Oklahoma Goes to War

Read and annotate three parts of Oklahoma's World War I contribution.

OKH.C.6.4 "Summarize Oklahoma's role in World War I, including agricultural exports and the contributions of Oklahoma armed forces and military units, including the Choctaw code talkers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about crops and exports, circle details about armed forces, and write 1 beside the Choctaw soldiers' communication method to gather evidence for a summary.

Oklahoma's World War I Effort

1 When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the fighting was far from Oklahoma, but the war reached its farms. Allied countries needed food and raw materials. Oklahoma growers raised wheat and cotton, while ranchers supplied cattle. Wheat could be milled into flour for soldiers and civilians. Cotton could be made into cloth for uniforms and other supplies. Buyers moved these products into national trade networks, which sent American goods overseas to the Allies. High wartime demand brought opportunities for some producers, but planting, harvesting, and shipping still depended on people at home.

2 Oklahomans also served in the armed forces. Some joined the Army through the draft, while others volunteered or served in National Guard units. The 36th Division brought together National Guard troops from Oklahoma and Texas. After training in the United States, the division went to France, where it fought in the final months of 1918. These troops faced artillery fire and dangerous ground as they helped the Allied war effort. Service was not limited to combat: people from Oklahoma also worked in military jobs that supplied, transported, and cared for troops. Their work connected home-state communities to a global conflict.

3 In France, some Choctaw soldiers in the 36th Division helped protect military messages. German forces could listen to telephone lines, so sending orders in ordinary English was risky. The Choctaw soldiers spoke their language to carry messages between American units; another Choctaw speaker could understand and relay the information. This made the messages harder for German listeners to understand. Their work did not replace the division's other soldiers or Oklahoma's farm production. It added a distinct form of service to a larger war effort. Together, agricultural exports, armed forces, and the Choctaw code talkers show how Oklahoma contributed both resources and people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize how one Oklahoma crop reached the Allies and what it could be used for.

2. Summarize two ways Oklahomans served in the armed forces, including the work of one military unit.

3. Summarize the communication problem American units faced and how Choctaw soldiers helped solve it.

4. How did work in Oklahoma and service in France both support the Allies? Summarize one example of each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label titled “Oklahoma’s War Effort.” In your own words, summarize agricultural exports, the 36th Division, and the Choctaw code talkers, then explain how these contributions fit together.

ANSWER KEY

Oklahoma Goes to War

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.6.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about crops and exports, circle details about armed forces, and write 1 beside the Choctaw soldiers' communication method to gather evidence for a summary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize how one Oklahoma crop reached the Allies and what it could be used for.	**Oklahoma wheat moved through national trade networks to the Allies, where it could be milled into flour for soldiers and civilians.**
2	Summarize two ways Oklahomans served in the armed forces, including the work of one military unit.	**Oklahoma National Guard troops served with Texans in the 36th Division, which fought in France. Other Oklahomans worked in military jobs supplying, transporting, and caring for troops.**
3	Summarize the communication problem American units faced and how Choctaw soldiers helped solve it.	**German forces could listen to telephone lines. Choctaw soldiers sent messages in their language, making the messages harder for German listeners to understand.**
4	How did work in Oklahoma and service in France both support the Allies? Summarize one example of each.	**Oklahoma producers supplied crops that entered trade networks sending goods to the Allies. In France, Oklahoma troops fought with the 36th Division.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Oklahoma's War Effort

World War I reached Oklahoma through fields as well as military service. Farmers grew wheat and cotton that moved through American trade networks to Allied countries. Wheat provided food, while cotton became cloth for supplies. Oklahoma National Guard troops joined Texans in the 36th Division and fought in France. Choctaw soldiers in that division used their language to send messages that German listeners had difficulty understanding. Together, these efforts show that Oklahoma supported the Allies with goods, combat troops, and more secure communication.

Accept either wheat or cotton in question 1 if the route and use match the passage. For the museum label, look for all three contributions and an explanation of how they supported the same war effort.