

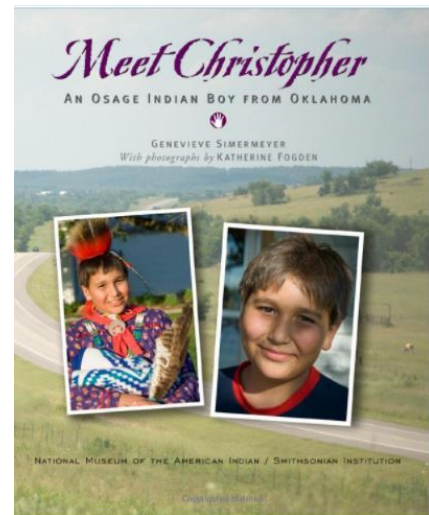
Name _____

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	regalia
fluent	ribbonwork
suppressed	finger weaving



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)
Bike riding	Leatherwork
Movies	Camping
Swimming	Boy Scouts
Fishing	Mammals
Basketry	History
Cooking	Church
Circle 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? 5 - Scottish, Norwegian, German, Irish and Native American

What does the word "**Native**" in "Native American" mean? From this place, born here

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? the tribe

What tribe does the author belong to? Osage

Which clan is the author belong to? Deer Clan

What is the author's Osage Name - in Osage and in English? Wah-Zha-zhi Me-tse-kee - Sacred Osage Woman

What three states has she lived in? New Mexico, Colorado, Maryland

Why does she go to Oklahoma every year? to visit relatives and participate in the Osage dances in June

How the Osage started out (Osage creation story):

Who were the first two groups of Osage? Tzi-sho - Sky people
and (2) Hun-ka - Earth People

Then the Earth People were divided into what two groups: (1) Water People - Wah-zha-zhi, and (2) Land People - Hunka

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

Where is the Osage reservation located? northeast Oklahoma

What are the 4 tribes the Osage were once related to? Kaw, Omaha, Ponca, and Quapaw

How were the Osage homes different from other Plains tribes?

They did not live in tipis.

Describe their homes: rectangular lodges covered with bark, woven mats or hides

What were the three periods of activity the author describes as “seasons”? planting, harvesting, and hunting

Where did the Osage live during hunting seasons? In hunting camps in houses like tents

What did they hunt? Buffalo, deer, elk, bears

What wild foods did they eat? Cherries, plums, pecans, walnuts, berries

What crops did they grow in their gardens? Corn, beans, and squash

Which of these foods of the Osage have you eaten? (varies)

Which have you not eaten? (varies)

Are these healthy foods? yes

P. 6 Geography & Maps

Putting together the two maps on p. 6, the Osage territory around 1800 was in parts of what 4 states? Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas

What was along their southern border? Ouachita Mountains, also Arkansas River

What was along their northern border? Missouri River

What river ran through their early territory - in early 1700s? Osage River And what larger river does it flow into? Missouri River

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

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

The text tells us:

What happened to the Osages' land in the 1800s? It was taken away from them by the United States government through a series of treaties, and they had to move to a reservation

Who were the "immigrants" in this situation? The white settlers

The Osage had to move in order to make room for what two groups? White settlers and other Indian tribes moving west (pushed out of their lands to the east)

What is a "reservation"? an area set aside or "reserved" specifically for Native Americans

Is the Osage Reservation today (bottom map) within the area that was once Osage Territory? Yes (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? No, the government basically stole their land to make way for white settlement

p 7 Author describes Christopher & family relationships

In euro-American culture, what is an "aunt" or "uncle"? sister or brother of one of your parents

In euro-American culture, what is a "cousin"? child of your aunt or uncle

In Osage culture, why might a cousin be called "aunt" or "uncle"? to show respect, and give that older person responsibility of looking out for the younger one

p. 8 Christopher Cote introduces himself:

Which clan does Christopher belong to? Eagle Is this the same clan as his cousin (the author)? No

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

What does this word "**nation**" mean? A nation is like its own distinct country - runs its own government and affairs

Are Christopher's parents both Native American? yes

Are they from the same tribe? No

How did they meet? In college

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? His I'ko or grandmother.

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

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

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

p. 11 Museum

Where does Christopher's I'ko work? Osage Tribal Museum.

