

OKLAHOMA: 100 Years Ago

1541 Before Oklahoma entered into statehood, the land’s first recorded history began in 1541 when Coronado, a Spanish explorer came upon the land during his quest for the City of Lost Gold.

1830 In the 1800’s the frontier was known as Indian Territory. A large population of tribes including the Quapaw and the Osage occupied Indian Territory. Cherokee native tribes also occupied the area after they were forced to move from their ancestral lands due to the Removal Act of 1830. The trials and tribulations of their travels are known today as the Trail of Tears.

1850 By the 1850’s, the Five Civilized Tribes, consisting of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole, had established territorial boundaries. They were named the “Five Civilized” because of their advanced systems of government, education and law enforcement.

African-Americans came into the land as slaves and then freedmen. After the Civil War and slavery abolishment, they started to establish their own towns, some of which became the largest all black towns in the country.

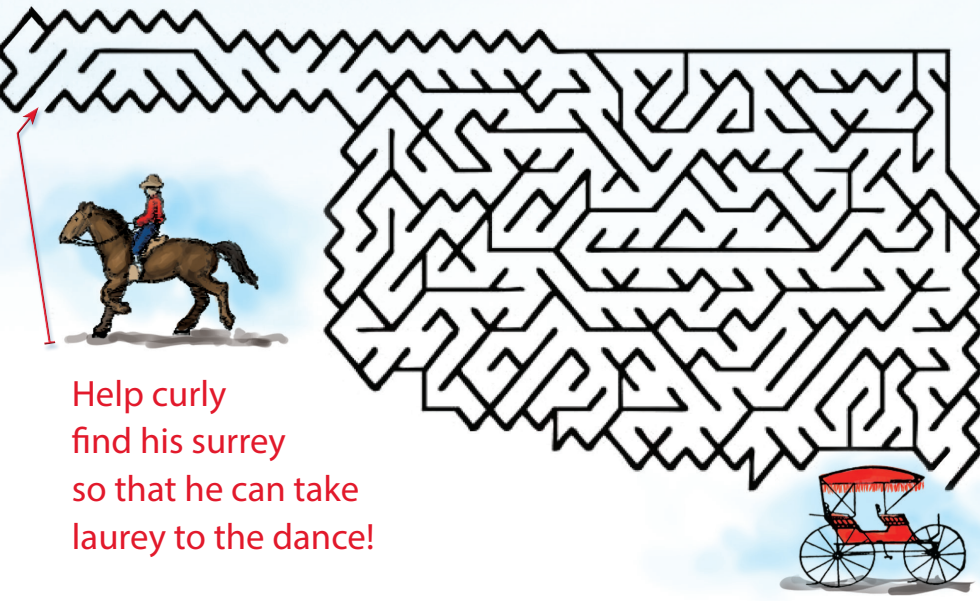
1890 By 1890, the Organic Act had split the Old Indian Territory into two. Everything west of the reservations of the Five Civilized Tribes would become Indian Territory, and everything east would now be known as Oklahoma territory. This area included No Man’s Land, known today as the panhandle.

The splitting of the territories opened up the frontier for more opportunities for the pioneers and the land. Farmers and ranchers grew in size, entrepreneurs purchased land to market products, and mining became popular which attracted people from other countries. The future of Oklahoma was evolving into a state of diverse culture and ethnic races.

1905 The federal government wanted the Indian and Oklahoma Territory to join and become a state. The Five Civilized tribes were against it, and requested that the Sequoyah Nation make the territories an all-Indian state named Sequoyah, but the federal government was in favor of combining the territories as one state.

1907 On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state and soon became known as the place to strike it rich not only in oil but in ranching, farming, market trading and culture. Cities practically grew overnight and the Indians and settlers eventually joined together to keep the state thriving in rich culture and a robust economy.

Oklahoma, meaning “red people,” was named by Choctaw Indian, Alan Wright.



The Oklahoma State Flag

Fill in the blanks:
(Answers are at the bottom)



The Oklahoma Wildflower is:



The Oklahoma Animal is:



The Oklahoma Fruit is:



The Oklahoma Floral Emblem is:



The Oklahoma Flower is:

Wildflower: Indian Blanket (Gaillardia), Animal: American Buffalo, Fruit: Strawberry, Floral Emblem: Mistletoe, Flower: Rose

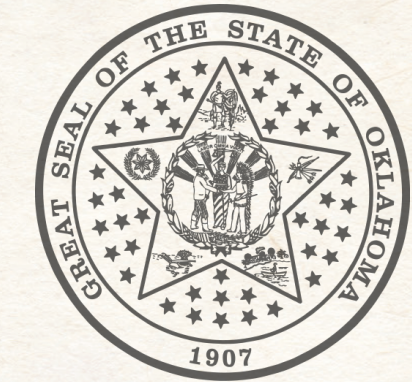


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Lyric Theatre's

Oklahoma!
INTERACTIVE

Music by Richard Rodgers
Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II



LYRIC THEATRE
THELMA GAYLORD ACADEMY

A Study Guide Recommended for All Ages



LYRIC THEATRE
OF OKLAHOMA

LYRIC IS OKLAHOMA’S LEADING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY and has been producing classic and contemporary musicals featuring both nationally known Broadway stars and local favorites for over 50 years. Lyric performs at the Civic Center Music Hall in downtown Oklahoma City during the summer where offerings include the best of classic, modern and family musical theatre.

