



Plan a Pioneer Day at Your School

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



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Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
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There are many steps involved in producing a Pioneer Day at your school. The following are suggestions, activities, and links to resources for you to adapt for your classroom.

PREPARE your students with these primary lesson plans and activities about pioneer life. Students should understand who pioneers were, what regions of the country and the world they came from, and what motivated them to move west. They should understand how western expansion and ideas of manifest destiny led to issues like the nullification of treaties with American Indian nations in Oklahoma and the creation of All-Black towns by Freedmen and African Americans who participated in the land runs.

[Learning about the Land Run and Pioneer Life through Primary Sources](#)

[*The Opening of Oklahoma* e-exhibit](#)

[*A Fluid Frontier: Minority and Ethnic Groups and Opportunity in Oklahoma* e-exhibit](#)

[*American Indians in Oklahoma* e-exhibit](#)

[How the West was Settled](#)

PLAY pioneer games like marbles, primer book lessons, spelling bees, sack races, tug-of-war, and three-legged races. You can also create classroom-friendly versions of games like Pack Your Wagon or your own version of Oregon Trail!

MAKE traditional turn-of-the-century crafts like corn husk dolls and yarn dolls for younger students, or simple quilting, embroidery, or cross-stitch projects for older students.

EAT pioneer staples local to your area and have students learn about how food was grown and processed. Students can make butter, can vegetables, shell peas, or shuck corn.

RESERVE a free hands-on history traveling trunk from the Oklahoma History Center, full of historical items, clothing, books, and curricula.

[Pioneer Life traveling trunk](#)

[One-Room School House traveling trunk](#)

[Okietales Pioneer Life \(Pre-K through 3rd grade\) traveling trunk](#)

EXPERIENCE live demonstrations from museum educators, community guests, and experts. Students can learn about traditional crafts like soap making, spinning, quilting, and weaving through hands-on presentations. The Oklahoma History Center also offers Pioneer Woman, Cowboy/Pioneer, and Cattle Driver living history presentations at your school!

REACH OUT to tribal nations in your area for resources about the history of your city or county before it was your city or county, and how the land runs affected American Indians (see Resource I.)

READ primary-source books for kids like *Pioneers to the West: Children's True Stories of Migration* by John Bliss or the autobiographical novel *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

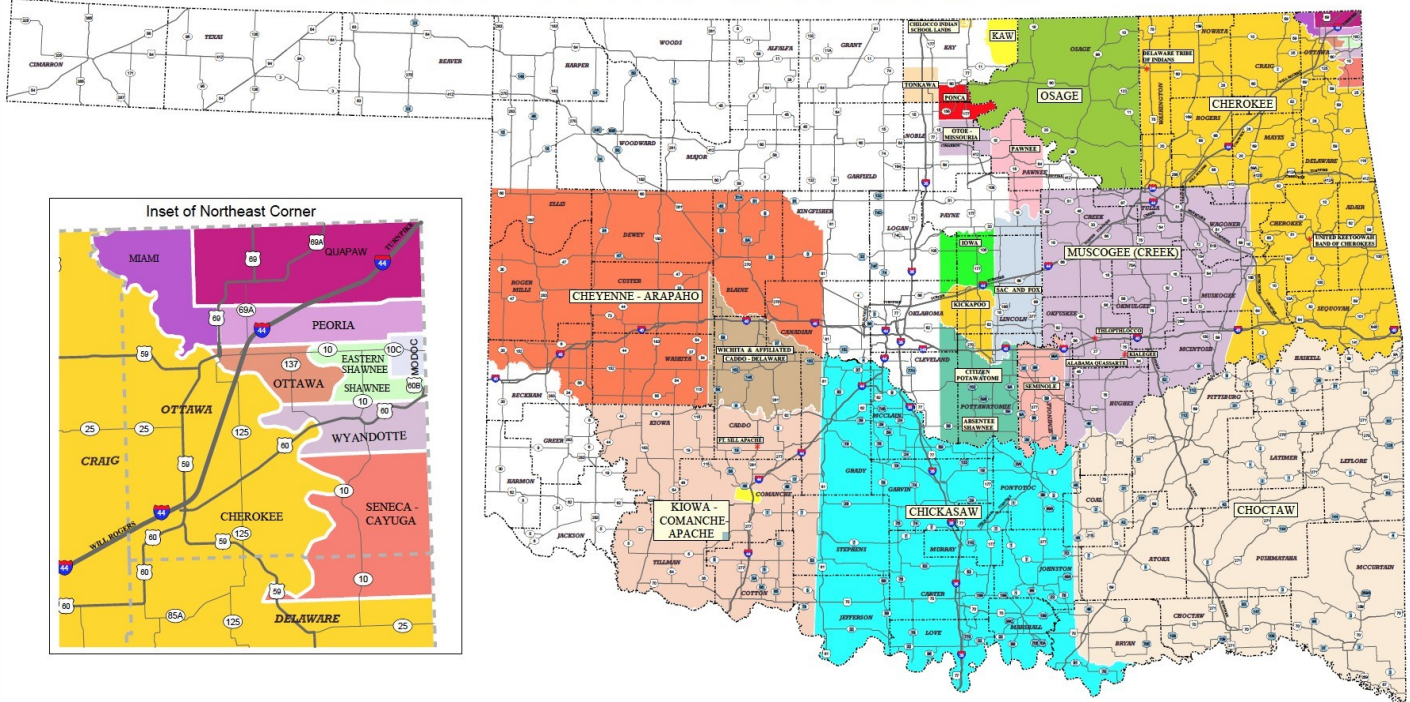
ASK for help from parents, volunteers, school administrators, museum educators, and community members.

