden's job is to enforce the fish and wildlife laws of the state. These laws make sure our state provides opportunities for people to hunt and fish for years to come.



## OKLAHOMA STATE BIRD



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The U.S. Mint's Oklahoma quarter features a scissor-tailed flycatcher to represent the state.

In Oklahoma, scissor-tails are seen in open prairies dotted with trees. Also, they are seen along tree-lined country roads. Scissor-tail flycatchers appear in open country around ranches and small towns. They perch on telephone lines, flagpoles, and fences.

Oklahoma selected the elegant scissor-tailed flycatcher as the official state bird in 1951. Oklahoma is the center of the nesting range of the scissor-tailed flycatcher.

Scissor-tailed flycatchers eat lots of insects that irritate cattle.

## OKLAHOMA STATE GAME BIRD



Wild Turkey

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Male turkeys are called "gobblers" because they make a gobble sound to attract females.

Oklahoma chose the wild turkey as the official state game bird in 1990.

The birds thrived in Oklahoma before statehood. As more people arrived, more birds vanished. Wild turkeys were almost hunted to extinction. The situation was severe. A decade after statehood, a law was passed to protect the wild turkeys.

Wild turkeys can now be found in every Oklahoma county due to conservation efforts.

Scan this



# OKLAHOMA STATE GRASS

Indiangrass is a North American prairie grass of central and eastern United States and Canada. It is mainly found in the Great Plains and tallgrass prairie regions.

Indiangrass is found in all 77 counties of Oklahoma. This grass typically grows 3-5 foot tall in upright clumps of slender, blue-green leaves. Its foliage turns orange-yellow in the fall.

Indiangrass is considered desirable and nutritious for livestock, both as food and for hay production.



Indiangrass

## DID YOU KNOW?

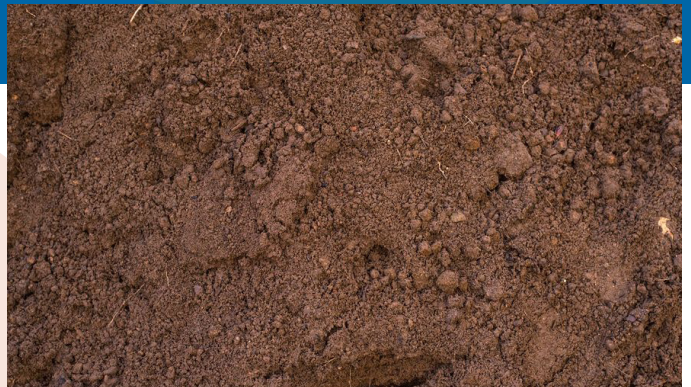
Oklahoma named Indiangrass as the official state grass in 1972.

# OKLAHOMA STATE SOIL

The Oklahoma state soil is Port Silt Loam, and it was adopted on April 1, 1987. Port Silt Loam can be found in 33 of the 77 Oklahoma counties. The state soil covers around one million acres in central and southwestern Oklahoma.

Soil is one of our most valuable natural resources. We get our food, much of our clothing, and shelter from plants growing in our soil.

Port Silt Loam is good for crops including alfalfa, small grains, sorghum, and cotton. It is usually reddish in color. It can range from dark brown to dark reddish brown.



Port Silt Loam

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 2,500 different kinds of soil in Oklahoma.



## OKLAHOMA STATE ROCK



Rose Rock

**Geologists study rocks in the environment. They also study rock formations and how they are created.**

### CAREER CONNECTION

Oklahoma named the rose rock as the official state rock in 1968. Rose rocks are only found in a few rare places around the world.

These rocks were formed by barite rock crystals and resemble blooming roses. Barite rose rocks can be found in clusters with only two roses or as many as hundreds of roses.

An old Cherokee legend says the rocks represent the blood of the braves and the tears of the maidens who made the devastating "Trail of Tears" journey to Oklahoma.

## OKLAHOMA STATE CRYSTAL



Hourglass Selenite

### DID YOU KNOW?

Iron oxide in the soil gives hourglass crystals their brown color.