In 2007, Lyric renovated the historic Plaza Theatre on NW 16th. This intimate theatre space allows Lyric to expand professional theatre offerings in Oklahoma like never before by producing smaller, lesser known musicals and plays as well as staged readings and concerts throughout the year.

Lyric is also committed to nurturing the creative and intellectual growth of Oklahomans. Professional training in all areas of musical theatre is offered through Lyric’s acclaimed Thelma Gaylord Academy. Children and adults alike can enroll in vocal, dance, acting and production classes that help improve performance ability, communication skills and self-confidence.

Lyric is one of the largest performing arts agencies in Oklahoma. By bringing in professional actors, designers, and technicians to work side by side with the best of local talent, Lyric continues in its long standing tradition of producing stellar Broadway-quality productions for the people of Oklahoma.

Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
1727 NW 16th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
www.LyricTheatreOKC.org

OKLAHOMA!

Interactive is a performance touring program that will entertain and educate students featuring selected songs and scenes from the Award-winning musical, “Oklahoma!” Students will learn about the state’s history, the making of the musical and the life of American composers, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Interactive staff:
Producing Artistic Director: Michael Baron
Managing Director: Jim Reynolds
Writer: Robert Matson
Director: Ashley Wells
Resident Stage Manager - Education and Outreach: Justice von Maur

Photos courtesy of KO Rinearson, PhotoArts Studio & Wendy Mutz, MutzPhotography.com



Ado Annie:
a flirtatious young girl who likes Will but is also smitten by Persian peddler, Ali Hakim.
(Courtney Balan as Ado Annie)



GERTIE:
a kooky farm girl with an ear-piercing laugh, looking to get married. (Melissa Edgmon as Gertie)



Laurey:
beautiful farm girl and heroine of the musical. She loves Curly but always hides her true feelings for him. Her stubbornness makes her turn to Jud, a man she quietly fears.
(Kelli O'Hara as Laurey)



Ali Hakim:
the Persian peddler who provides some comical moments in the show.
(Amir Arison as Ali Hakim)

Which character is most like YOU?

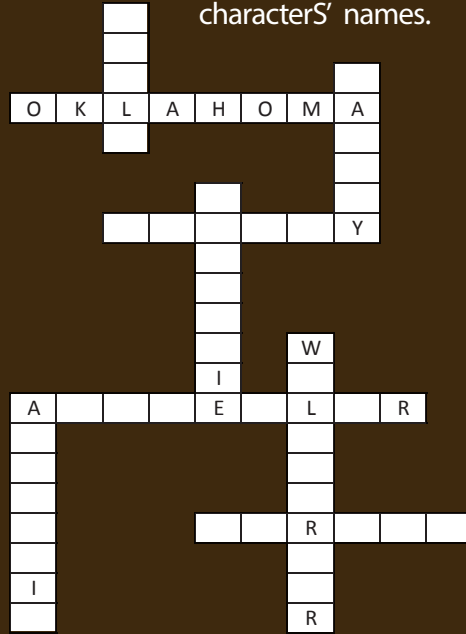
Why? _____

If you were in *Oklahoma*, which character would you LIKE to play?



Aunt Eller:
Laurey's aunt, strong-willed, and independent. She's "mother to everyone".
(Melinda Tanner as Aunt Eller)

Fill in the blanks with the characterS' names.



Curly:
the handsome cowboy and hero of the musical. He's always optimistic about life. He truly loves Laurey but also lets his stubborn attitude stand in his way.
(Mateja Govich as Curly)



Will Parker:
"not so smart" young cowboy who loves Ado Annie but isn't assertive enough to tell her so.
(Christopher Rice as Will Parker)

Musical facts about *Oklahoma!*



The musical was written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.

The musical was based on the play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, by Oklahoma playwright, Lynn Riggs.

Famed choreographer, Agnes DeMille, kept the plot moving through dance. Laurey’s Dream Ballet became one of the most well known dances in musical theatre.

Most musicals opened with a big dance number, *Oklahoma!* opened with a solo performance by the leading man, Curly.