RESOURCES

Tribal Jurisdiction in Oklahoma (Present)

[Oklahoma Department of Transportation](#)

TRIBAL JURISDICTIONS IN OKLAHOMA



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 PLANNING & RESEARCH DIVISION
 600 MANAGEMENT BRANCH
 500 N.E. 23RD STREET
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73107

38 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES					
(Tribal Boundaries provided by the Bureau of Land Management)					
ABENITE SHAWNEE TRIBE	CHOCTAW NATION	IONIA TRIBE	MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION	QUAPAW TRIBE	UNITED KOOTENAI BAND OF CHEROKES
ALABAMA QUAPAW TRIBE TOWN	CITIZEN POTAWATOMI TRIBE	KIAH NATION	OSAGE NATION	SAC AND FOX NATION	WICHITA & AFFILIATED TRIBE
APACHE TRIBE	COMANCHE NATION	KALISSE TRIBAL TOWN	OTTE - MISSOURIA TRIBE	SENDELE NATION	WYANDOTTE NATION
CADDO TRIBE	DELAWARE NATION	KOOSADO TRIBE	OTTAWA TRIBE	SENECA - CAYUGA TRIBE	
CHEROKEE NATION	DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS	KOONIA TRIBE	PAWNEE NATION	SHAWNEE TRIBE	
CHEYENNE - ARAPAHO TRIBES	EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE	MOHAWK NATION	PEORIA TRIBE	THLEPHLOCOO TRIBAL TOWN	
CHEKASAW NATION	FT. SILL APACHE	MOKOC TRIBE	PONCA NATION	TONGAWA TRIBE	



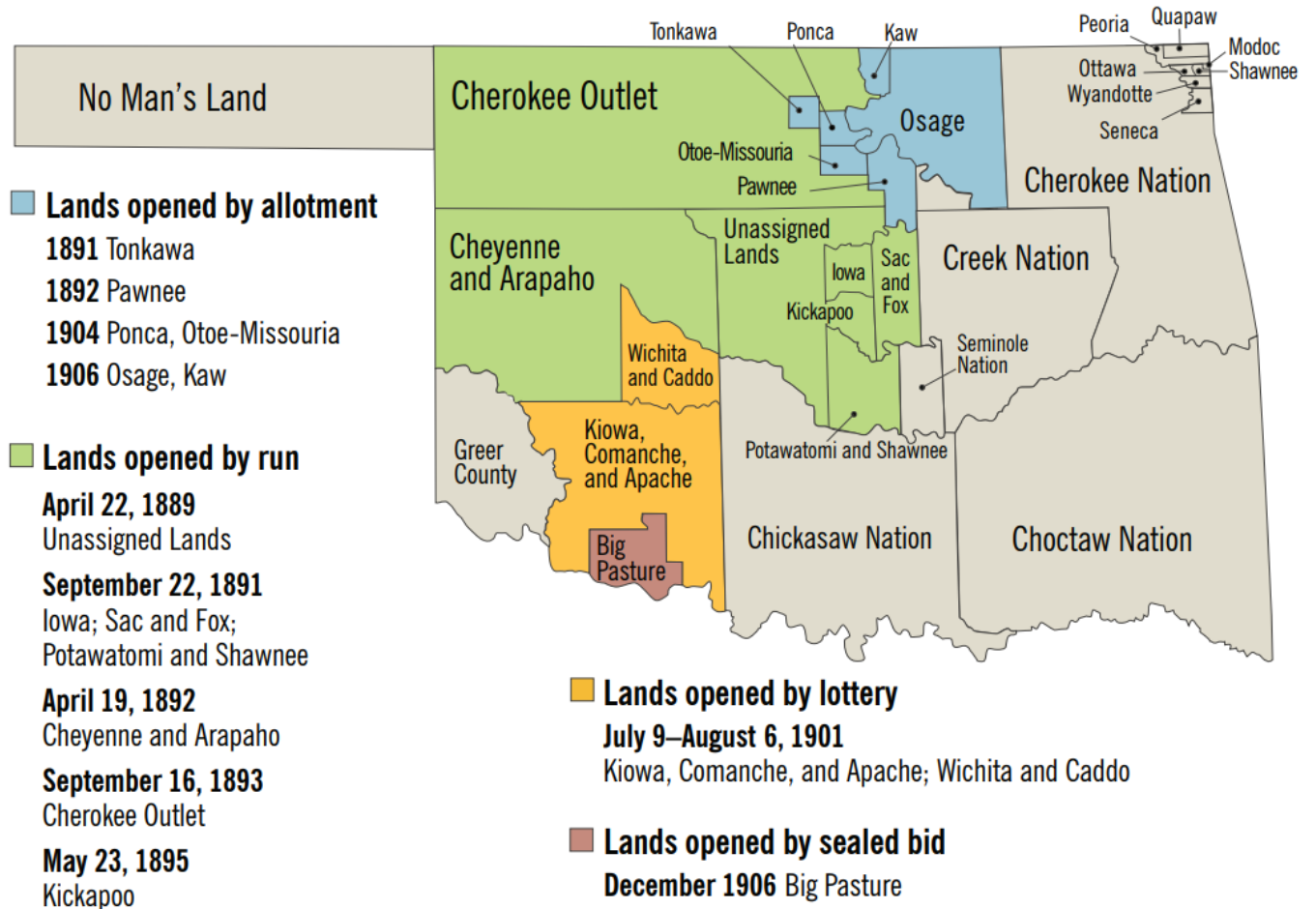
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Oklahoma Land Openings

[Oklahoma Historical Society](#)

