

# A BIG thank you to:

If you were unable to complete this activity booklet during your visit to the park, please feel free to mail the completed booklet to us. A park ranger will review it, sign the certificate, and send it back to you along with a Junior Ranger badge.

Please remember to include your name and address.

**Washita Battlefield National Historic Site**  
18555 Highway 47A STE. A  
Cheyenne, OK 73628

Thank you to the staff at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

A special thank you to:

Drew Hughes, park guide, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Erica Iacoe, park guide, Oklahoma City National Memorial



[www.nps.gov/waba](http://www.nps.gov/waba)



[www.c-a-tribes.org](http://www.c-a-tribes.org)



[www.nps.gov/webrangers](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers)



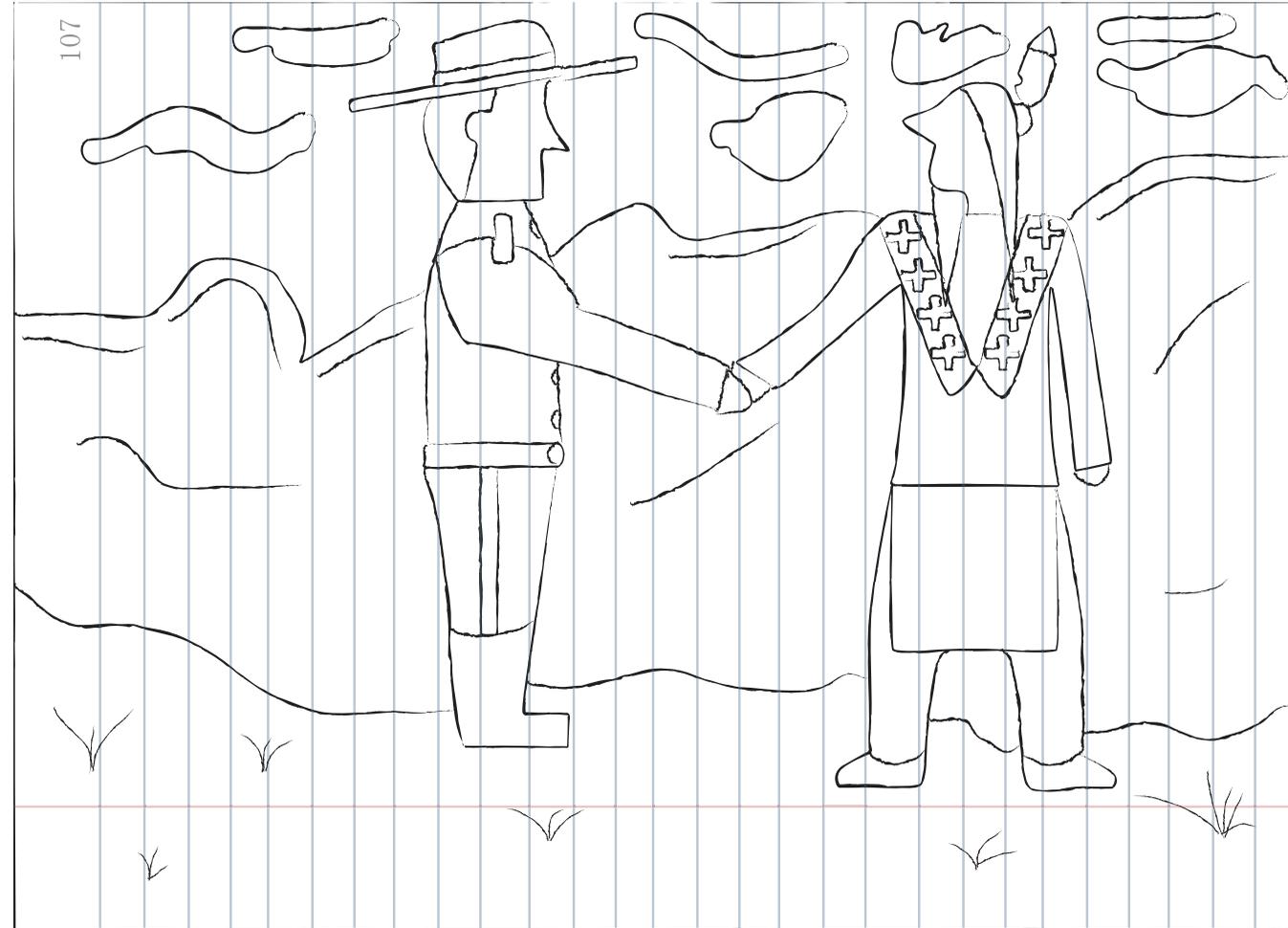
[www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)

