Neighbors, Different Traditions

Compare two of Oklahoma's American Indian Nations

3.C.3.1.E "Explain that today Oklahoma is the home to thirty-nine American Indian Nations with unique traditions and ways of life, by comparing Tribal cultures."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one thing the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations have in common. Circle two details that show how their traditions differ.

Two Nations in Oklahoma

1 Today, Oklahoma is home to thirty-nine American Indian Nations. A Nation is a group of people with its own government and culture. The Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation are two of the thirty-nine. People in both Nations live in towns and cities, go to school, and share traditions with children. But being neighbors does not make their languages or traditions the same.

2 Cherokee people speak and teach the Cherokee language. They can write it with a syllabary. In this writing system, each sign stands for a sound part of a word. Some Cherokee artists weave baskets from rivercane, a tall plant that grows near water. They may teach younger people how to prepare the cane and weave it. This helps keep a skill alive.

3 Choctaw people speak and teach the Choctaw language, which is different from Cherokee. To write Choctaw, they use letters also found in the English alphabet. Some Choctaw families play stickball, a game with a small ball and long sticks. Children can learn the game from older players. Both Nations pass along knowledge, but the Cherokee and Choctaw examples show different ways to do it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations have in common, even though their traditions differ?

2. How is writing Cherokee different from writing Choctaw?

3. Compare the materials used in the Cherokee basket tradition and the Choctaw stickball tradition.

4. How do children in each Nation learn a tradition in the passage? What is alike about the two examples?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations. Tell what they share, compare how they write their languages and name a different tradition from each Nation.

ANSWER KEY

Neighbors, Different Traditions

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one thing the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations have in common. Circle two details that show how their traditions differ. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations have in common, even though their traditions differ?	**Both are American Indian Nations in Oklahoma that share traditions with children.**
2	How is writing Cherokee different from writing Choctaw?	**Cherokee can be written with a syllabary whose signs stand for sound parts of words. Choctaw is written with letters also found in the English alphabet.**
3	Compare the materials used in the Cherokee basket tradition and the Choctaw stickball tradition.	**Cherokee artists weave baskets from rivercane. Choctaw stickball players use a small ball and long sticks.**
4	How do children in each Nation learn a tradition in the passage? What is alike about the two examples?	**Cherokee children may learn to prepare and weave rivercane from artists. Choctaw children can learn stickball from older players. In both examples, knowledge is passed to children.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Cherokee and Choctaw Nations both live in Oklahoma and pass knowledge to children. Cherokee can be written with a syllabary, while Choctaw is written with letters also found in the English alphabet. Some Cherokee artists weave rivercane baskets, while some Choctaw families play stickball.

Accept comparisons stated in the student's own words. Do not require students to treat basket weaving or stickball as traditions practiced only by one Nation.