Keeping Culture Strong

How the Cherokee Nation cares for important resources

4.SS.1.9 "Describe how American Indian tribes maintain resources, including cultural materials, history, language, and culture."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one resource in each paragraph, then circle the actions people take to care for it or pass it on.

Resources for the Future

1. The Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma cares for objects that tell about its people. At the Cherokee National History Museum, visitors can see items such as baskets and clothing. Museum workers protect these objects from damage so they can last. They also share what they know about how the items were made and used. Each object can help people learn about Cherokee history and skills.

2. Objects are only one kind of resource. Cherokee stories and records also hold history. With permission, tribal historians can record an elder telling a story about life long ago. They can keep the recording safe and use it to teach younger people. Written records and old photographs offer more clues. By caring for these sources, the Cherokee Nation can help future generations learn about their past.

3. The Cherokee language is another resource to keep strong. The Cherokee Nation runs a school where young children learn in Cherokee. Families may also speak the language at home. Culture stays alive when people practice skills together, too. At community events, Cherokee basket makers can show younger people how to weave. Learning words and skills from others helps children carry them into the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the museum help maintain Cherokee cultural materials?

2. How can a recording of an elder help maintain Cherokee history?

3. Describe two ways Cherokee people help keep their language strong.

4. How can basket makers help Cherokee culture continue?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a tribal resource not named in the passage, such as a traditional game or a place name. In three sentences, describe two ways tribal members could care for it or pass it on, and explain why the tribe should decide who may use or share it.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.SS.1.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one resource in each paragraph, then circle the actions people take to care for it or pass it on. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the museum help maintain Cherokee cultural materials?	**Museum workers protect objects from damage and share knowledge about how they were made and used.**
2	How can a recording of an elder help maintain Cherokee history?	**Tribal historians can keep the recording safe and use the elder's story to teach younger people.**
3	Describe two ways Cherokee people help keep their language strong.	**Children learn in Cherokee at a school, and families may speak Cherokee at home.**
4	How can basket makers help Cherokee culture continue?	**They can show younger people how to weave at community events.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

With permission from people who know it, tribal members could write down the rules of a traditional game. They could teach the game to children at a community gathering. The tribe should decide who may share the rules because its members know which parts are meant to be shared.

Accept answers that connect a resource to a specific way of caring for or passing it on. For Part 3, accept other resources not named in the passage if the response gives two fitting actions and respects the tribe's authority to decide what to share.