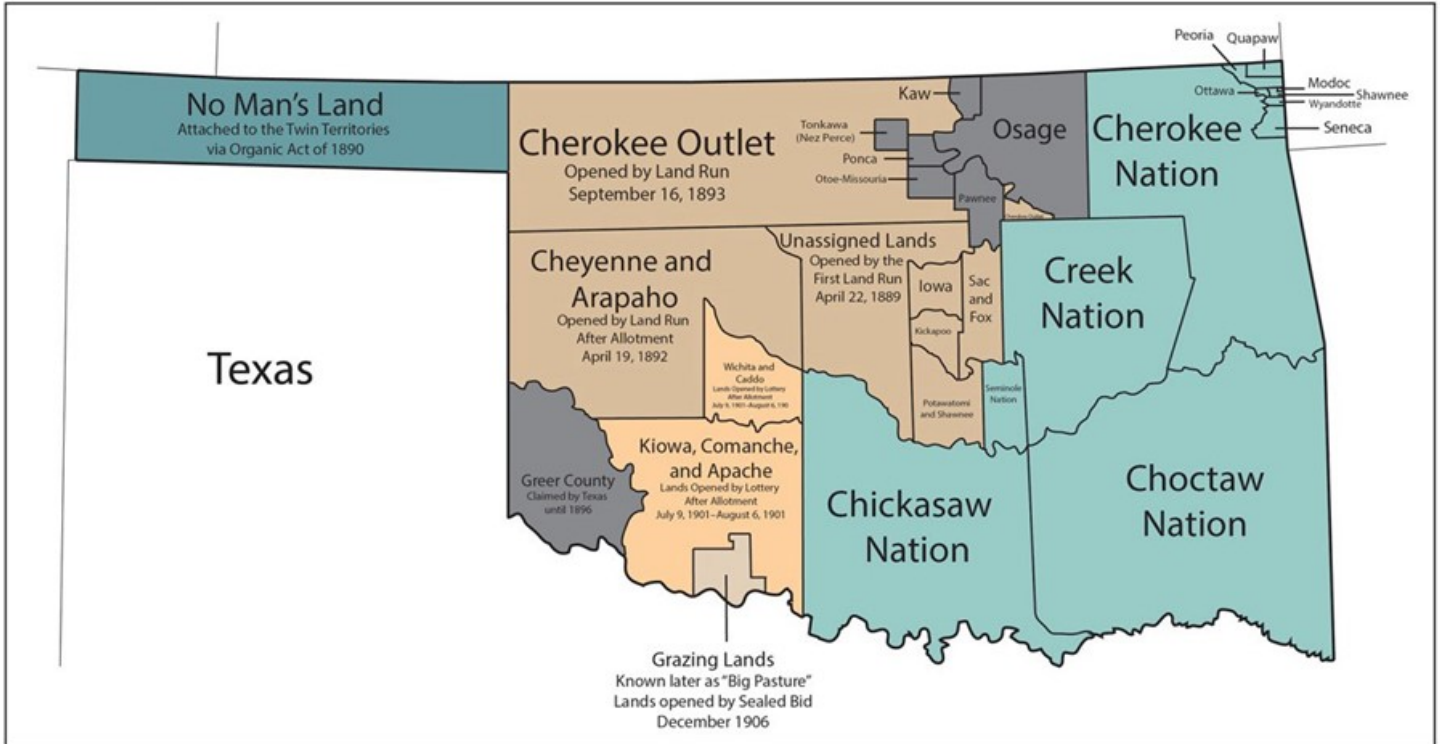
Oklahoma Land Openings



Indian Territory Boundaries Before the Land Runs (Pre-Organic Act, 1889)

[Oklahoma Historical Society](#)

Indian Territory Boundaries, 1889 (Pre-Organic Act)



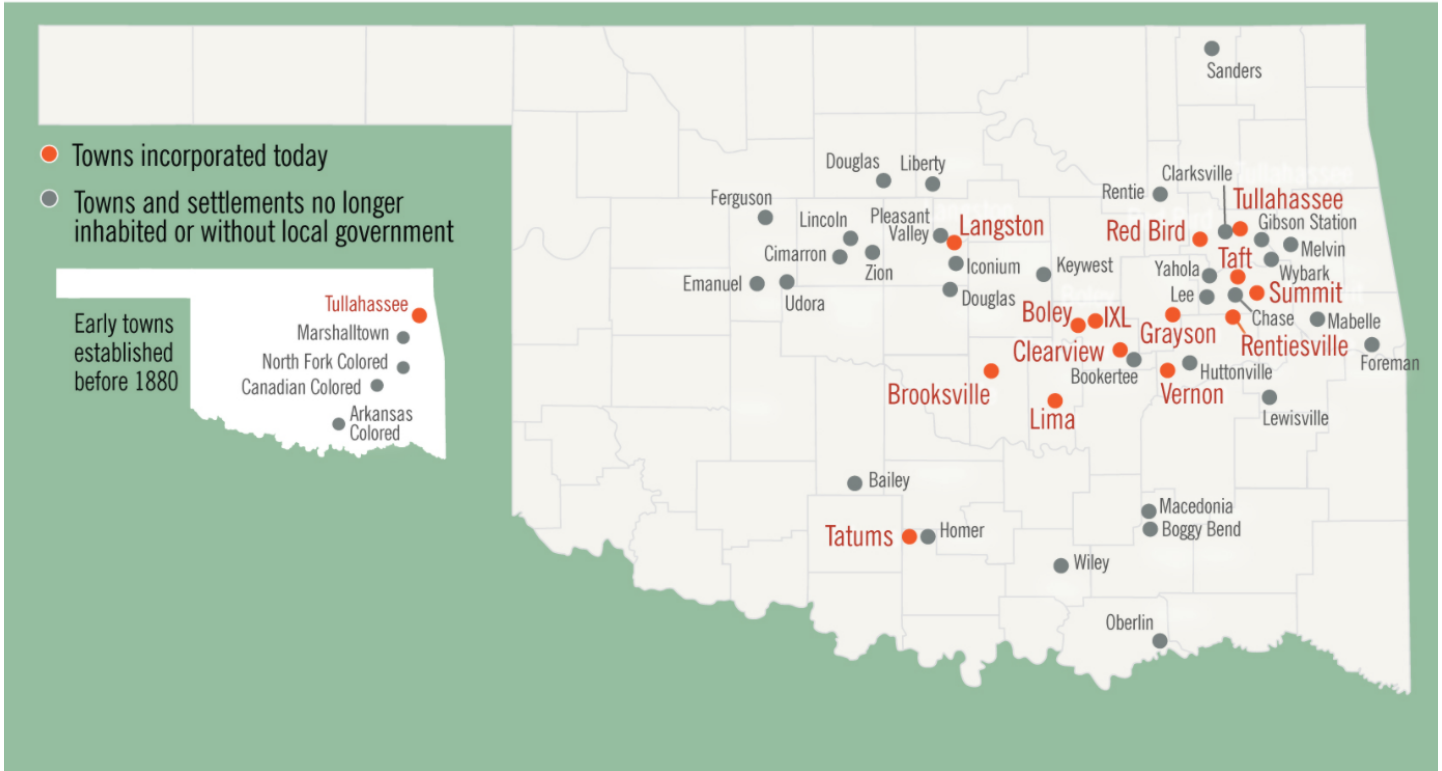
You can find more information about tribes indigenous to Oklahoma as well as maps illustrating Indian removal in 1830, 1855, and 1889 on the Oklahoma Historical Society's website at okhistory.org/research/airemoval. You can also find a detailed timeline of removal and links to tribal websites.