# Washita Battlefield

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Historic Site  
Oklahoma



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Va'âhtama (wah dom) - Welcome

Welcome to Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (NHS)! This site protects and interprets the setting along the Washita River where, on November 27, 1868, Lt. Col. George A. Custer led the 7th U.S. Cavalry on a surprise dawn attack against the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle. The attack was an important event in the tragic clash of cultures during the Indian Wars.

The Junior Ranger Program is designed to help visitors of all ages develop an understanding and appreciation for our national parks. The national parks have been set aside to preserve and protect these special places for future generations to discover.



Completing the program and becoming a Junior Ranger is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Fill out the number of activities required for your age group by exploring Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.
2. Take your completed activity book to a park ranger in the visitor center.
3. Take the Junior Ranger Pledge and have a ranger sign your certificate.

Ages	# of Activities	Symbol
5-7	3	
8-10	5	
11+	7	

The drawing on the front cover is an adaptation of an original piece of ledger artwork by Cheyenne artist, George Levi. Ledger Art is a term for Plains Indian narrative drawing on ledger paper used by the Cheyenne and Kiowa from the 1860s to about 1900.

WASHITA BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

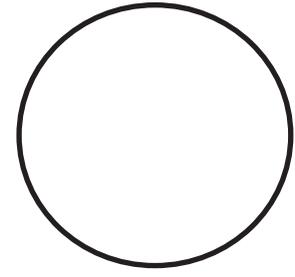
## Junior Ranger



awarded to



for successfully completing the requirements to become a  
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Junior Ranger



Park Ranger

Date

# Hotóá'ē (ho do ah) - Bison



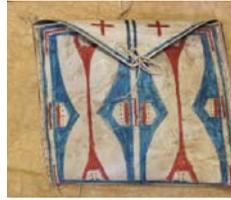
The American Bison was essential to the Cheyenne way of life. Most parts of the animal were used in daily living. Draw a line from the pictures to the part of the Bison it came from.



**HIDE**  
tipi covers, clothing,  
parfleches (saddle bags &  
containers)



**HORNS**  
utensils



**RIBS**  
sled



**TAIL**  
flyswatter,  
rattle

**HIDE (with hair)**  
winter clothing,  
floor covering,  
blankets

**STOMACH**  
waterproof bag  
to cook in

**HAIR**  
paint brushes,  
ropes, shields



# Where are we?



Ask a park ranger for a map of the United States so you can learn which park is closest to your house!



1. Draw a **○** around your home state in **GREEN**.
2. Draw the route you took to Washita Battlefield NHS (**X**) in **ORANGE**.
3. Which NPS site is closest to your house? \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark the park with a **RED \***.
4. Which other parks have you visited?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other National Park Service site and what affiliated site are in Oklahoma?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_

# National Park Service

In 1872, Yellowstone was created as the first National Park because Americans thought it was important to protect such a beautiful place. In 1916, the National Park Service was created under the Department of the Interior whose:

*“...purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”*

Today, the National Park Service system includes not only parks, but monuments, memorials, seashores, trails, historic sites, and lots more! How many sites do you think the National Park Service administers? Would you guess almost 400 and growing? That’s right! These places are protected so you can enjoy them now and long into the future. As a Junior Ranger, you are learning the importance of these places so you can protect them, too.

## Symbols of the Arrowhead

The arrowhead is full of important symbols representing the mission of the National Park Service (NPS).



The shape, an arrowhead, represents the historical and archeological values of the National Park Service.

The Bison represents all wildlife protected by the National Park Service.



The Sequoia Tree stands for the diverse plant life found in our National Parks.



The mountain and the lake represent the recreational and scenic values in our National Parks. The beauty of nature is everywhere, and protected long ago so we can still enjoy the outdoors today!



# Earn your Rank



Increase your rank from private to general by using the key below to help you fill in the blanks.

