

# OKLAHOMA HISTORY TOUR – TEACHER GUIDE



## DESCRIPTION

Journey through time with Native cultures, cattle ranching, the oil boom and statehood. Discover the people and events that shaped Oklahoma's unique history and how they affect us today.

## THEMATIC CONCEPTS

### Physical landscapes, transformative industries, and resilient people define Oklahoma.

- Oklahoma is home to Indigenous Nations whose people and cultures formed our identity.
- The military's presence, from frontier outposts to modern installations, served in the development of many communities.
- Waves of migrants sought the promise of economic opportunity and marked the beginning of Oklahoma's formation as a state.

## OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2025-2026]

### OK History and Government

**Practice Standard 8.2.3** Demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and the use of geographic tools to understand the impact of geography on the past and present.

- A.** Answer geographic questions and conduct investigations by acquiring, organizing, and interpreting information about the modern world and historical events.
- C.** Explain how the environment affects cultural patterns and historical events, providing opportunities and challenges for human development.

**Practice Standard 8.2.2** Develop skills which demonstrate an understanding of historical events and the people who shaped our history.

- B.** Describe multiple factors and explain how they can influence the perspectives of individuals and groups on events from history and the modern era.
- C.** Distinguish multiple causation, including immediate versus long-term cause-effect relationships...

**Practice Standard 8.3.1** Comprehend, evaluate, and synthesize textual sources to acquire and refine knowledge in the social studies.

- A.** Paraphrase the main idea and cite evidence from primary and secondary sources; provide an accurate summary of a source distinct from prior knowledge or opinion.
- B.** Integrate the use of visual information (e.g., maps, charts, photographs, videos, political cartoons, artwork) with textual information from primary and secondary sources to draw conclusions.

**OKH.1.1** Describe the various physical features of Oklahoma and how the environment, ecological regions, and natural resources can affect human activity...

**OKH 1.3** Describe the region as home to well-developed and complex pre-contact societies...

**OKH.1.5** Compare the goals and significance of early European interactions with Native cultures, such as the benefits of trade, the impact of disease, the transformation of Native life brought about by the arrival of the horse, and new technologies.

**OKH.2.1** Analyze the role of early trade centers and transportation to the development and growth of the region, by describing the:

- B.** major trading and peacekeeping goals of military posts.

**OKH.2.2** Analyze the consequences of removal of American Indians to present-day Oklahoma.

B. Summarize and describe the process of forced removal and experiences of southeastern Tribes from their homelands and the establishment of Indian Territory.

**OKH.3.1** Examine the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction Treaties on American Indian peoples, territories, and Tribal sovereignty.

C. Summarize the intent of President Grant's Peace Policy on the displacement of American Indians from their homelands.

E. Examine the purpose for western military posts, such as Fort Sill, and the role of military regiments, such as the Buffalo Soldiers, in implementing Indian policy during the Plains Wars.

**OKH.3.2** Evaluate the lasting effect of early industries on economic growth.

B. Explain the necessity of cattle trails and factors contributing to the cattle industry becoming vital to the economy of the state, including the associated development of railroad lines and major transportation routes.

C. Examine the origins and changing perceptions of the American cowboy culture (e.g., dime novels, artwork, motion pictures) versus the reality of the profession and today's image of the West.

**OKH.3.3** Analyze the influence of the idea of Manifest Destiny on migrations into present-day Oklahoma.

A. Explain opportunities provided by the Homestead Act of 1862 and its impact on mass migration to the region.

D. Describe the establishment of all-Black towns and the extent to which they provided economic opportunities, political independence, and escape from discrimination.

**OKH. 4.2** Examine the continued migration of African Americans to the region and describe the outcome of a proposed all-Black state, as advocated by Edward McCabe.

**OKH.6.1** Examine how the oil industry affected major sectors of employment and the development of communities, including the role of entrepreneurs...

**OKH.6.2** Examine government policies impacting American Indian identity, culture, economy, Tribal government, and sovereignty.

**OKH. 8.2** Analyze the impact of growth in various sectors of the state economy.

**OKH.8.3** Analyze the evolving relationship between the state and Oklahoma's thirty-nine Tribal governments.

F. Explain the importance of Tribal efforts to preserve Native history, cultures and languages...

**OKH.8.6** Examine recent contributions by Oklahomans to the public's quality of life.

A. Describe migrations of recent cultural and ethnic groups to Oklahoma and their impact on the social and economic transformation of the modern state.

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## KEY WORDS AND TERMS

**Boomtown** – A town of rapid growth and prosperity due to sudden economic opportunities.

**Buffalo Soldiers** – African American soldiers who served in the U.S. Army after the Civil War, primarily on the Western frontier.

**Columbian Exchange** – The exchange of plants, animals, diseases and populations between the Americas, Europe and Africa following Christopher Columbus's voyage.

**Cultural Diffusion** – The spreading of culture, culture traits or a cultural pattern from a central point.

**Freedmen** – People who were freed from slavery, usually through legal means, emancipation or passage of the 13th Amendment.

**Frontier** – The area of wilderness beyond settled territory.

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**Grant's Peace Policy** – President Grant's failed initiative to improve relations with Indigenous Nations by encouraging assimilation through reservation life, education and religious guidance.

**Homestead Act of 1862** – A congressional act which promoted the claim and settlement of 160 acres of public land in exchange for living on the land, improving it and paying a registration fee.

**Indian Territory** – A region designated by the U.S. government in the 19th century where Native American tribes were relocated.

**Indigenous** – A word referring to the first people to exist in a land from the earliest times, even before the arrival of colonists.

**Industrialization** – The process of transforming a nation's economy from agriculture to a reliance on manufacturing.

**Oklahoma Territory** – An area established in 1890 from the western part of Indian Territory and later merged with Indian Territory to form the state of Oklahoma in 1907.

**Wildcatter** – A prospector that drills exploratory wells in the hope of finding oil.

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**MUSEUM  
GALLERIES**

**Native American Gallery**

**Joe Grande Museum of the Frontier West**

**Prosperity Junction**

*Tour may be modified to accommodate group size, time constraints, and/or gallery availability.*

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