All-Black Towns of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Historical Society | www.okhistory.org

Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-2491

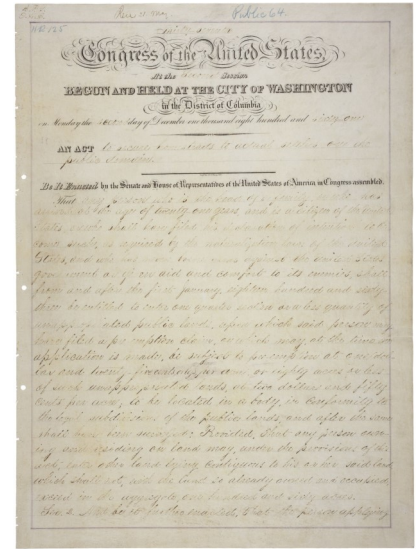


Important Laws

Homestead Act

The Homestead Act, passed in 1862, encouraged westward expansion by offering a low barrier to claiming large acreages of public land, transferring that land into private property.

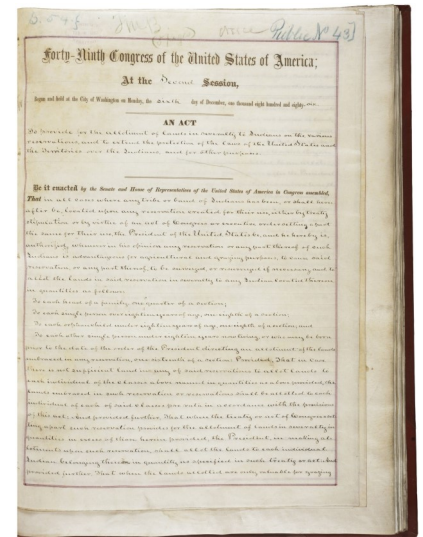
<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/homestead-act>



The Dawes Allotment Act

The 1887 Dawes act allowed the US government to take control of tribally-held land and distribute it to individual tribal members. Some tribes, including several tribes in Oklahoma, were exempt from the Dawes act.

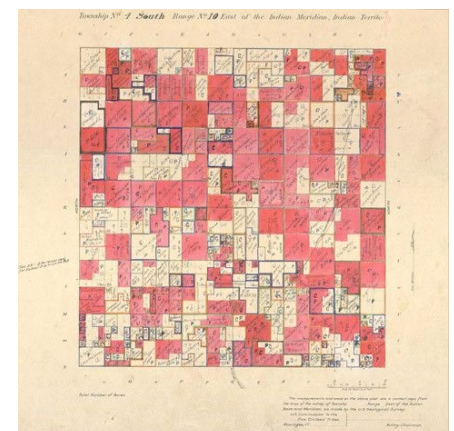
<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/dawes-act>



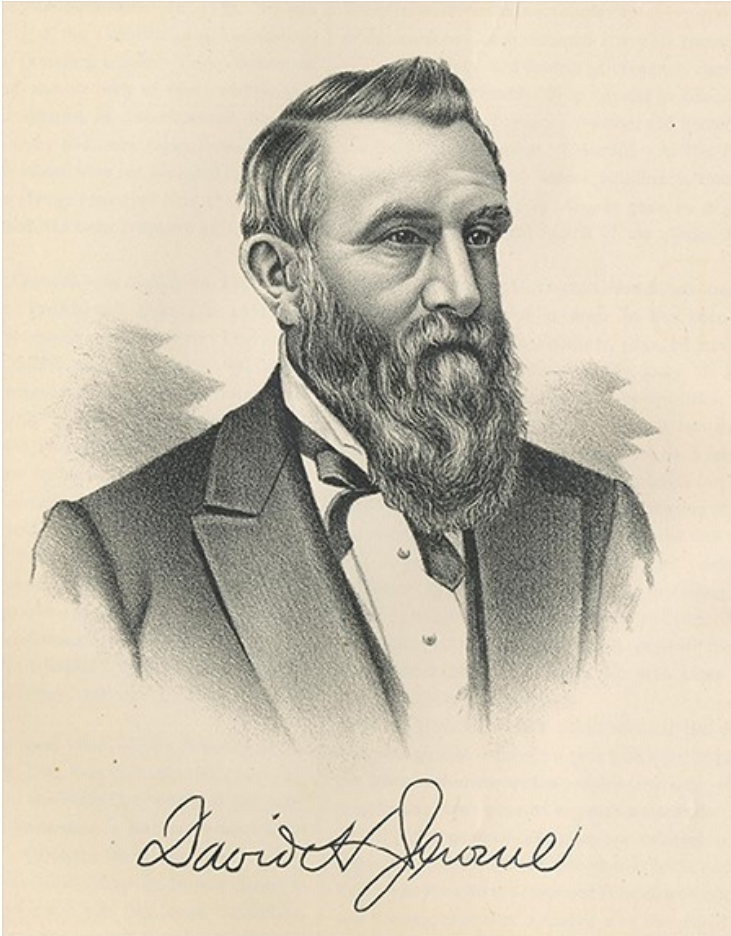
The Curtis Act

The Curtis Act, passed in 1898, granted the US government authority to control Indian affairs. It granted the government the right to allot tribal land, including those tribes exempted in the Dawes Act, and abolished tribal governments.

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CU006>



Dismantling the Reservations



Commissioner David Jerome headed the Cherokee, or Jerome, Commission tasked with negotiating agreements with tribes in Oklahoma for land cession and allotment. (image courtesy Bentley Historical Library).



The Dawes Commission was tasked with arranging land cessions from the Five Tribes under Congress's authority (819, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).



The Iowas were the first tribal nation to negotiate an allotment agreement with the Jerome Commission after trying to avoid giving up their land; they received about 27¢ per acre for the land left after allotment assignments. Here, Iowa tribal members are photographed in Guthrie on September 16, 1889 (3431, W. P. Campbell Collection, OHS).



The Sauk and Fox concluded their agreement, negotiated by Chief Moses Keokuk, on June 12, 1890, receiving close to \$1 an acre (67531, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).