**Key: wagons, 700, cholera, Antelope Hills, rations, Riley, battalions, 1866, railroad, blanket**

The 7th Cavalry was formed in the year \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Corporal!]. It was organized at Fort \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Sergeant!]. In Kansas the 7th Cavalry protected stagecoaches and crews working on the \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Second Lieutenant!]. It was a long, hot summer for these men. Some became sick with a deadly disease called \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, First Lieutenant!]. In the Fall of 1868 Lieutenant Colonel George Custer led the 7th Cavalry into Indian Territory. They were headed for the \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Captain!] and the Washita Valley. Custer was the leader for about \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Major!] men. Included in this group were a number of scouts and guides. Before reaching the Washita River, Custer left his slow moving supply \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations Lieutenant Colonel!] behind Custer wanted his men to travel light, taking little more than a \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations, Colonel!], ammunition, and a few \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations Brigadier General!], such as hardtack. Once the 7th Cavalry arrived near the Cheyenne village, Custer split his men into \_\_\_\_\_ [congratulations Major General!], each consisting of several companies.

# Soldiers



Like the Southern Plains Indians, soldiers never stayed in one place very long during the Indian Wars. They had to carry everything in a bag called a haversack. Circle the items below you think they would have needed back in the 1860s.



# National Park Service: The Arrowhead



What colors would you use to fill in the arrowhead? Ask a park ranger for some crayons so you can color in the National Park Service arrowhead below.



# Can you find me?



Can you find all of these items in our visitor center? Circle objects when you find them and then draw a line through three in a row.



# Plants



Even on the windy plains of western Oklahoma, trees and plants continue to survive. Below are some common plants found at Washita Battlefield NHS. Match the plant's description to the correct picture and write down where you found it.



## Osage Orange *Maclura pomifera*

This tree, also called Bois d'Arc, is common in Oklahoma and Texas as prairie windbreaks. The fruit of the Osage Orange is inedible, but some Plains Indians tribes used the wood from this tree to make bows.

**Found at:**



## Drummond's Onion *Allium drummondii*

Also called a Prairie Onion, this plant is an herb with edible leaves and bulbs. It has white flowers that bloom in early summer. The Cheyenne traditionally used the bulbs for seasoning.

**Found at:**



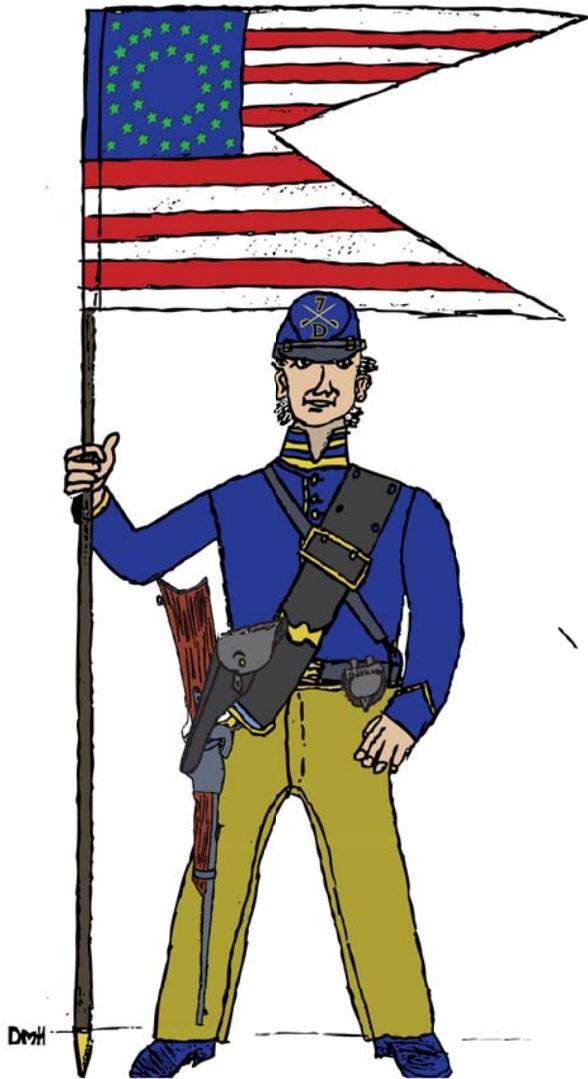
## Buffalo Gourd *Cucurbita foetidissima*

Buffalo Gourd is also common in southwestern United States, as it requires little water and grows quickly. The plant is part of the cucumber family, but the fruit looks more like a watermelon or squash, depending on its ripeness. The flowers are bright yellow with wide leaves.