The musical was originally titled, *Away We Go*.

Oklahoma! became a success because Rodgers and Hammerstein believed in their work and never gave up on their dream. They took a risk on a musical that didn’t follow the mainstream, but broke ground for new ideas in American musical theatre.

Rodgers and Hammerstein created new storytelling techniques for musical theatre: focusing on emotional empathy, taking the audience to a different time and place far removed from where they are, dealing with American historical and social issues, and using dance to convey plot and character.

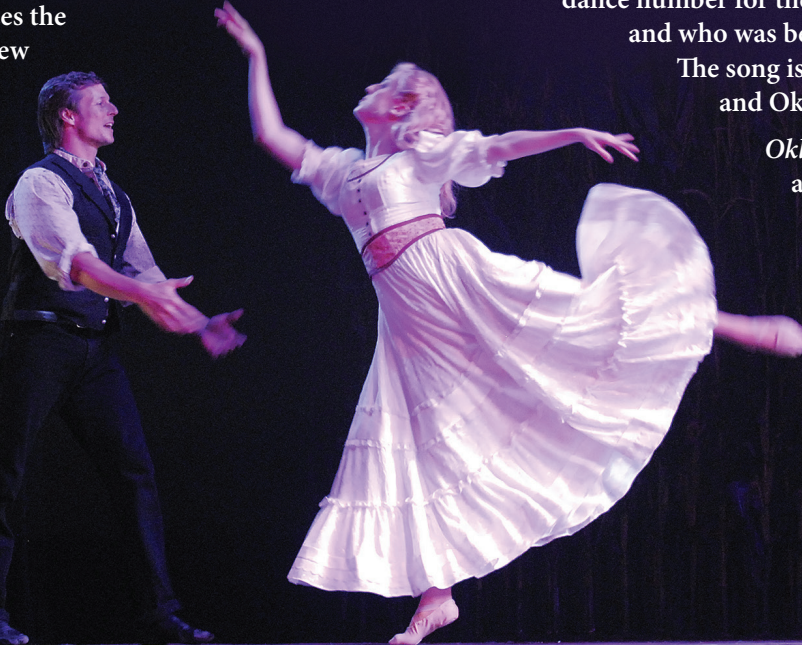
The Songs and Lyrics

Oh, What Beautiful Morning, sung by leading-man Curly, paints a picture of the open Oklahoma land, setting the mood and atmosphere for the rest of the play.

The Surrey with the Fringe on Top is known as a “charm” song. Curly tries to charm Laurey to go to the box social with him in a beautifully decorated surrey.

Kansas City talks of how “bigger” things were happening in another part of the country. Will Parker introduces the townspeople to new inventions, ideas, and dances including the two-step.

I Cain’t Say No is called a “character” song because the musical piece introduces Ado Annie as a playful and romantic character and shows off her kooky ways.



L	L	E	C	I	T	X	R	MUSICAL
U	O	E	L	O	L	E	R	SEEK & FIND
U	W	V	B	P	M	A	E	Find and circle
F	R	T	E	R	O	X	Y	the 10 following
R	Y	M	A	N	E	E	S	words. They
I	R	F	U	Z	P	X	P	might be up,
N	A	K	T	R	O	K	L	down, across
G	G	X	I	A	K	A	N	forwards,
E	A	L	F	O	C	R	X	backwards,
C	A	S	U	R	R	E	Y	or diagonal.
A	I	F	L	N	G	E	T	BEAUTIFUL
O	T	Y	Y	T	I	F	I	CAINT
K	K	N	A	M	W	O	C	COWMAN
P	F	R	B	E	A	A	S	FARMER
E	X	F	E	Y	I	F	A	FRINGE
O	O	A	M	N	C	U	S	KANSASCITY
C	F	R	T	R	R	L	N	LOVE
O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A	OKLAHOMA
M	E	R	C	O	R	X	K	PEOPLE
								SURREY



Lyric’s 2015 production of OKLAHOMA!

People Will Say We’re In Love wasn’t a typical love ballad. The song warned about falling in love, nonetheless, Curly and Laurey were falling in love right before the audiences’ very eyes.

The Farmer and the Cowman became the big “Barn-raising” dance number for the show. It was all about territory and who was better; the cowman or the farmer. The song is a great testament to American life and Oklahoma’s statehood.

Oklahoma! was originally written as a solo for Curly, but Rodgers & Hammerstein felt it needed more punch, so the song was performed by the full cast. They would sing out to the audience as if looking out towards the plains of Oklahoma, pronouncing their statehood.

Laurey’s Dream Ballet became one of the most well known dances in musical theatre.

John Selya as Dream Curly and Addie Tomlinson as Dream Laurey

Lyric’s 2007 production of OKLAHOMA!