

**Lesson Plan****The Cherokee Syllabary***Engaging Activity***Topic**

*Sequoyah* by James Rumford

**Theme****Patterns of social and political interaction**

...change and continuity of class, ethnic, racial and gender structure and relations...The conditions and aspirations of common people, and those of elites, and their effects upon political power and institutions

**Habits of Mind**

This lesson is designed to help students:

**Historical Empathy**

*Perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by people at the time, to develop historical empathy as opposed to present-mindedness.*

**Change and Consequences**

*Understand how things happen and how things change, how human interactions matter, but also how their consequences are shaped by the means of carrying them out, in a tangle between purposes and process.*

**The Unintended and Unexpected**

*Appreciate the force of the non-rational, the irrational, and the accidental, in history and human affairs.*

**Materials**

*Sequoyah* by James Rumford

**Strategies**

1. Involve students in the lesson by having them recall things they know about Sequoyah.
2. Read *Sequoyah* by James Rumford. Tell the story of a Cherokee man who gave his people a written language.
3. Give everyone a copy of Sequoyah's syllabary.
4. Play the pronunciation of the syllables. Have students to listen the first time around and the play the pronunciation again and ask students to try to say the syllables along with the audio.
5. Play the days of the week and have students listen and the second time around try to pronounce the words.
6. Give everyone a writing sheet and have them practice several Cherokee words.