Oklahoma named the unique hourglass selenite crystal as the official state crystal in 2005. Elementary school students from Bryant and Red Oak School worked with the state legislature to make this happen.

Hourglass selenite crystals are found only on the salt plains of Oklahoma. This 11,000 acres has a special geology. On the salt plains, sand and clay particles often form an "hourglass" shape inside the crystal. Crystals measuring up to 7 inches long have been found.

Salt has been used for centuries to preserve food. Salt dries out the food and makes it last longer.



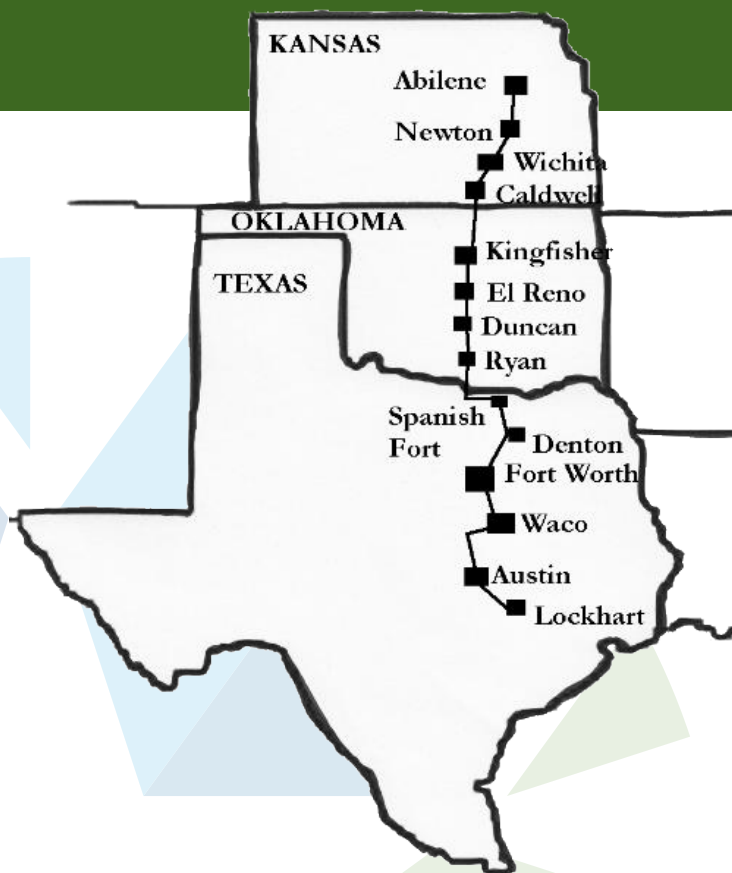
# OKLAHOMA

## CHISHOLM TRAIL

The Chisholm Trail is named for Jesse Chisholm. He built many trading posts. He had one trading post along the Red River and another one near Kansas City. Cowboys drove cattle from Texas ranches to Kansas railroads. The cattle were loaded on railroad cars and shipped east to feed Americans. More than 5 million cattle made the trip along the Chisholm Trail.



Scan this



# OKLAHOMA

## DUST BOWL

The Dust Bowl is what we call the drought and dust storms that happened during the 1930s. The Dust Bowl covered 100 million acres in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles, southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico and southwestern Kansas.

The severe drought and enormous dust storms damaged the plants and agriculture of the Great Plains area. The panhandle of Oklahoma and southwest Kansas had the worst damage. Many people moved from Oklahoma and the other plains states to California during this time because it was difficult to grow crops and make a living.



### DID YOU KNOW?

A drought is when an area gets less rainfall, or precipitation, than normal.

