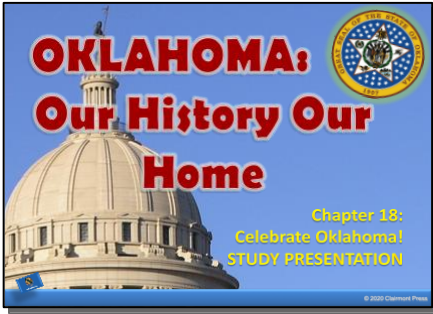




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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes



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**Section 1: Kaleidoscope of Events**

➤ Essential Question:

- What do Oklahoman's celebrations and events reveal about its culture?

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**Section 1: Kaleidoscope of Events**

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- culture
- diversity
- rodeo
- powwow

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**Introduction**

➤ Culture is the way of life of a group of people.

➤ Native Americans were joined by European Americans, African Americans, people from Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America to form a unique blend of cultures in Oklahoma.



Will Rogers represents one part of Oklahoma's culture.

➤ There are diverse ideas, customs, skills, arts, foods, and beliefs in the state.

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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

### Rodeos & Music

- Rodeos are held in virtually every part of the state.
- They evolved from informal contests held by American cowboys and include roping, horse braking, riding, herding, and branding.
- Music is common to cultures worldwide. In Oklahoma's festivals, one will find bluegrass, western swing, jazz, folk, country, pop, and others plus fiddlers and square dancers.
- Various festivals are held each year.

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### Native American Heritage

- Celebrations are held by Native Americans throughout the year and are known as powwows. Famous powwows include:
  - Gourd Clan Powwow
  - Tinker Inter-Tribal Powwow
- Other events include:
  - The Choctaw Storytelling Festival
  - American Indian Exposition
  - Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival
  - Celebration of the Muscogee Creek Nation
  - The "Trail of Tears Drama"

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### Battle Sites

- Oklahoma was the site of several Civil War battles.
- Reenactments of life in those times can be seen at the Battle of Honey Springs every three years marking the Union Army victory July 17, 1863.




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### The Frontier Era

- There are many places to enjoy and learn about the pre-1840s life of mountain men, trappers, and craftsmen in Oklahoma.
- Tombstone Tales is an historical portrayal of those buried at Fort Reno Post Cemetery.
- Blacksmithing demos can be found at Pawnee Bill Ranch.

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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

### Harvest Celebrations

- When a ripened crop is gathered from the field, farmers like to celebrate!
- Oklahoma's agriculture heritage is celebrated around the state. Some festivals include AgriFest, the Oldies Club Tractor & Vehicle Show, the Great Plains Antique Tractor Show, the National John Deer Two-Cylinder Show, and the Billings Wheat Country Festival.
- Community fairs are popular, too.

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### Trails and Rails

- You can learn about the history of travel by rail and trail in Oklahoma in several places.
- The Chisholm, Great Western, and Santa Fe Trails are celebrated with museums and festivals.
- Railroads are celebrated at the Santa Fe Depot and with Railroad Day in Muskogee.
- Many towns celebrate Route 66 which stretched across the U.S.
- Aircraft are featured at the Will Rogers Fly-In and Oklahoma Museum of Flying.

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### Flora and Fauna

- There are special yearly events to observe the abundance of state wildlife. Among them are the following:
  - Bat watches: Boiling Springs State Park, Freedom, & Jet
  - Annual "Fangastic" Rattlesnake Hunt
  - Rose Rock Festival at Noble
  - Azalea Festival
  - Iris Festival
  - Dogwood Days Festival
  - Tulips A Bloom Festival
  - The Magnolia Festival
  - The Canna Festival
  - The Birding and Crystal Festival
  - Sand Fest
  - Sand Drag Racing at Little Sahara State Park



Magnolias are celebrated at Durant's Magnolia Festival.