What kinds of things do they have in this museum? Old photographs, over 6000 objects

What does Christopher's I'ko teach him about? Osage people and customs, times of her youth, family tree, Osage language, the Tribal Museum

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

What is the land and countryside like in northeast Oklahoma? Trees, rolling hills, lakes, creeks, and much pastureland for cattle and horses

What wild animals live there? Deer, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, armadillos

p. 12-13 School & Museum

What is Christopher's favorite subject? History

Why does he practice the trombone after school? To keep his place in the band

Where might he get a job with this interest? In a museum

Why would he need to learn math to be a historian? For college

p. 14 Language Classes

What is a **boarding school**? Where you are sent away from your family to live at a school

What happened at the Boarding Schools that made the Osage people almost lose their language? Kids were only supposed to speak English

If you were forced to move from your home and give up English and speak a foreign language, how would that affect you? (varies) It would be frightening and confusing, would lose a lot of sense of who you are, lose your culture

How are the Osage trying to save their language today? With language classes for all ages

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

Have you ever been in a class with grownups learning beside you? (varies-probably not)

What is the Osage word for “blue”? *ni ha do ho ecko*. That is kind of a long word - what else does it mean? The color of water. What does this word in Osage language show us about the Osage relationship to nature and outdoors? They are close to the outdoors and elements of nature.

What does it mean to be **fluent** in a language? To speak the language well, words “flow” easily

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

Besides language classes, what are some other ways people could bring back a language? (varies) teach it to young children, start using it little by little in conversation and writing, encourage its regular use at home

p. 16-17 Boy Scouts

What group does Christopher belong to? Boy Scouts

What is one of the main things the kids do together? Spend time outside, camping

What are some of the interests and hobbies Christopher has explored in this group? Mammal study, basketry, and leather work. Could any of these be connected to his Osage heritage? Yes

Pp18-19-20-21 Family activities

What are some activities Christopher does with his family? Fishing, swimming, cooking

Pp 22-23 Religion

What does **suppressed** mean? Put down by authority or force

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

What does **conversion** mean? To change to a new religion

Did Native Americans convert voluntarily to Christianity? Some did, some were forced

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 assimilate.

Describe the different spiritual practices of Native Americans today? Some are Christian, some combine tradition with Christianity, some follow tribal traditions adapted

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? It is in a green box

Christopher says the Osage had always lived communally. What does it mean to own land **communally**? It is when land is jointly owned by everyone - shared by all; no one person owns land separately

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

- advantages - everyone has a share, no one is left out, everyone wants to take care of all the land because it belongs to all
- Disadvantages - might be less incentive to improve a specific piece of land if it didn't belong to you

What does it mean to **allot** land? divide it up into separate shares or parcels

Why do you think the federal U.S. government wanted to break up communal Indian lands in the Dawes Allotment Act in 1887? It might encourage the Indians to farm their own land, break up the tribal unity

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? no

What was be the advantage to the incoming white settlers? The US government could give leftover Indian lands to 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? 658 acres

Also, there were three areas saved for communal ownership called the Indian Villages

What were the names of these three Osage districts? Pawhuska, Hominy, and Grayhorse

P .25 Dances

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

What happens for three weekends in a row in June that is the most important Osage gathering of the year? the In-lon-shka dances.

What is the general schedule for each day? Dance in afternoon, dinner break, dance until 10 or 11 at night.

Who attend the dances? Osage people from all over the U. S. (such as Christopher's aunt who comes clear from Maryland)

P. 26 Dinners at dances

What do you think is an “**extended**” family? your family and all your relatives - cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

How big is Christopher's extended family? Sometimes over 100 people

What are some special events at these dinners? Recognize family accomplishments, new babies, new marriages

Does your family ever hold a “family reunion”? (varies)

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

Think of three situations where it could be helpful to have a large, supportive family in your life: (varies) you feel good to know someone is there to help you when you need it: i.e. give you advice, be there if you need someone to talk to, help care for you when you

are sick, help you if you have a disaster to your home and need a place to stay, help you if you run out-of-money, help comfort you when someone you love dies, etc. Also, when times are good, they will help you celebrate - new babies, birthdays, weddings, graduations, etc.

p. 28 **Dance building**

What is an **arbor**? An outdoor structure with a roof but no walls

p. 29 **Dances Drums**

What is the main instrument played during the dances? Large drum

Who sings and what do they sing? A group sings special songs to honor particular families or individuals