**Found at:**

# 7th Cavalry

The picture to the right is what a 7th Cavalryman would have looked like in 1868. The picture below is of a Cavalryman, only with 5 changes made. Circle the differences to the Cavalryman below.



# Let's Move Outside!

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is participating in the "Let's Move Outside" program, part of the Let's Move! campaign. Let's Move! is about putting children on the path to a healthy future. Outdoor activities help kids stay healthy.



In order to earn your "Let's Move Outside" certificate, you must spend at least one hour outside. You can do anything! To complete the hour at the park, we recommend walking the U.S. Forest Service's Dust and Fire Trail twice, both loops of the Washita Interpretive trail once, or a combination of the two (e.g. once around the Forest Service Trail and the top loop of the Washita Interpretive Trail).

Plus, you can complete Junior Ranger activities at the same time!





# Dust and Fire Trail



As you walk the U.S. Forest Service Dust and Fire Trail, read the waysides and answer the questions below. There is a question for every stop, except for the Native Garden, which has its own activity on the next page. Trace your steps using the map as you walk the trail.



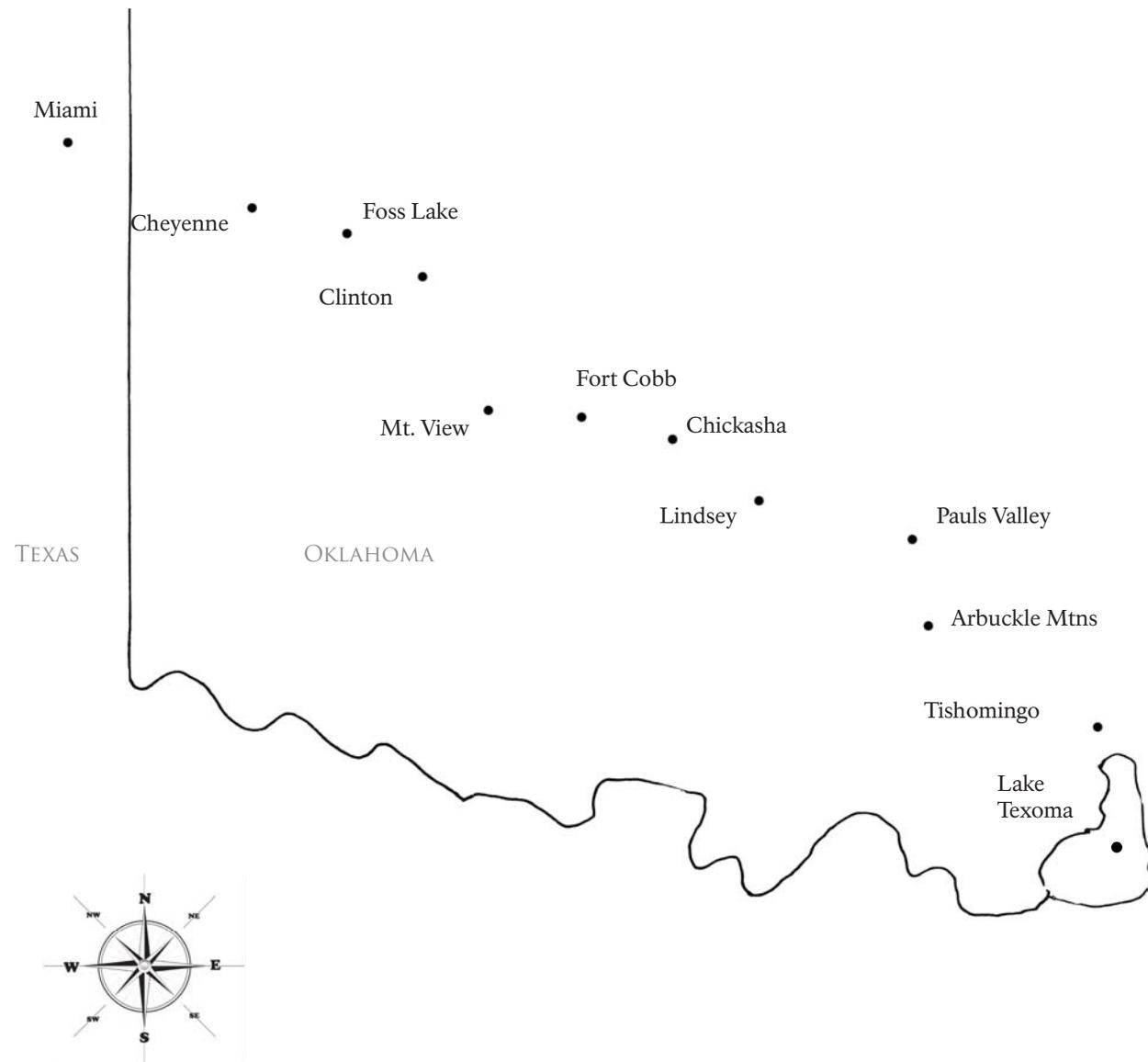
1. What is a Sooner? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did homesteaders build as temporary homes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fill in this quote: “ What the \_\_\_\_\_ lack in \_\_\_\_\_ they make up for in \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. What was the most important medicinal plant of the prairie? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the state grass of Oklahoma? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why is fire essential to the health of the prairie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is April 14, 1935 called, and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are earning your “Let’s Move Outside” certificate, walk the trail again. Walk the trail in the opposite direction if you would like!

