
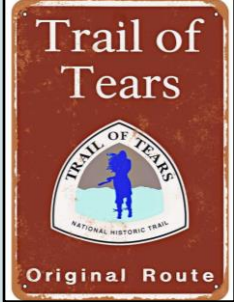




Teacher Inquiry Kit: Grades K-5


Joe T. Thornton


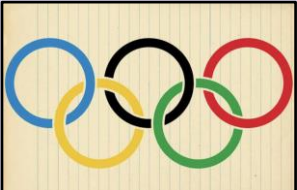
Title	Joe T. Thornton: A Good Life
Author(s)	Dr. Rose E. Honey
Grade Level	3rd-5th grades
Soldier	Joe T. Thornton
Tribal Affiliation	Cherokee
Branch of Service	Army War Department and Army Signal Core
Dates of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Army War Department: 1934-1937 ● Army Signal Core: 1943-1945
Essential Question	How have the experiences and opportunities that Joe Thornton has had throughout his life as a Cherokee and a United States citizen contributed to him living what he calls “a good life”?
Contextual Paragraph	<p>“I just lived a good, clean life, Helen and I. We consider our life really, really good. We've had a lot of fun.” said Joe, at the age of 99. Mr. Joe T. Thornton was born in his home in the town of Stilwell, Oklahoma in 1916. His parents were farmers, and he was the second born of 8 children. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation. His great-grandfather traveled to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears from Tennessee to the town of Wauhillau, Oklahoma in the 1830s. He went to school through the 8th grade at the Adair County grade school. Then he attended Seneca Indian School in Wyandotte, Oklahoma for 9th grade and completed high school at Chilocco Indian School in Ponca City and graduated in 1934. At Chilocco he learned the dairy farming trade, learned how to box, started to make bows and arrows and competed in archery. He joined the army after graduating from high school and was sent to Fort Sill in field artillery. He also became a trained radio technician during his service there. When World War II began, he was drafted as a radio technician and stationed outside of the Pentagon in Alexandria, Virginia, where he helped to transmit messages in morse code to the U.S. Army overseas. After World War II ended, Mr. Thornton went home to Stilwell and ran a radio and tv store with a business partner. During this time, he started to practice archery again, and began to teach archery to a woman named Helen, who would become his wife. During this time, he also started an archery business where he made bows and arrows.</p>


	<p>He competed in archery tournaments around Oklahoma and won the Oklahoma State Archery Championship in 1960 and the World Championship in Oslo, Norway in 1961 setting three world records in archery. He went on to become the British International Trials Champion in 1962, the silver medalist in the 1963 and 1965 World Championships, the British International Trials Champion again in 1967, and the USA Team Gold World Champion in 1971. Starting in 1969, Joe Thornton served on the National Archery Association Board of Governors. As a member of this board, he helped to get the sport of archery into the Olympics, a goal they were able to meet for the 1972 Olympics in Montreal, Canada. Mr. Thornton is a member of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma State Archery Association Hall of Fame, the Chilocco Indian School Hall of Fame, and the Cherokee Nation Honor Society.</p>
C3 Standards	<p><u>C3 Standards:</u></p> <p>Geography: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2.Geo.4.3-5. Explain how culture influences the way people modify and adapt to their environments. <p>History: Change, Continuity, and Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2.His.1.3-5. Create and use a chronological sequence of related events to compare developments that happened at the same time.
Primary Source 1:	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPhdjPU1tY8</p>
Primary Source Title: 	<p>Joe Thornton: Chilocco Indian Agricultural School Alumni (video interview): This interview took place in 2016, when Joe Thornton was the oldest living alumnus of Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in Oklahoma, and a centenarian.</p>
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the first 17-18 minutes of this interview [0:00-17:45]. What subject in school was Joe Thornton's favorite? • What Tribe does Joe Thornton say he is a member of? • When the interviewer asks what percentage Cherokee Joe is, what does he say? What other ethnicities is he?

Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does Joe say when the interviewers ask him about the Cherokee language [2:45-3:45]? Why do you think his parents didn't teach him the Cherokee language? - If you know what race/ethnicity you are descended from, discuss this with a partner or small group. - What did you hear Joe Thornton talk about in his interview that you think means he lived a good life?
Primary Source 2:	https://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm
Primary Source Title: 	Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (website): Historic and modern-day information about the Trail of Tears is provided to preserve the story, the routes, and support the associated sites that commemorate the Cherokees' forced migration. Joe Thornton's great-grandparents traveled from Tennessee to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears in the early 1800s.
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In his alumni interview in Primary Source 1, Joe Thornton talks about his grandparents and great-grandparents [1:50-2:45]. Where did his great grandparents come from, and how did they get to Oklahoma? ● What year did the Cherokee begin to journey on the Trail of Tears? What year did the Trail of Tears end? ● What president signed the "Indian Removal Act" which required certain tribes to leave their homelands? ● People who traveled on the Trail of Tears were members of what five tribes? ● Find the map in the "Walk in Their Footsteps" brochure: Locate the state where Joe's great-grandparents came from, and the location where Joe Thornton was born. What possible routes did his great-grandparents travel on?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After exploring the section called "A Journey of Injustice," have a conversation about why you think the United States government would move the Cherokee from their homelands to Oklahoma. What did they want? - Discuss the distance you think the Cherokee and other tribes traveled on the Trail of Tears. How did they travel?

Primary Source 3:	Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuQtIjaCYzo Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-63PHxSWlg
Primary Source Title: 	Chilocco Through the Years - Parts 1 and 2 (videos): This documentary series examines the legacy of Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, the first federally funded Indian School developed in the U.S. territories. It tells the story of Chilocco through a national lens while looking at the school's impact in more depth, particularly in terms of its contributions to agriculture and the trades.
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the sports that students learned to play at Chilocco? • Joe Thornton talked about his life as a student at Chilocco in his alumni interview in Primary Source 1. What sport did he talk about learning [14:29 - 16:50]? What kind of agricultural training did he have [10:36 - 12:00]? • What kinds of changes were made to the school starting in 1934? Why were these changes made?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Chilocco Through the Years</i> shows students dressed in military uniforms. Discuss why you think this is? - Do you think that Chilocco looks like a nice place to go to school? Why or why not? If you could ask the students a question about their life at Chilocco, what would you want to know? - How did attending Chilocco add to Joe Thornton's life experiences and opportunities?
Primary Source 4:	https://www.proquest.com/openview/a9649e33bd3201d9039105d344f6899d/1?cbl=1820026&pq-origsite=gscholar
Primary Source Title: 	Seams (poem): Todd Fuller, a non-native professor at Oklahoma State University wrote this poem about Chilocco and a student named Mose Yellowhorse (Pawnee). Yellowhorse attended Chilocco Indian School in 1917 and was the first full-blooded Native American to play baseball in the major leagues.
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you notice when you read the poem <i>Seams</i>? What lines jump out to you and what are they about?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who do you think the people mentioned in the poem are? What major event happened in 1914?
Discussion prompts beyond questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss why you think the word “pop” is written throughout the poem. What is it supposed to mean? Talk about what “red dirt” and “red dust” might be referring to in the poem? Do they have significant meanings? The poem is set at Chilocco Indian School. Is this significant to the story told in the poem? Why or why not?
Primary Source 5:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlX4dyPGs2U&t=271s
Primary Source Title: 	Archery Legend Joe Thornton (video): Cherokee Nation citizen Joe Thornton traveled the world, competing in archery competitions. In this video in 2016 at 99 years old, he reminisces about the full life he's lived and how he met the love of his life through archery.
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where and when did Joe Thornton first begin to make bows and arrows? Why did Joe Thornton initially learn to make bows and arrows? What year was it when Joe Thornton first competed in an archery tournament? How did Joe Thornton first meet his wife, Helen?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was archery for Joe Thornton at Chilocco the same or different compared to when he competed as an adult? In the <i>Archery Legend Joe Thornton</i> video, Joe Thornton says that there are three required things you need in order to shoot archery well: strength, steady nerves, and self-control. Discuss how these things might also be important toward applying to other areas of life, and how they might contribute to living a good life.
Primary Source 6:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsqrWJVU7xA
Primary Source Title:	Cherokee Traditions: Bows and Arrows (video): Mr. Grayson provides the audience with an overview of what bows and arrows are used for, the different types, and how they are made. He also talks about the culture of bow and arrow making in the Cherokee tradition, and the importance of passing the knowledge down to youth.