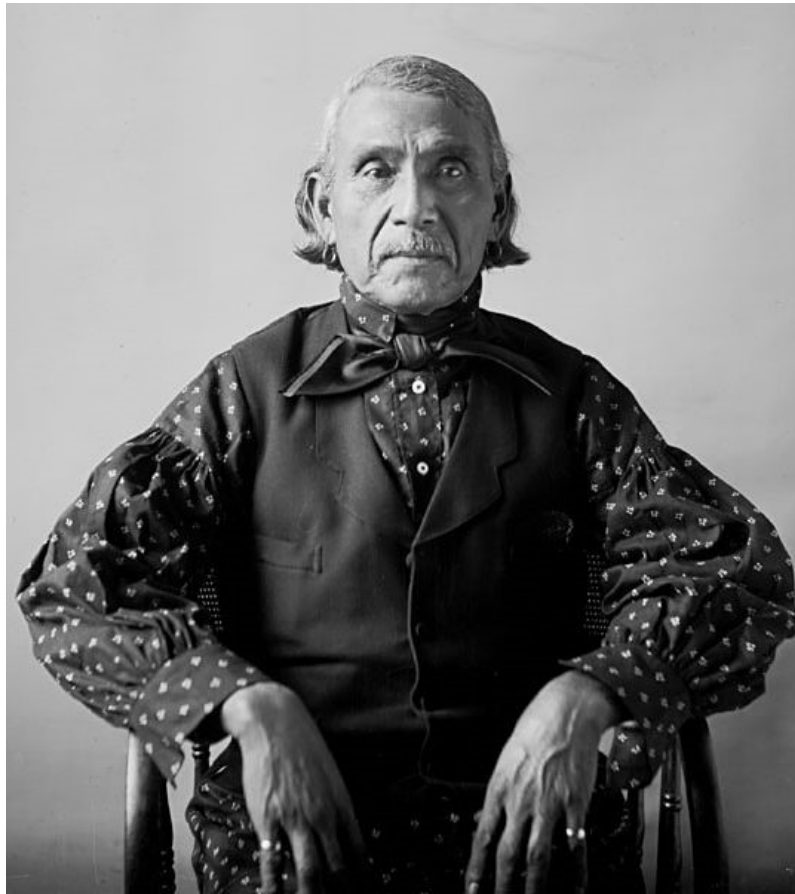


Both the Cheyenne and Arapaho quit their negotiations in protest. Many tribal members believed that the signatures collected to approved the agreement were acquired fraudulently.

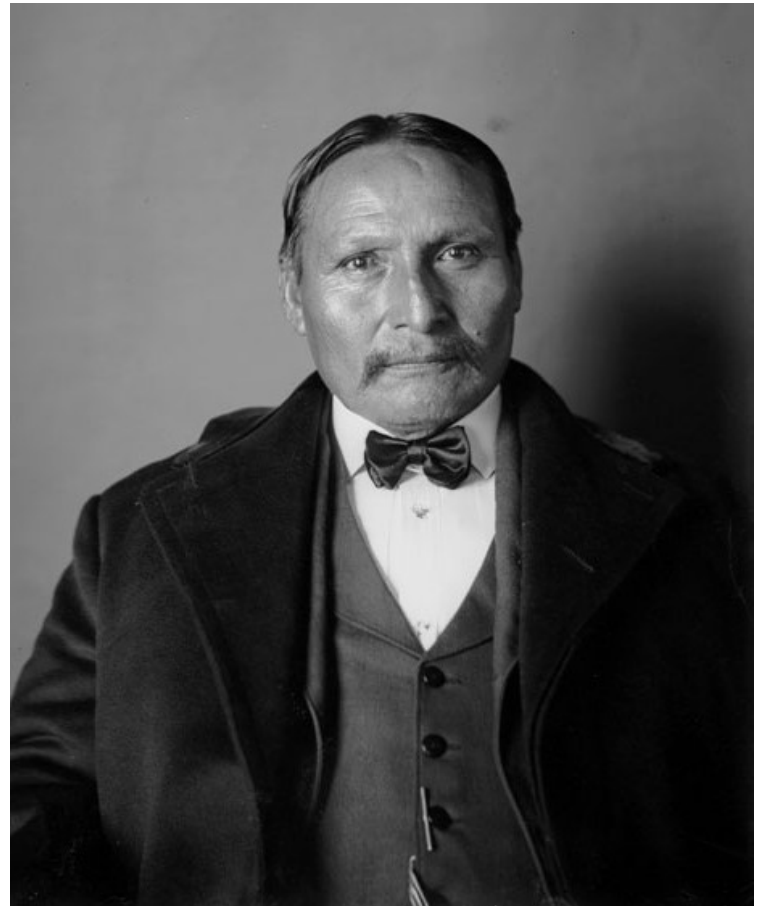
This image shows Cheyenne and Arapaho delegates who counseled for the Cherokee Outlet, 1889. (20738.N7.0, Edna M. Couch Collection, OHS).



Chief Tawakoni Jim (left), Wichita and Affiliated Bands, requested that a lawyer represent his tribe in negotiations. This was rebuffed by the Jerome Commission as a waste of money. The Wichita refused to negotiate without an attorney, so one was appointed (image courtesy Smithsonian Institute).



Wapamepto, or Big Jim, was the grandson of Tecumseh and an Absentee Shawnee leader opposed to negotiating an allotment agreement. The Absentee Shawnee received 11¢ an acre in their agreement, with Big Jim refusing to sign (image courtesy Legendsofamerica.com).



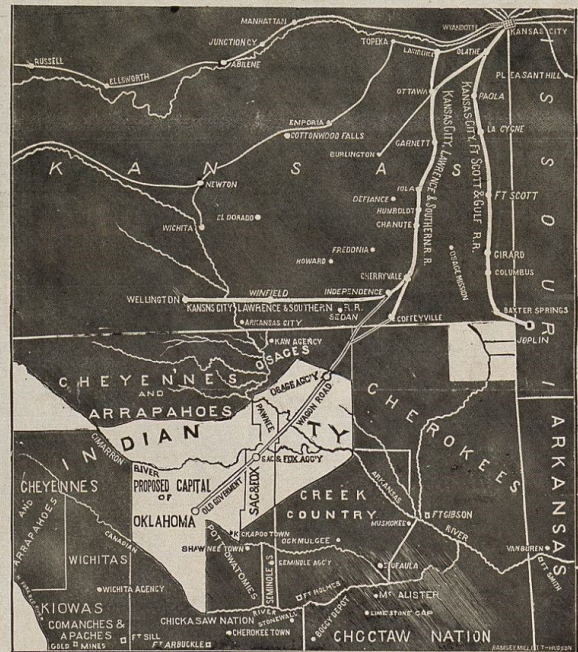
Lone Wolf the Younger, Kiowa, appealed to the Supreme Court to stop allotment in *Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock* (187 US 553, 1903; image courtesy the Smithsonian Institution).

