

*Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller*

Author/Illustrator by Doreen Rappaport

Disney-Hyperion /2019

**STORY SYNOPSIS:** This picture-book biography of Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, begins with her early life in rural Oklahoma. The sixth in family of eleven children, she grew up in a poor, but loving family. Her life in a supportive rural community is disrupted when a new government policy relocates her family to suburban San Francisco. There she faces many challenges, but eventually finds a new community at the Oakland Indian Center, returns to Oklahoma and finds her calling as a leader. Direct quotes from Wilma Mankiller's autobiography are included in the blank verse narrative.

### Lesson

#### Productive Resources

**INTRODUCTION:** Wilma Mankiller, a member of the Cherokee Nation, was born in Oklahoma. However, before the Europeans arrived, her ancestors lived in the Southeastern United States in an area which is now Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

**GRADE LEVEL:** 3-6

**TIME ALLOCATION:** 25-30 minutes

#### MATERIALS:

- Book- *Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller* by Doreen Rappaport
- Visual – Native American Productive Resources
- Activity Sheet – Native American Productive Resources
- Writing tools
- Document camera

#### OBJECTIVES:

- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Native American Inuit, Kwakiutl, Lakota, Pueblo, Iroquois tribes.
- The student be introduced to the history of the Cherokee Nation.
- The student will identify the productive resources used by Native Americans.

#### ECONOMIC CONCEPTS:

- Natural resources: Things that come directly from nature
- Human resources: People working to produce goods and services
- Capital resources: Goods produced and used to make other goods and services

**VIRGINIA STANDARD OF LEARNING- HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

- 2.8 The student will describe natural resources (water, soil, wood, and coal), human resources (people at work), and capital resources (machines, tools, and buildings).
- 3.8 The student will demonstrate an understanding of different cultures and the natural, human, and capital resources they used in the production of goods and services.
- USI.3 The student will demonstrate knowledge of how early cultures developed in North America by
  - b) locating where the American Indians settled, with emphasis on Arctic (Inuit), Northwest (Kwakiutl), Plains (Lakota), Southwest (Pueblo), and Eastern Woodland (Iroquois);
  - c) describing how the American Indians used the resources in their environment

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Introduce the lesson by showing the students the cover of the book, *Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller*. Explain that Wilma Mankiller was a leader in the Cherokee Nation and preserving Native American culture was important to her.
2. Read the book to the students, if time allows. This will take about 15 minutes. An online reading may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-seTLtE44>
3. Explain to the students that today's lessons involves reviewing productive resources and various Native American tribes located in North America.
4. Display the visual. Review the contents with the students. Explain that they will be completing an activity sheet that uses the same format as the example on the visual. It will be challenging, but by working with the information or "clues" given, they should be able to be successful.
5. Distribute the activity sheets and writing tools. Students may work independently or in pairs.
6. