

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Precolonial America**

### ***Southeastern Tribes***

**Directions:** Read the following passage then answer the questions.



#### **Cherokee:** The People of the Mountains

Have you ever walked through a thick, green forest, with towering mountains in the distance? That was home to the Cherokee tribe. In the heart of these mountains and forests, the Cherokee thrived. Not just great hunters and gatherers, they were also skilled farmers. They grew corn, beans, and sunflowers.

They also had a special system of writing, almost like an alphabet. It was called the Cherokee Syllabary. This was created by a genius named Sequoyah. Thanks to him, the Cherokee became one of the few tribes with their very own written language! They wrote stories, letters, and more.

#### **Creek:** Builders and Traders

The Creek tribe loved to build. They made villages with big plazas in the center where people gathered to celebrate or make decisions. Imagine a bustling village, with children playing and craftspeople working. They also lived in houses made of river cane and mud - nature's very own air conditioner!

The Creek were renowned for their beautiful pottery and crafts. Everyone wanted to trade with them. They would trade their pottery with other tribes, and even faraway places!

#### **Seminole:** Guardians of the Swamps

Deep in the marshy lands of Florida, the Seminole tribe lived. Navigating through swampland, the Seminole were truly in sync with nature. Their homes, called chickees, stood tall on wooden legs, keeping them safe from the watery world below.

Seminole clothing was a patchwork of vibrant colors and patterns. Imagine wearing a shirt with bright patterns, and each stitch told a story. The Seminole were brave, resilient, and creative.

#### **Choctaw:** The Game Players

The Choctaw loved to have fun! They played a game called stickball, which is a lot like modern-day lacrosse. Picture this: teams trying to catch a small ball using long sticks with nets at the end, and then tossing it into the other team's goal. It was a celebration of spirit and skill that brought the community together.

The Choctaw were also known for their storytelling. When the sun set, and the stars appeared, Choctaw stories came to life. Sitting around a campfire, elders would share tales of magical creatures and great heroes. It was their way of teaching lessons and keeping history alive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Precolonial America

### *Southeastern Tribes*

**Directions:** Read the following passage then answer the questions.



### Reading Questions

1. What unique contribution did Sequoyah make? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the purpose of the Cherokee Syllabary? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What qualities do you think the Cherokee tribe valued based on the text? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you believe this?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think the Creek tribe's pottery was so sought after by other tribes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was at the center of Creek villages, and what was its purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How might the environment the Seminole lived in influence the way they built their homes?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you believe this?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What does the Choctaw's love for stickball tell us about their community values? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How might the stories told by the Choctaw elders help younger generations? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_