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### Other Celebrations

- Many colorful cultures are spotlighted in festivals throughout the state.
- Germanfests feature schnitzel sandwiches, bratwurst, sauerkraut, and apple strudel.
- There is the Scottish Games and Gathering in Tulsa, with Celtic crafts, pipe and drum competitions.
- Also there is the Irish Arts Oklahoma Feis, Italian Festival, Cimarron Territory Celebration, and Cherokee Strip Celebration.

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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

**Section 2: Museums and Historic Sites**

➤ Essential Question:

- How do Oklahomans commemorate their famous people and the frontier era?

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**Prehistory**

- The [Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History](#) depicts Oklahoma some 300 million years ago.
- There are also Caddo and Choctaw artifacts.
- The Spiro Mounds Archaeological State Park (LeFlore County) and Kenton Mercantile or Cimarron Heritage Center (Boise City) have much on the prehistory of the region.
- The [Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art](#) is one of the oldest museums in the state.

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**Native American**

- Native American sites include:
  - Cherokee Heritage Center
  - Tsa-La-Gi Ancient Village
  - Indian City U.S.A.
  - Five Civilized Tribes Museum
  - Ataloa Lodge Museum
  - Seminole Nation Museum
  - Bigheart Museum
  - American Indian Cultural Center

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**Frontier Era**

- The frontier era was a time of multi-ethnic history and heritage and an important era of commercial history.
- Learn about life in a frontier fort during the mid-1800s at the [Fort Towson Historic Site](#).
- The [Doaksville Site](#) is the former Choctaw Nation capital.
- Also of interest is Fort Gibson and the Fort Sill Museum.

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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

### Traveling

- It can be fun to follow an historic trail or road. Several Chisholm Trail museums exhibit this important route.
- The Oklahoma Territorial Museum documents the land rush of the late 1800s.
- Railroad museums are at Hominy, Checotah, and other former station sites.




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### African Americans

- African Americans searched for new beginnings in Oklahoma.
- More all-black communities were in OK than anywhere in the country.
- Boley was one of 27 all black towns. Its historic district was founded as a camp for black railroad workers.
- The Farmers & Merchants Bank (now closed) was the site of an attempted robbery by gangster Pretty Boy Floyd.




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### Famous Oklahomans

- Several Oklahomans have gained national fame and are honored in the state. Following are a few of those special locations.
  - Will Rogers Memorial
  - Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum
  - Tom Mix Museum
  - Henry & Shirley Bellmon Library
  - Governor Seay Mansion
  - T.B. Ferguson House of Watonga
  - The Peter Conser House
  - Sequoyah's Cabin
  - Jim Thorpe House at Yale
  - The White Hair Memorial
  - Augusta Metcalfe Museum




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### Urban Regions

- Oklahoma's large cities have monuments to our state's culture.
- Tulsa:
  - Philbrook Museum of Art
  - The Gilcrease Museum
  - Collection of American Indian and western art
  - The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame
  - The Geoscience Center Oklahoma City Museums
- Oklahoma City:
  - National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
  - The Harn Homestead
  - The Omniplex Arts and Science Museum
  - The Red Earth Indian Center
  - International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum
  - The State Capitol
  - The Oklahoma City Museum of Art
  - The Firefighters Museum
  - The Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum




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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

**Other Museums**

➤ Other museums in the state include:

- "The Little Smithsonian": the Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve
- Nellie Johnstone #1 (replica of state's 1<sup>st</sup> commercial oil well)
- Main Street Oil Well
- Pitcher's Mining Field Museum
- Coal County Historical and Mining Museum
- Hajek Motorsports Museum: vintage dragsters
- High Car Museum of Ponca City
- Darryl Starbird's National Rod & Custom Car Hall of Fame
- Mickey Mantle Exhibit in Grove
- Oklahoma Sports Museum
- The National Softball Hall of Fame Museum

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**Section 3: Ethnic Groups**

➤ Essential Question:

- How have various ethnic groups affected the development and lifestyle of Oklahoma?

