

November 16, 1907

Oklahoma Becomes a State

Oklahoma's location is midway between the east and west coasts of the nation, which makes it an important location for business. The area covered by the capital of Oklahoma is one of the largest of any city in the United States. About three-fourths of the state is covered in farmland. This includes cattle ranches, as Oklahoma is one of the nation's main producers of beef. Oklahoma is also a major wheat-producing state. In addition to being a major source of food for the nation, Oklahoma is dotted with many oil and natural gas wells. The state is one of the leading areas in the nation for production of petroleum. It is also the only state in the country that produces iodine. Add to this the many industries present in Oklahoma and you will find a state that is very versatile and growing with the needs of the nation. But, Oklahoma is not all business. The many interesting places to visit include the Arbuckle Wilderness, which is an exotic animal park; the Cherokee Heritage Center; Fort Sill; Gilcrease Museum, which has one of the world's largest collections of the art of the American West; the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum; the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and much more. Many famous people are from Oklahoma, including Will Rogers, Mickey Mantle, Johnny Bench, Jim Thorpe, Sam Walton, Paul Harvey, Maria Tallchief, and L. Gordon Cooper, Jr.

Look at the map of Oklahoma below. Label the capital of Oklahoma. Locate the cities of Tulsa, Lawton, Norman, Claremore, Tahlequah, Ardmore, Muskogee, Duncan, Wewoka, Shawnee, Tecumseh, Kingfisher, Perry, Pawhuska, Buffalo, Beaver, Newkirk, Vinita, Idabel, Boise City, and Miami, and label them on the map. Now label the Ouachita Mountains, Arbuckle Mountains, Wichita Mountains, Glass Mountains, and Black Mesa. Also, locate the Red River, Arkansas River, Neosho River, Grand Lake O' The Cherokees, Lake Eufaula, Fort Gibson Lake, Greenleaf Lake, Lower Spavinaw Lake, Upper Spavinaw Lake, Tenkiller Ferry Lake, Lake Wister, Canton Lake, Lake Ellsworth, Fort Supply Lake, Great Salt Plains Lake, Heyburn Lake, Keystone Lake, Lake Lawtonka, Lake Murray, Oologah Lake, Pawnee Lake, and Shell Lake, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Oklahoma. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Oklahoma history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Oklahoma History

1541

1682

1762

1800

1803

1824

1861

1872

1889

1890

1897

1901

1907

1919

1920

1928

1970

1990

1995

2000

1. Oklahoma's first public library is founded
2. The United States buys the area containing all of present-day Oklahoma except the panhandle as part of the Louisiana Purchase
3. Voters in Oklahoma pass term limits of 12 years for state legislators
4. The Osage County oil fields begin production
5. France gives the area containing present-day Oklahoma to Spain
6. The Territory of Oklahoma is established
7. The Oklahoma City National Memorial is dedicated
8. A Confederate military leader makes treaties with some of the Native American tribes in the area
9. Oklahoma becomes the 46th state in the Union
10. Francisco Coronado explores the Oklahoma region
11. James B.A. Robertson becomes governor of Oklahoma
12. More than one and a half million acres in central Oklahoma open for settlement
13. The Oklahoma City oil field is opened
14. An important oil well was drilled at Bartlesville, Oklahoma
15. France regains the area that contains present-day Oklahoma
16. The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is attacked by a terrorist
17. The United States founds Fort Gibson and Fort Towson, the area's first military forts
18. The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is completed
19. The first coal mined for commercial purposes in Oklahoma is mined near McAlester
20. French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, claims present-day Oklahoma for France

Research Prompt #1

Research the subdivisions of the Rough Riders recruited in the Oklahoma and Indian territories for the Spanish American War. Include information on what battles or campaigns they were involved in and how some of the members of the Rough Riders were involved in Oklahoma history.

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Research Prompt #2

Research the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association. When were cattle introduced to the Oklahoma area? How and why did the Cattlemen's Association get started? What has been its purpose through the years? Is it still in existence?

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Research Prompt #3

Do a little research on the petroleum industry in Oklahoma. How did it get started? How were oil and gas used before the Europeans moved into the area? How did the industry develop over time? Is the petroleum industry still important to Oklahoma's economy?

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Timeline of Oklahoma History

Answer Key

Francisco Coronado explores the Oklahoma region	1541	
	1682	French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, claims present-day Oklahoma for France
France gives the area containing present-day Oklahoma to Spain	1762	
	1800	France regains the area that contains present-day Oklahoma
The United States buys the area containing all of present-day Oklahoma except the panhandle as part of the Louisiana Purchase	1803	
	1824	The United States founds Fort Gibson and Fort Towson, the area's first military forts
A Confederate military leader makes treaties with some of the Native American tribes in the area	1861	
	1872	The first coal mined for commercial purposes in Oklahoma is mined near McAlester
More than one and a half million acres in central Oklahoma open for settlement	1889	
	1890	The Territory of Oklahoma is established
An important oil well was drilled at Bartlesville, Oklahoma	1897	
	1901	Oklahoma's first public library is founded
Oklahoma becomes the 46th state in the Union	1907	
	1919	James B.A. Robertson becomes governor of Oklahoma
The Osage County oil fields begin production	1920	
	1928	The Oklahoma City oil field is opened
The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is completed	1970	
	1990	Voters in Oklahoma passed term limits of 12 years for state legislators
The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is attacked by a terrorist	1995	
	2000	The Oklahoma City National Memorial is dedicated