Sequoyah Reading and Translation Activity

Around 1809, a "mix-blood" Cherokee named Sequoyah (also known as George Gist, or "Guess") began to develop a written form of the Cherokee language. By 1821, Sequoyah's syllable-based alphabet of eighty-six characters was completed, and was adopted by the Cherokee Council in 1826 for use in a new newspaper called *The Cherokee Phoenix*. The bilingual newspaper was circulated throughout the Cherokee Nation and parts of the United States and Europe. In addition to the newspaper, the printing office also printed thousands of pages of other publications including the Bible, hymns, and a novel.

NOTE: TEACHERS, PLEASE OMIT THE CHEROKEE LETTERS FOR "CHEROKEE" AND "SEQUOYAH."

Activity 1: Cherokee Translations (please cut into strips along black lines and distribute to students)

Hello ᎣᏏᏲ ___'•___•___'

Good-bye ᏙᎾᏓᎪᏫᎢ ___•___•___'•___•___•___'

Have students write the Cherokee characters in the blanks to spell the word.

Cherokee ___•___•___ Tsa la gi'

Sequoyah ___•___•___ Si quo ya

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*Link for more translations:
www.cherokee.org/AboutTheNation/Culture/Dikaneisdi(WordList).aspx