# NOTABLE OKLAHOMANS CONNECTED TO AGRICULTURE



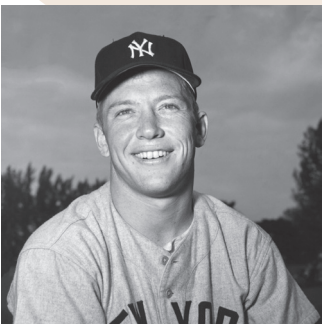
Will Rogers

Will Rogers was born in Indian Territory on November 4, 1879 near present day Oologah, Oklahoma. He came from a wealthy family and had Cherokee ancestors. Will was naturally curious and intelligent, but he didn't like school. He loved being a cowboy. Will learned cowboy skills from the ranch hands on his father's ranch. He became a trick roper, actor, and writer later in life. Will is often called Oklahoma's Favorite Son.



Jim Thorpe

Jim Thorpe won gold medals at the 1912 Olympics. Jim was good at many sports. He won gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon. He also played football. Jim was the first Native American to win a gold medal for the United States. Jim had a home in Yale, Oklahoma and belonged to the Sac and Fox tribe. He is considered one of the best athletes of the 20th century.



Mickey Mantle

Mickey Mantle was one of America's best baseball players. He played his entire Major League Baseball career with the New York Yankees from 1951-1968. He is known as the greatest switch hitter in baseball history. This means he could bat left-handed and right handed. Mickey was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974. He grew up in Commerce, Oklahoma.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Athletes depend on agriculture, too. Footballs, basketballs, baseballs, wooden bats, and leather gloves are all made from agricultural products.



Bill Pickett

Bill Pickett, an Oklahoma cowboy, was known as "the best bulldogger in the world." His family had a long history of cowboy ways. One day in 1881, Bill watched a bulldog bite a cow on its upper lip—and hang on! The cow stood still until the dog let go. Later, Bill decided to try the dog's trick to wrestle a cow. He grabbed the cow's ears and bit down on her upper lip. With an easy flip, Bill threw the animal to the ground. He held on with his teeth. The trick came to be known as "bulldogging". Cowboys used it as a way to get cattle to the ground for branding. There is a stamp to honor the African-American cowboy, Bill Pickett.

# OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG

Oklahoma's first flag was adopted in 1911, four years after statehood. The flag featured a large white star outlined in blue on a red field. The number 46 was written inside the star because Oklahoma was the forty-sixth state to join the Union.



1911

A contest was held in 1924 to replace the original red flag. The winning entry by Louise Fluke did not include the word Oklahoma. The flag Louise designed was adopted as the state flag on April 2, 1925. The word Oklahoma was added in 1941.

Oklahoma's state flag has a traditional Osage Nation buffalo-skin shield with seven eagle feathers on a Choctaw sky blue field.

Which flag do you think best represents Oklahoma? Why?

## OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG SALUTE

### DID YOU KNOW?

The state legislature  
adopted the salute to  
the flag in 1982.



1941

Scan this



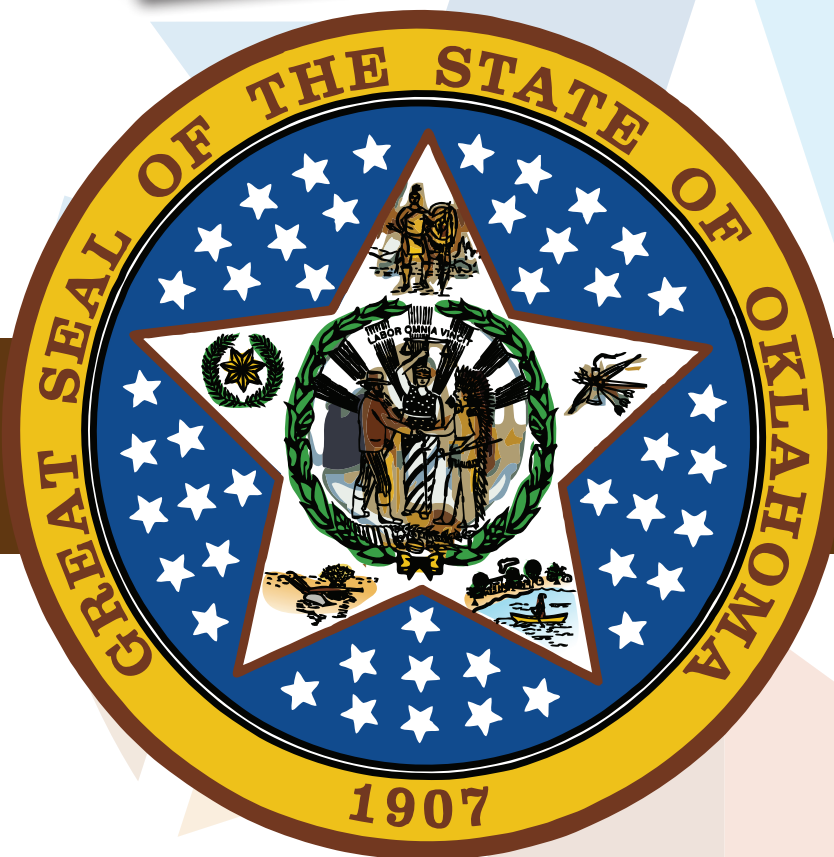
**"I salute the flag of the state of Oklahoma.  
Its symbols of peace unite all people."**