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 - are the drummers, can sit on the benches during dances, get a ceremony to receive name, roach, eagle feather and welcomed into community and allowed to dance with other Osage men & boys, must wear Osage clothing in order to dance

Girls/Women - are the singers around the men, do not get special ceremony, can dance, at dance can either wear Osage clothing or everyday clothing with shawl

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? (varies) Some may feel it is unfair. But others may feel it just a way to celebrate and respect the old ways, as long as they have equality in their daily lives.

p. 31 **Naming Ceremony**

What is Christopher's Osage name and what does it mean in English: Wa-kon-ti-en, He Walks with God

Who gave him this name? His Uncle

Why would the author have an “Osage Name” in addition to his other name? varies- Osage do this to connect with and continue their heritage and culture

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? Osage names

Which are handed down from previous generations? American - last names

What is a Committeeman at the dances? A leader who knows all the traditions

p. 32 dance rules

What does an eagle feather symbolize in the dances? Strength and dignity

Why do they have the custom of paying the whip-man when an object is dropped? Remind dancers that their clothing is special and should be treated with respect

p. 33, p. 38 Roach

What special head ornament is worn by Osage men? Roach, roach spreader

What is the roach hair made of? Deer hair and long soft hair of porcupine

What does the roach symbolize? Battle and smoke of council fire

p. 34, 36, p 38 the dances

List four of the items in the brothers’ traditional outfits on p. 34. Roach, cotton shirts with ribbon decoration, neckerchiefs and slides, cotton print shirts, hair-pipe shoulder belt (hanging bundle or bag in back), fringed leggings, finger-woven belt, leg bells, blankets, feather fans (in back, otter tails)

What do you think the leg bells would sound like during a dance? (varies) a lot of rhythmic sounds

What is the Osage “straight” style of dancing? Not a lot of movement, small steps

What does wearing traditional Osage clothing make Christopher feel like? Connected to his ancestors and culture

p.35 photography

Why are cameras still not allowed today in the In-lon-shka dance arbors? Dances are special and personal to Osage people, also so photos won't be sold for profit - dances are not to make money

p. 36 dressing up

Where CAN the dancers have their photos taken? Outside the arbor OR at someone's house

What is a typical American event at which people wear very special clothing and have their pictures taken? Wedding, proms, historic re-enactments, etc.

p. 37 Group picture

What words would you use to describe the outfits of the boys and men on p. 37? Bright, colorful, historical, impressive, matching but also varied, interesting, etc.

p. 39 Outfit

Why doesn't Christopher think of his dance clothing as a "costume"? because that implies pretending and he is not pretending

What *does* he call the special clothing & ornaments he wears in dances? Outfit or regalia

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. No photos - is a personal ceremony
2. It is not a "costume" where you pretend to be something else, it is special regalia

Pp 40-41 clothing, ribbonwork

Where do they get their Osage clothes? All are hand-made by aunts, moms, grandmas

How long are these items kept? A long time - handed down

What is **ribbonwork**? Cutting geometric designs in brightly colored ribbons, then sewn on top of each other

Where did they get the Osage first get the ribbons? From French traders

Pp 42-43 Fingerweaving

What is **finger weaving**? trad'l Osage non-loom weaving of bright yarn - w/ only hands

What are the finger weaving items used for? Belts, sash or garters (hold up leggings)

p. 44 **Dances, culture**

How does Christopher feel about the dances? Lots of fun - stay up, sleep outside, eat good food, play with family, fireworks

What events does your family do which are similar? 4th of July, Christmas, family reunions, vacations, family picnics and campouts, tailgates, etc.

How do the In-lon-shka dances give Christopher a sense of belonging? Like the Osage Nation is one big family that he belongs to - they feed, clothe, celebrate, and share.

How does Christopher feel about his Osage identity: "I am proud to be who I am - and to let others know it."

pp. 46-47-48 **Osage Citizen Portraits**

How many people were on the 1907 list of Osage Nation citizens? 2,229

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 - Research questions:

What was the boarding school experience like? **See related lessons in Unit F: Osage Education & Boarding Schools**

How are Native American nations "sovereign"?

What type of government does the Osage Nation have?