

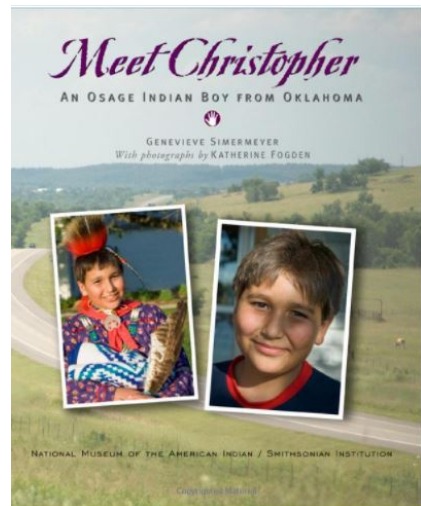
Name _____

Meet Christopher: An Osage Indian Boy from Oklahoma

GUIDED READING - QUESTIONS and VOCABULARY:

Look for these words as you read. Determine their meaning from how they are used:

culture	conversion
native	assimilate
tribe	communally
clan	allot
nation	arbor
boarding school	ribbonwork
fluent	finger weaving
suppressed	



PRE-READING - As you read, think of these questions:

How does the layout of the book help you in your reading?

A **tradition** is a custom, idea or belief passed from older people to younger people.

Over time, the way a group of people chooses to live - all their beliefs, traditions and social behavior - is called their **culture**. Traditions are a big part of culture. What is unique about the Osage culture?

Were the Osage and other Native people **treated fairly** by the U.S. government?

What things did the Osage people **have to give up** because the land they lived on became part of the United States?

What are some examples of **things that might dishonor the Osage people** by those who don't understand Osage traditions?

What are some of **Christopher's activities and interests** that any typical American kid might do? What are uniquely Osage?

As you read, jot down and **classify his extracurricular activities and hobbies** in the chart below.

Christopher's Activities & Interests	
Typical American (at least 3)	Osage (at least 2)
Circle the above activities that might also be related to Christopher's Osage heritage.	

GUIDED READING - REVIEW & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & VOCABULARY:

p. 4 Author introduces herself

How many cultures does the author have in her background, and what are they?

What does the word "**Native**" in "Native American" mean? _____

Background: A **tribe** is a group of people (families, clans, generations) with a common culture and dialect. A **clan** is a sub-group of related people

Which do you think is bigger - the tribe or a clan? _____

What tribe does the author belong to? _____

Which clan is the author belong to? _____

What is the author's Osage Name - in Osage and in English? _____

What three states has she lived in? _____

Why does she go to Oklahoma every year? _____

How the Osage started out (Osage creation story):

Who were the first two groups of Osage? _____ - _____, and

_____ - _____

Then Earth People were divided into what two groups: _____ - _____,
and _____ - _____

What group of Europeans first met them and ended up calling them all Wah-zha-zhi or Osage? _____

Where is the Osage reservation located? _____

What are the 4 tribes the Osage were once related to? _____

How were the Osage homes different from other Plains tribes?

Describe their homes: _____

What were the three periods of activity the author describes as “seasons”? _____

Where did the Osage live during hunting seasons? _____

What did they hunt? _____

What wild foods did they eat? _____

What crops did they grow in their gardens? _____

Which of these foods of the Osage have you eaten?

Which have you not eaten? _____

Are these healthy foods? _____

P. 6 Geography & Maps

Putting together the two maps on p. 6, the Osage territory around 1800 was in parts of what 4 states? _____

What was along their southern border? _____

What was along their northern border? _____

What river ran through their early territory - in early 1700s? _____

And what larger river does it flow into? _____

What large river ran through the majority of the southern part of their 1800 territory?

On the Osage Reservation today, what river runs along the southern border?

The text tells us:

What happened to the Osages' land in the 1800s? _____

Who were the "immigrants" in this situation? _____

The Osage had to move in order to make room for what two groups? _____

What is a "reservation"? _____

Is the Osage Reservation today (bottom map) within the area that was once Osage Territory? _____ (The Osage are *one of the few tribes in Oklahoma* whose reservation is actually on their ancestral lands).