# OKLAHOMA STATE SEAL

## DID YOU KNOW?

The large star represents Oklahoma. The 45 smaller stars represent the 45 states that were in the United States before Oklahoma.



## DID YOU KNOW?

A motto is a phrase used to describe the meaning or what an organization is all about.

Sequoyah was the man who invented the Cherokee syllabary, a way of writing. Indian Territory wanted to join the United States under the name Sequoyah.

The seal was adopted in 1905 by the proposed state of Sequoyah.

The five rays of the star hold the seals of the Five Civilized Tribes- Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole. All of these tribes have a major presence in the state.

## OKLAHOMA STATE MOTTO

Labor omnia vincit is a Latin phrase meaning "Labor conquers all things". It is the state motto of Oklahoma. This phrase was added to the state seal in 1907.

The Latin phrase dates back over 2,000 years to the writing of a Roman poet named Virgil.

The phrase labor omnis vicit is found in the poem, Georgics. This poem was written to encourage more Romans to take up farming.

## OKLAHOMA STATE NICKNAME

The unassigned lands of Oklahoma Territory were opened to settler claims on April 22, 1889 in the Oklahoma Land Run. Thousands of people were in line on the border waiting for a signal to claim a stake of land. Some people went in early and became known as "sooners."

The early legal settlers of Oklahoma Territory had a low opinion of sooners. By the 1920s the term sooners was no longer negative. Oklahomans adopted the nickname as a badge of pride.



The Sooner State

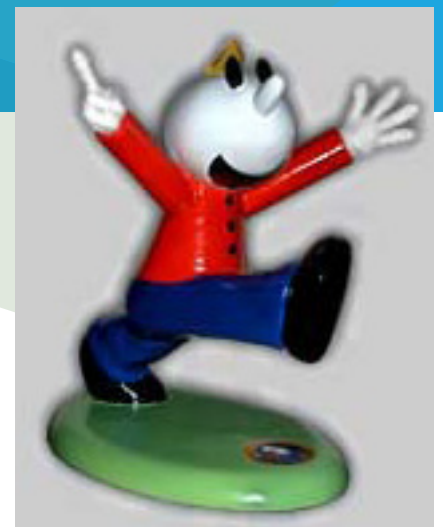
### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1908, the University of Oklahoma adopted the name Sooners for its football team.

## OKLAHOMA STATE CARTOON CHARACTER

Oklahoma named Gusty® as the official state cartoon character in 2005. Gusty is the first cartoon symbol for any state.

Don Woods created a cartoon character in 1954 to be used on his TV weather show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Gusty was a way to illustrate the weather forecast. Sometimes Don drew Gusty enjoying the warm sunshine. Other times Gusty was diving for cover in a "fraidy hole" during a tornado. Today, Gusty is famous. Gusty is in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. and the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Gusty

### DID YOU KNOW?

Gusty was normally drawn on live TV and became an evening ritual for many Tulsa-area families.

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