THE PRESIDENT

In his last message to Congress, strongly recommends that the Indian Territory be opened for settlement, and there is no doubt but that Congress at its present session will pass the necessary act declaring the unoccupied lands in

INDIAN TERRITORY

THAT
GARDEN OF THE WORLD,
 OPEN FOR
HOMESTEAD AND PRE-EMPTION



MAP OF INDIAN TERRITORY,
 Showing the Lands that will be subject to Homestead Entry and How to Reach Them.
 White indicates Homestead Lands, of which there will be over 10,000,000 Acres.

In view of the early opening of the Territory, it is necessary for those who would improve the opportunity to secure Free Land and Homes in this magnificent country, to be prepared to start as soon as the lands are declared by Congress to be subject to Homestead Entry. The rush will be great, and early comers will have every advantage.

Every Person 21 Years of Age or Over will be ENTITLED TO 160 ACRES.

COFFEYVILLE & INDEPENDENCE

The two large towns on the Border, and the nearest points to the Public Lands will be the

GREAT OUTFITTING POINTS

FOR
Immigrants to the Indian Territory.

The Old Government Wagon Road starts from both these points. Plenty of Wood and Water on the route, and all large streams and bad crossings are avoided.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND OFFICE IS AT INDEPENDENCE.

THE KANSAS CITY, LAWRENCE & SOUTHERN R. R.

Being the Short, Direct and only Good Route to the Public Lands in the Territory, are making every preparation necessary to accommodate the rush, and will make

Special Low Rates for EMIGRANTS and their HOUSEHOLD GOODS

J. E. LOCKWOOD, General Ticket Agent, Kansas City, Mo.

Ramsay, Millett & Hudson, Printers.

Advertisement for the first land run (image courtesy Docstech).

1889 Land Run

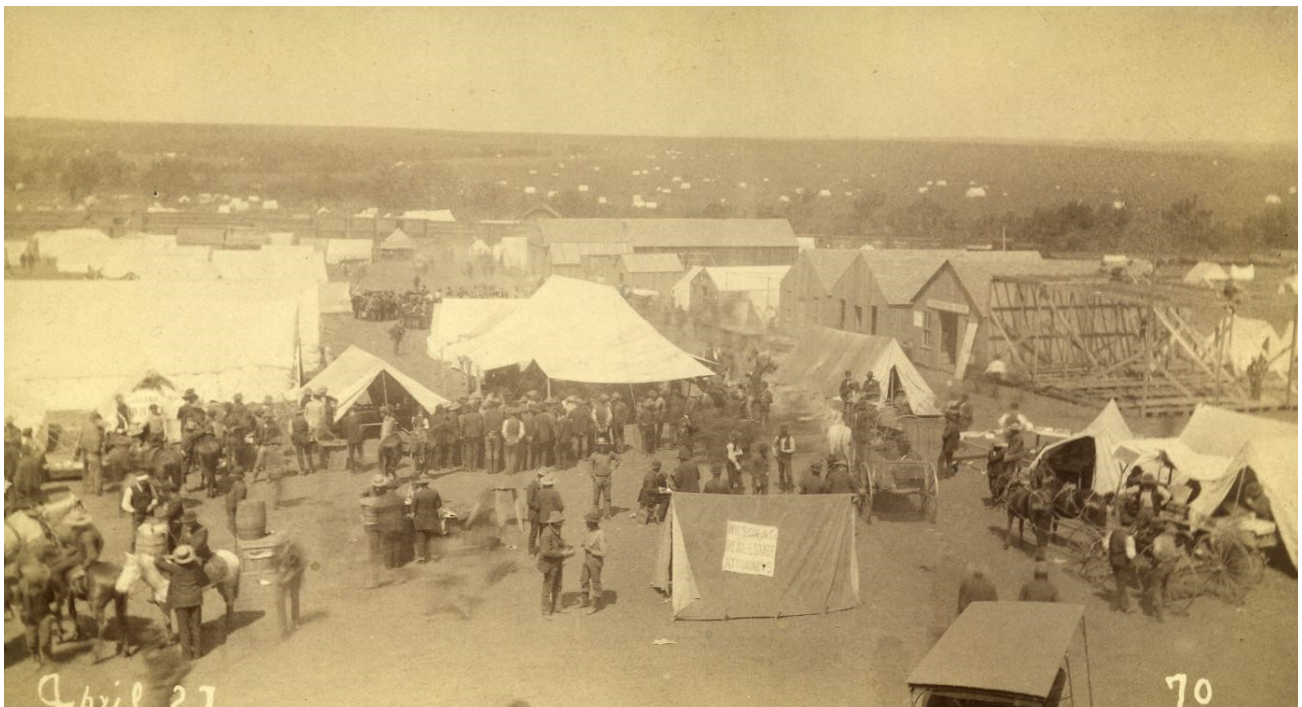


(21412.BH772.2, Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection, OHS)



A woman holding down a claim on a town lot in Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, following the Land Run of 1889 (15727, D. S. Mitchell Collection, OHS).