Were the Osage and other Native people treated fairly by the U.S. government? _____

p. 7 Author describes Christopher & family relationships

In euro-American culture, what is an "aunt" or "uncle"? _____

In euro-American culture, what is a "cousin"? _____

In Osage culture, why might a cousin be called "aunt" or "uncle"? _____

p. 8 Christopher Cote introduces himself:

Which clan does Christopher belong to? _____ Is this the same clan as his cousin (the author)? _____

Why does Christopher say he is a member of the Osage "Nation" instead of "tribe"?

What does this word "**nation**" mean? _____

Are Christopher's parents both Native American? _____

Are they from the same tribe? _____

How did they meet? _____

Background: they might have gone to one of the Native American colleges such as Haskell Indian Nations University located in Lawrence, Kansas, for members of federally recognized Native American tribes

p. 10 Grandmother - I'ko

Whom does Christopher enjoy staying with in Pawhuska? _____

Would I'ko be an easy word for a young child to say? _____

What term does your family use for young grand-children to call their grandmother or grandfather? _____

What does Christopher like to do for fun at his I'ko's house? _____

p. 11 Museum

Where does Christopher's I'ko work? _____

What kinds of things do they have in this museum? _____

What does Christopher's I'ko teach him about? _____

If you have a grandparent nearby, what kinds of things do you learn from them?

What is the land and countryside like in northeast Oklahoma? _____

What wild animals live there? _____

p. 12-13 School & Museum

What is Christopher's favorite subject? _____

Why does he practice the trombone after school? _____

Where might he get a job with this interest? _____

Why would he need to learn math to be a historian? _____

p. 14 **Language Classes**

What is a boarding school? _____

What happened at the Boarding Schools that made the Osage people almost lose their language? _____

If you were forced to move from your home and give up English and speak a foreign language, how would that affect you? _____

How are the Osage trying to save their language today? _____

UPDATE: The Osage now have a Language Immersion School for young children.

Have you ever been in a class with grownups learning beside you? _____

What is the Osage word for "blue"? *ni ha do ho ecko*. That is kind of a long word - what else does it mean? _____ What does this word in Osage language show us about the Osage relationship to nature and outdoors? _____

What does it mean to be **fluent** in a language? _____

Osage language is written in a different _____ or set of symbols.

Besides language classes, what are some other ways people could bring back a language? _____

p. 16-17 **Boy Scouts**

What group does Christopher belong to? _____

What is one of the main things the kids do together? _____

What are some of the interests and hobbies Christopher has explored in this group? _____ Could any of these be connected to his Osage heritage? _____

Pp18-19-20-21 **Family activities**

What are some activities Christopher does with his family?

Pp 22-23 Religion

What does **suppressed** mean? _____

What did the U. S. Government do on many Native American ceremonies? _____

What does **conversion** mean? _____

Did Native Americans convert voluntarily to Christianity?

Conversion was one of the ways the government tried to make Native Americans blend in more to white **culture**. The word for this **changing one's culture to blend into a new culture** is called to _____.

Describe the different spiritual practices of Native Americans today? _____

P 24 Allotment

Text clues: The color and layout on page looks different (the same on p. 28, 30, 32, 35).

What design clue shows the reader this is special background information?

Christopher says the Osage had always lived communally. What does it mean to own land **communally**? _____

What might be the advantages and disadvantages of this kind of ownership? (varies)

- Advantages - _____

- Disadvantages - _____

What does it mean to **allot** land? _____

Why do you think the federal U.S. government wanted to break up communal Indian lands in the Dawes Allotment Act in 1887?

As traditional hunters who moved their villages over time and went on long hunts, were the Osage familiar with full-time farming on a single piece of land? _____

What was be the advantage to the incoming white settlers? _____

However, the Osage delayed allotment until 1906, and they got a better deal than most tribes because instead of just getting 160 acres, they each got how many acres? _____

Also, there were three areas saved for communal ownership called the _____
_____?

What were the names of these three Osage districts? _____

P .25 Dances

Which of the three Indian Villages became the capital of the Osage Nation?