# Hooxe’e-o’he’e (ho hay ay o hay)



Connect the dots to reveal the path of the Washita River, and discover the cities which it flows through along the way. Start with Miami, and follow the river southeast to Lake Texoma.



# Washita River



## Facts about the Washita River:

1. The Washita begins near the town of Miami in the Texas panhandle and flows 295 miles through Oklahoma and empties into Lake Texoma, which is on the border of Texas and Oklahoma.
2. The Washita River flows through many towns in Oklahoma, including Cheyenne, Clinton, Chickasha, Pauls Valley, and Tishomingo.
3. A mile and a quarter of Washita's entire length flow through the park boundaries. "Owa Chita" is Choctaw meaning "Big Hunt" or "Good Hunting." The Cheyenne called it "Hooxeeohe" meaning, "Lodgepole River."
4. The river was a favorite place for the Southern Plains Indians to camp out during the harsh winter months. It was heavily wooded, there was plenty of food to hunt, and grass to sustain the pony herd through the winter.

# Native Garden



From the four quadrants of the Native Garden, choose one plant. Then describe, in the lines below, how it coordinates with the Cheyenne's four common uses: Daily Living, Home, Edible, and Medicinal. Is the plant like a bush or a tree? Do the leaves look rough or smooth? Do any of the plants smell? Write down what you see, smell, hear, or feel while in the Native Garden.



# Ask a Ranger



Park rangers work in the National Park Service. They can answer your questions and tell you fun things they like to do. Find a park ranger and ask them the questions below. Do they like the same things you like?

1. What kind of things do you do on a typical day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you worked for the National Park Service? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your favorite thing about your job? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you worked at any other parks? \_\_\_\_\_
5. (ask your own question) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Crossword Clues

### Across

2. \_\_\_\_\_ were similar to backpacks, and were used to carry food and belongings when the Cheyenne moved.
5. In 1868, the Cheyenne's winter camp was on the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
6. Lt. Col. Custer led the 7th \_\_\_\_\_ at Washita.
9. Cheyenne Chief \_\_\_\_\_ defended women and children at the Battle of the Washita.
10. The tipi covers were made from \_\_\_\_\_ buffalo skins.
12. The number \_\_\_\_\_ is important in Cheyenne life.

### Down

1. The name of the Cheyenne people.
2. Before using beads, Cheyenne decorated their clothing with quills from the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I was the Cheyenne Peace Chief at the Battle of the Washita.
4. The name "lodge" and \_\_\_\_\_ both refer to the Cheyenne shelter.
7. Another name for buffalo is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Cheyenne called the Washita the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
11. The Cheyenne became allies of the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Crossword

The clues to the crossword are on the page to the left, on the bottom.