	
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name at least three different kinds of wood that the Cherokee used to make bows in their traditional homelands. • Once the Cherokee people moved west from the Southeast, did the method for making bows change? If so, how? • What event caused the Cherokee to move from the Southeast to Oklahoma? • Mr. Joe T. Thornton mentions in his interview in Primary Source 1 that Cherokee Nation was the first Tribe to have their own public archery range in 2016. What did they name this archery range?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does Mr. Noel Grayson mean when he says, “work with the grain. Maybe you have heard this at a job - work with the grain, not against it.” Does this hold a different meaning? - Mr. Noel Grayson tells a story about Hernando DeSoto’s men 200 years ago, and that the Cherokee bows were so strong, they were not able to draw a bow to their face. Why weren't they able to do this? Why did the Cherokee think this was funny?
Primary Source 7:	https://tribalcollegejournal.org/native-athletics-olympics-beyond/
Primary Source Title:	Native Athletics in the Olympics and Beyond (article): Many Native American tribes have traditional competitive games. This article discusses the role that Native Americans have played in the Olympics during the 20th century.
Suggested questions for the source: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some traditional Native American sporting games that are discussed in this article? • Choose one Native American Olympian included in this article. What event(s) did they compete in, and which Olympics were they part of the Olympic team for? • In his alumni interview in Primary Source 1, Joe Thornton discussed his contribution toward getting archery declared an Olympic sport (1:01:53-1:03:49]. What year did this take place? Was Joe Thornton on the Olympic team for archery?

Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talk to peers about the list of Native American Olympians you learned about in this article. How many of them have you heard of before? - Discuss what role Jim Thorpe played in the creation of the NFL? What tribe was he a member of?
Primary Source 8:	https://www.cryptomuseum.com/radio/morse/
Primary Source Title:	Morse Code (website): Morse code is a method for encoding text into a series of dashes and dots, which can be sent (transmitted) by means of sound, light or radio waves, and that can be decoded by a skilled listener without special equipment. This site explains the history, the alphabet, and the method of communicating in Morse code.
Suggested questions for the source: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What year was Morse code first developed? • Can you name at least two different ways that Morse code messages can be communicated? • What are some situations where Morse code has been used to send secret and important messages? • Do you think that Morse code is something that is still used today? If yes, in what ways?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In his alumni interview in Primary Source 1, Joe Thornton talks about using Morse code while he was in the Army [28:20-37:57]. Who was he sending Morse Code messages to and why? - With a partner, practice sending a word, a sentence, and a short message to one another using Morse Code. Use different methods of transmission. Afterward, talk about how transmission went. Was it easy or difficult?
Works Cited	<p>“Archery Legend Joe Thornton.” YouTube, uploaded by Osiyo TV, 6 February, 2016, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlX4dyPGs2U&t=271s.</p> <p>“Cherokee Traditions: Bows and Arrows.” YouTube, uploaded by Visit Cherokee Nation, 18 June 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsqrWJVU7xA.</p> <p>“Chilocco Through the Years - Part 1.” YouTube, uploaded by Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP), 2 August 2019, www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuOtljaCYzo.</p> <p>“Chilocco Through the Years - Part 2.” YouTube, uploaded by Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP), 6 June 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-63PHxSWlg.</p> <p>Crypto Museum. “Morse Code.” 07 March 2021, https://www.cryptomuseum.com/radio/morse/</p>

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