1889 Land Run

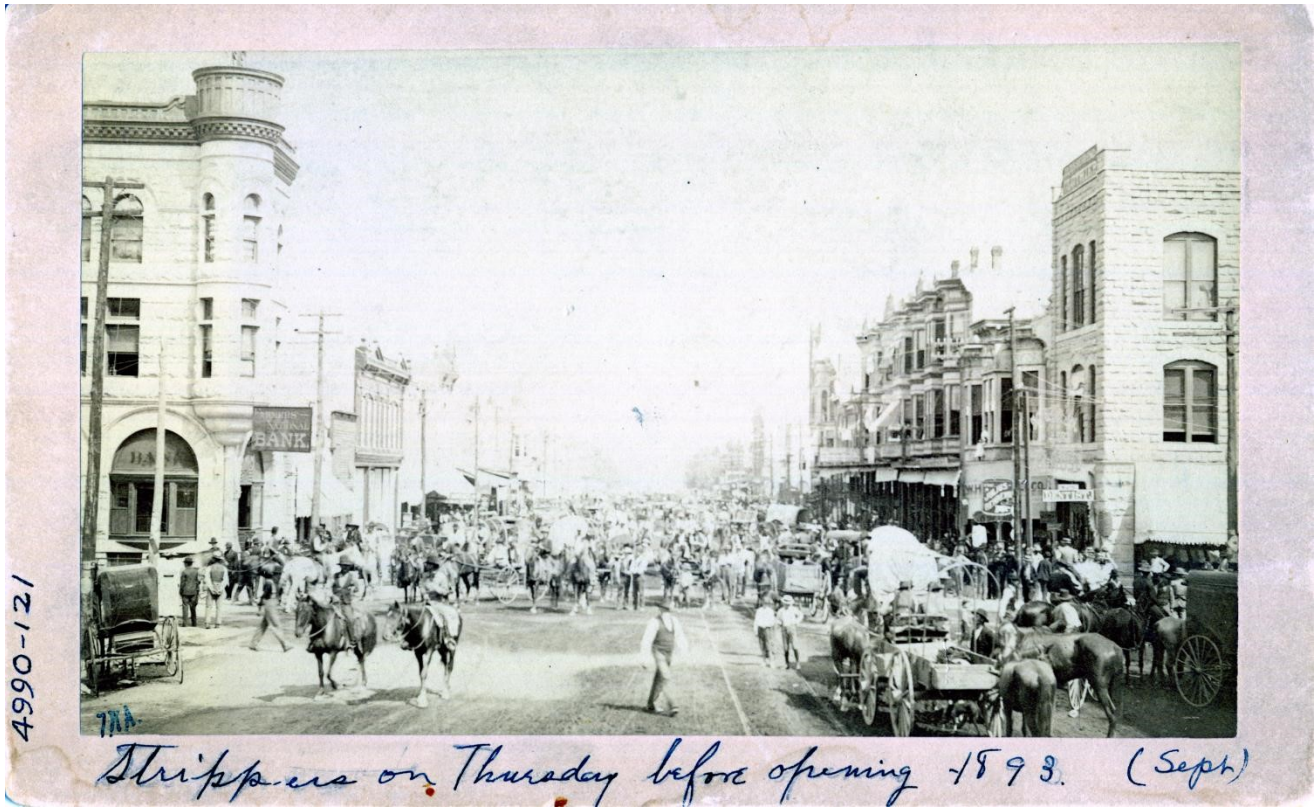


Street scene after the land run, April 27 (18026, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS)



In addition to creating individual farms, towns appeared overnight. A man looks for a town lot (19535.2, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).

1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run

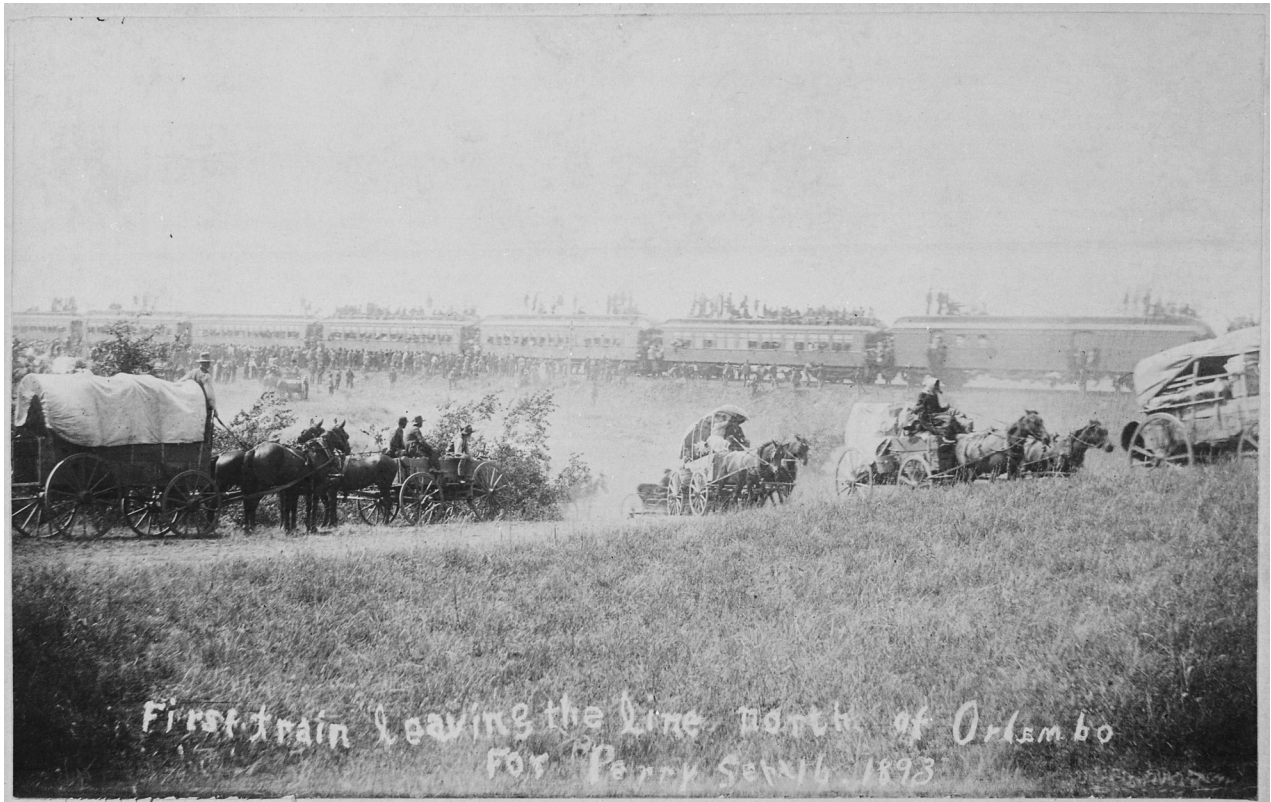


Land run strippers were participants in the land run. This image probably shows a town in Kansas prior to the Cherokee Outlet run (4990, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).



(21412.BH772.2, Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection, OHS)

1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run



Trains and wagons around Perry, Oklahoma in September 1893 (image courtesy Docstech).



The "Wild West Hotel" in Perry, Oklahoma, in September 1893 (image courtesy Docstech).

1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run



Cherokee Outlet opening land office, 1893 (6512, John E. Shanafelt Collection, OHS).



Cherokee Outlet opening, waiting to file at the Enid Land Office, 1893 (20282.76.12.3, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Collection, OHS).