What happens for three weekends in a row in June that is the most important Osage gathering of the year? _____

What is the general schedule for each day? _____

Who attend the dances? _____

P. 26 Dinners at dances

What do you this is an “**extended**” family? _____

How big is Christopher’s extended family? _____

What are some special events at these dinners? _____

Does your family ever hold a “family reunion”? _____

Of the foods eaten at the dinner, which have you had before? Which not?

Think of three situations where it could be helpful to have a large, supportive family in your life: _____

p. 28 **Dance building**

What is an **arbor**? _____

p. 29 **Dances Drums**

What is the main instrument played during the dances? _____

Who sings and what do they sing? _____

p. 28, 30 **Women, Ceremonies**

Since it is based on early Osage customs, In-lon-shka gives men and women different traditional roles in the dances. Name at least two of these differences?

Boys/Men - _____

Girls/Women - _____

Osage women's limited traditional participation in the dances compared to men are in contrast to the Osage Constitution which treats men and women with complete equality. Today's American culture is trying to eliminate differences in opportunities between men and women. Much of traditional culture of the Osage was taken from them. Considering these factors, how do you think Osage women feel about their limited role in the dances?

p. 31 **Naming Ceremony**

What is Christopher's Osage name and what does it mean in English: _____

Who gave him this name? _____

Why would the author have an “Osage Name” in addition to his other name?

Compare the types of names:

American name	Osage name	Osage name meaning
Genevieve Simermeyer	Wahzhazhi Metsekee	Sacred Osage Woman
Christopher Cote	Wahkontien	He Walks with God

Which contain words with an actual meaning we can understand? _____

Which are handed down from previous generations? _____

What is a Committeeman at the dances? _____

p. 32 dance rules

What does an eagle feather symbolize in the dances? _____

Why do they have the custom of paying the whip-man when an object is dropped?

p. 33, p. 38 Roach

What special head ornament is worn by Osage men? _____

What is the roach hair made of? _____

What does the roach symbolize? _____

p. 34, 36, p 38 the dances

List four of the items in the brothers’ traditional outfits on p. 34.

What do you think the leg bells would sound like during a dance? _____

What is the Osage “straight” style of dancing?

What does wearing traditional Osage clothing make Christopher feel like?

p.35 photography

Why are cameras still not allowed today in the In-lon-shka dance arbors? _____

p. 36 dressing up

Where CAN the dancers have their photos taken? _____

What is a typical American event at which people wear very special clothing and have their pictures taken? _____

p. 37 Group picture

What words would you use to describe the outfits of the boys and men on p. 37?

p. 39 Outfit

Why doesn't Christopher think of his dance clothing as a "costume"?

What *does* he call the special clothing and ornaments he wears in the dances? _____

In what two ways would the following dishonor the Osage culture: A tourist walks into an In-lon-shka dance arbor and says, "Wow, that's a great costume. Let's get your picture."

1. _____

2. _____

Pp 40-41 clothing, ribbonwork

Where do they get their Osage clothes? _____

How long are these items kept? _____

What is **ribbonwork**? _____

Where did they get the Osage first get the ribbons? _____

Pp 42-43 Fingerweaving

What is **finger weaving**? _____

What are the finger weaving items used for? _____

p. 44 Dances, culture

How does Christopher feel about the dances? _____

What events does your family do which are similar? _____

How do the In-lon-shka dances give Christopher a sense of belonging? _____

How does Christopher feel about his Osage identity? _____

pp. 46-47-48 Osage Citizen Portraits

How many people were on the 1907 list of Osage Nation citizens? _____

WRITE ABOUT IT: Choose **two** portraits from these groups on pp 46-47-48. For each one, write a paragraph:

- Tell who is the subject?
- Describe the expression of emotion you see in the person's face(s)
- What attitude are they expressing in their posture
- What can you interpret from the clothing and setting?
- How does the photo show people living in the old way? In the new way? Both?

Extended Learning

What was the boarding school experience like?

How are Native American nations "sovereign"?

What type of government does the Osage Nation have?