

# OKLAHOMA!

## Land of

# Opportunity



Chapter 12:  
Creating the 46th State  
**STUDY PRESENTATION**





**Section 1: Growth in the Territories**  
**Section 2: Statehood**

# Section 1: Growth in the Territories

## ➤ Essential Question:

- What types of growth were experienced in Oklahoma Territory at the turn of the century?



# Section 1: Growth in the Territories

- What terms do I need to know?
- interurban
  - boll weevil
  - subscription school



# Railroad Power

- Railroads helped to speed movement of settlers to Oklahoma
- By late 1800s, it was a leading industry in the U.S.



# Railroad Power: Importance of Railroads

- Coal, asphalt, and timber were exported, but people and their belongings were imported to OK
- Railroads in a town were good for its economy – could mean a town would boom (El Reno) or go bust (Reno City)
- Government town planners and railroad town planners sometimes planned for settlements in different places; results could be frustrated and angry citizens who could not get the rail service they wanted



# Railroad Power: Growing Towns

- Oklahoma City was crossed by four railroads by 1897
- The freight yards at Bricktown were center of local exports (cattle, cotton, horses, wheat, corn, etc.)
- Inbound trains were filled with hardware, machines, and farm equipment
- Shawnee was another big rail center – served as repair center for Rock Island Railroad – grand depot built here for Santa Fe Railroad
- Tulsa paid \$12,000 to get The Katy to stop there
- interurbans: short train routes within a town (trolleys) started in Oklahoma City (1902)



# Agriculture

- Farmers' success depended on rainfall
- Sorghum planted often by first settlers – good for livestock feed and sorghum molasses (sweetener)
- Cotton, oats, maize and broomcorn could grow in drier climate
- Cotton grew well, but required labor to keep down weeds, to pull bolls, bag and haul to cotton gin to remove seeds from inside the cotton boll
- boll weevil: insect that damaged many farmers' cotton crops until a method was found to kill it
- Russian immigrants brought wheat seeds that grew well in territories; invention of machinery for wheat farming improved production





# Education

- Schools were important for education and as center of community life
- subscription schools: parents paid \$1- \$2/month fee per student
- 1890 Organic Act established schools that were free
- J.H. Lawhead was first territorial superintendent
- 1897: mixed race schools declared unlawful
- Black students rarely had the chance to go to school after 8<sup>th</sup> grade



# Mining

- Salt, coal, lead and zinc were important industries
- “Tri-State” or “Joplin” region was rich in lead
- 1913: largest lead deposits found in Picher
- 1926: Ottawa County was the world’s largest supplier of lead and zinc
- Gypsum found in Blaine County
- 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair: chance to demonstrate the quality and usefulness of gypsum
- 1890s gold rush was brief – geologists determined that the ore quality was not good



# Section 2: Statehood

## ➤ Essential Question:

- What factors led to the statehood of Oklahoma?



# Section 2: Statehood

- What terms do I need to know?
  - Enabling Act
  - progressive movement
  - referendum
  - governor
  - bicameral
  - amendment
  - initiative
  - suffrage
  - prohibition
  - Jim Crow laws
  - charter



# Introduction



# The State of Sequoyah

- 1905: Five Tribes called for a constitutional convention to create state of Sequoyah
- Creek leader Pleasant Porter presided
- William Wirt Hastings chaired committee to draft the constitution
- Had bill of rights, three branches of government with system of checks and balances similar to U.S. government model
- Delegates approved the constitution and sent it to Congress
- Issue was tabled in favor of discussion of unification



# The Enabling Act

- Enabling Act, or Hamilton Statehood Bill (1906): provided for joining the twin territories
- Required people to organized a government similar to other states
- Constitution had to: forbid liquor in Indian Territory and Osage Nation; establish religious freedom; prohibit polygamy; guarantee all races the right to vote; establish free public schools
- Guthrie to remain capital until 1913
- 112 delegates met on November 6, 1906 – no women or blacks
- 77 counties were organized



# Writing the Constitution

- Progressive Movement was popular – believed that government could best solve the problems in society
- They wanted to break up and/or regulate large businesses such as railroads
- They supported an income tax and a greater amount of say in government by the people





# Writing the Constitution: State Government

- Three branches of government set up with system of checks and balances
- Most state officials were elected by the people, including the governor
- Two house (bicameral) legislature
- Planned for legislature to have more power than the governor who could serve for only one four-year term
- initiative: citizens could propose a law or constitutional amendment



# Writing the Constitution: Labor Rights

- Labor and Arbitration Committee: wrote laws to shorten the workday to eight hours in mines and public works projects
- Convict labor was prohibited
- Children under 15 could not be employed in hazardous work
- Boys had to be 16 to work in mines
- Children 8-16 years old were required to attend school



# Writing the Constitution: Education

➤ (with previous, needs to be divided)



# Writing the Constitution: Suffrage

- suffrage: the right to vote
- Statehood was discussed at same time that Women's Suffrage Movement was active
- Southern Democrats did not want women to have the right to vote because they thought it would encourage more black voters
- Paupers, felons, women, and the mentally incapable were not allowed to vote



# Writing the Constitution: Prohibition

- Alcohol was legal in Oklahoma Territory but not in Indian Territory
- Many disagreed with the laws on both sides
- Women's Christian Temperance Movement (WCTM) was powerful force at the time; wanted to outlaw alcohol use
- Carrie Nation led prohibition campaign in Kansas and Oklahoma; tore down saloons, broke mirrors, and smashed liquor bottles
- Many European immigrants wanted to keep alcohol legal since its use was a part of their culture
- Constitutional Convention decided to leave the issue to a vote by the people



# Writing the Constitution: Rights for Blacks

- African Americans wanted to escape Jim Crow laws (these limited rights of blacks)
- Some delegates at the convention wanted to add Jim Crow provisions on segregation to the constitution; tabled the matter until statehood
- All corporations had to be chartered by the state
- They could not influence political campaigns or own stock in competing firms
- Records were subject to state inspection
- Large businesses were to be regulated by an elected corporation commission



# Writing the Constitution: Business Issues

➤ (with previous, needs to be divided)



# Writing the Constitution: Ratification

- Very long constitution was completed after several months; considered very “progressive” but later criticized for being inflexible
- Accepted by popular vote on September 17, 1907
- Charles N. Haskell (Democrat) was elected governor
- The prohibition amendment passed
- Five congressional representatives were elected, but could not elect senators until statehood and the meeting of the legislature





# Statehood Proclaimed

- November 16, 1907: President Theodore Roosevelt signed statehood proclamation
- Great celebrations began in Guthrie and Haskell was sworn in as governor
- Symbolic marriage of “Mr. Oklahoma Territory” to “Miss Indian Territory”
- 46<sup>th</sup> state
- Population: 1,414,177
- Many Indians felt betrayed





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