Additional Primary Sources

Interviews with Tribal Members from the Doris Duke Collection at the University of Oklahoma (OU)

[Jess Rowledge, Arapaho](#)

[Jess Rowledge, Arapaho, Pt.II](#)

[Clara Winona Goodbear, Cheyenne](#)

[Isaac Jones, Choctaw](#)

Settler Interviews from the Indian-Pioneer Papers from OU

[James William Hill](#)

[Lizzie Robinson](#)

[Charles A. Minaugh](#)

[De'Leslaine R. Davis](#)

[Louisa E. McGee](#)

[George E. Neal](#)

[A.M. Capers](#)

[Welling Haynes](#)

[Eli Perry](#)

[Walter Harris](#)

Voices of Oklahoma

[Darrell Stiles](#)

Oklahoma State University Library Special Collections and University Archives

[Farming Photographs](#)

Newspaper Coverage

1889

[*The Indian Chieftain.* \(Vinita, Indian Terr.\), Vol. 7, No. 33, Ed. 1, Thursday, April 25, 1889 Page: 1 of 4](#)

[*The Telephone.* \(Tahlequah, Indian Terr.\), Vol. 2, No. 49, Ed. 1 Friday, April 26, 1889 Page: 1 of 4](#)

[*Oklahoma City Times.* \(Oklahoma City, Okla. Terr.\), Vol. 1, No. 10, Ed. 1 Monday, April 29, 1889 Page: 1 of 4](#)

1891

[*The Indian Chieftain.* \(Vinita, Indian Terr.\), Vol. 10, No. 3, Ed. 1 Thursday, September 24, 1891 Page: 2 of 4](#)

[*El Reno Herald.* \(El Reno, Okla., Indian Terr.\), Vol. 3, No. 15, Ed. 1 Friday, September 25, 1891 Page: 2 of 6](#)

1892

[*The Indian Chieftain.* \(Vinita, Indian Terr.\), Vol. 10, No. 33, Ed. 1 Thursday, April 21, 1892 Page: 1 of 4](#)

[*Stillwater Gazette.* \(Stillwater, Okla.\), Vol. 3, No. 19, Ed. 1 Friday, April 22, 1892 Page: 1 of 8](#)

1893

[*The Guthrie Daily Leader.* \(Guthrie, Okla.\), Vol. 1, No. 247, Ed. 1, Sunday, September 17, 1893 Page: 1 of 4](#)

[*The Oklahoma Times Journal.* \(Oklahoma City, Okla. Terr.\), Vol. 5, No. 89, Ed. 1 Sunday, September 17, 1893 Page: 1 of 4](#)

[*The Daily Oklahoma State Capital.* \(Guthrie, Okla.\), Vol. 5, No. 128, Ed. 1, Monday, September 18, 1893 Page: 1 of 4](#)

1901

[*The Daily Ardmoreite.* \(Ardmore, Indian Terr.\), Vol. 8, No. 240, Ed. 1, Tuesday, August 6, 1901 Page: 1 of 8](#)

[*The Daily Gazette.* \(Stillwater, Okla.\), Vol. 1, No. 158, Ed. 1 Tuesday, August 6, 1901 Page: 1 of 4](#)

Additional Sources

Lesson Plans

[Harvest Time in 1908](#)

[The Oklahoma Land Rush-ELA](#)

[From Trails to Truths: Oklahoma History from a Native American Perspective](#)

[Citizen Potawatomi account of Land Run of 1891](#)

[Guidance on Regalia—“Our Culture is Not a Costume”](#)

[Pioneer-Era Games](#)

[Corn Starch Jewelry](#)

[Life in A Sod House](#)

The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture Articles

Green, Donald E., [“Settlement Patterns”](#)

Carter, Kent, [“Dawes Commission”](#)

Tatro, M. Kaye, [“Curtis Act \(1898\)”](#)

Kidwell, Clara Sue, [“Allotment”](#)

Everett, Dianna, [“Indian Territory”](#)

Brown, Kenny L., [“Oklahoma Territory”](#)

Everett, Dianna, [“Land Openings”](#)

Hoig, Stan, [“Land Run of 1889”](#)

Hoig, Stan, [“Boomer Movement”](#)

McIntosh, Kenneth W., [“Harjo, Chitto”](#)

McIntosh, Kenneth W., [“Crazy Snake Uprising”](#)

Weber, Michael Lee, [“Redbird Smith Movement”](#)

Wilson, Linda D., [“Land Runs, Women in,”](#)

Wilson, Linda D., [“Sac and Fox Opening”](#)

Wilson, Linda D., [“Kickapoo Opening”](#)

Reggio, Michael H., [“Cheyenne-Arapaho Opening”](#)

Turner, Alvin O. [“Cherokee Outlet Opening”](#)

Blochowiak, Mary Ann, [“Sooner”](#)

Kracht, Benjamin R., [“Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Opening”](#)

ACTIVITIES

Pack Your Wagon

You and your family of four are moving west! You can only pack 2,400 pounds of goods in your wagon safely.

Tools	Weight
Axe	12
Sod plow	55
Shotgun and ammunition	25
Revolver and ammunition	15
Plane	5
Level	5
Saw	8
Hammer	5
Nails	5
Nail puller	3
Curry comb	3
Shovel	10
Hoe	10
Large hunting knife	3
Metal bucket	3

Food and Cooking	Weight
Dutch oven	15
Fine china dishes	45
Flour (per person)	20
Cornmeal (per person)	20
Bacon (per person)	10
Sugar (per person)	5
Butter churn	15
Coffee (per person)	5
Coffee pot and grinder	5
Meat grinder	5
Tin plates and cups	20
Pots and pans	20
Mixing bowl	3
Glass pitcher	5
Silverware	10

Furniture	Weight
Oak china cabinet	200
Grandfather clock	75
Wooden chair	15
Table	60
Rug	12
Bed	100
Blanket	5
Cradle	15

Washing and grooming	Weight
Soap	5
Toothbrush	1
Shaving kit	3
Clothes (per person)	10
Mirror	5
Washboard	10
Washtub	15
Vanity set	5

Light, heat, and fuel	Weight
Matches and a match holder	5
Lantern and kerosene	25
Stove (cooking and heating)	220
Candles	10

Miscellaneous	Weight
Books	20
Broom	3
Sewing kit and a darning egg	5
Treadle sewing machine	55

What will you take, and what will you leave behind?

Make a Whirligig

Supplies

- 1 large button with 2 or 4 holes, or a piece of cardboard/cardstock cut in a large circle
- 2.5 feet of string, yarn, or thin ribbon
- Scissors

Directions

- If you are using a large button, skip to step 3. If you are using cardboard or cardstock, cutout a 4-inch circle. The circle can be decorated using crayons or colored pencils
- Punch 2 small holes in the circle, about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch from the center
- Thread the string into the holes and tie the ends together
- Pull the string until the button/circle is in the middle