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**Section 3: Ethnic Groups**

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- ethnic groups

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**Native Americans**

➤ The name Oklahoma is derived from two Choctaw words:

- okla – red
- humma – people
- Combined means "red people"

➤ Oklahoma is home to the headquarters of thirty-nine different tribes and nations.

➤ Descendants of the original 67 Native American tribes still reside in Oklahoma.

➤ Oklahoma has the second largest American Indian population in the US (behind California).

➤ The earliest tribes were the Wichita, Comanche, Plains Apache, and Quapaw.

➤ New tribes were added through forced relocation of hundreds of American Indians.

➤ Most retained their basic values.

➤ Festivals, museums, and cultural centers retain Indian heritage for younger generations.

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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

### African Americans

- > African-Americans arrived with early explorers.
- > Others came as slaves to Indian plantation owners.
- > Some black troops saw action during the United States Civil War and were later known as the "buffalo soldiers."
- > An estimated 7,000 blacks came to Indian Territory after the Civil War on a promise of a "black paradise."
- > They came as settlers, farmers, workers, cowboys, and gunfighters.
- > They built 27 all-black towns in Oklahoma; some towns no longer exist.



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### British and Irish

- > Europeans were in America before white settlement in Oklahoma.
- > Inter-marriage between Europeans and Indians followed (including English, Scottish, Welsh, & Irish).
- > Most came as settlers, traders, and trappers
- > After the Civil War, Scottish cattlemen leased Indian grassland.
- > Irish laborers helped build railroads or worked coal mines.
- > British and Irish settlers helped establish a coal industry in southeastern Oklahoma.
- > By 1900, over 4,000 English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh were in the state.
- > The British and Irish settlers settled in rural areas but moved over time to urban areas.



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### Italians

- > Italians first came to work in coal mines in 1875; some farmed in the Fort Cobb area.
- > Large group of Italians immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s.
- > By 1910, over 2,500 lived in Oklahoma (85 % in coal-mining towns in southeastern Oklahoma).
- > Others established grocery and dry goods stores, blacksmith shops, and restaurants.
- > Pete Prichard established "Pete's Place."



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### Germans and Germans from Russia

- > The largest number of foreign-born immigrants in Oklahoma was German in language and culture. Most were German but some were Swiss or Austrian.
- > One in eight Oklahomans claim German ancestry (more than any other ethnicity).
- > Cheap land appealed to many Germans already in United States.
- > Land runs, lotteries, and allotments attracted thousands of Germans, including Germans from Russia.
- > Most were farmers and were largely responsible for bringing wheat to the new land.
- > Other Germans were shoe cobblers, cabinetmakers, butchers, bakers, watchmakers, and blacksmiths.
- > They were known for their work ethic.



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# Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

## Chapter 18: Celebrate Oklahoma! QuickNotes

### Czechoslovakians

- Czech families were successful at farming which was a family affair.
- Czechoslovakians immigrated to America to preserve their culture which was being threatened in their home country.
- Polka music and good food continue to be part of Czech culture.

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### Hispanics

- Hispanics now rank as one of the fastest-growing groups in Oklahoma. Early Indian raids brought some Mexicans as captives in the 1800s.
- Poor conditions in Mexico caused many Hispanics to emigrate after statehood for better opportunities.
- Early Hispanics worked as laborers in coal mines, railroads, and on farms and ranches.
- Hispanic family ties retain strong generational bonds.
- Spanish is still spoken in some households with English as the main or only language in others.
- Traditional Mexican food is a part of many religious celebrations and colorful fiestas for special days.

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### Asians and Pacific Islanders

- Chinese immigrants came in the late 1800s and others in Oklahoma by the time of statehood.
- After the Vietnam War departure of Vietnamese from their country (sponsored by groups across the United States) brought many to Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma City has a growing Asian District with businesses and shops.

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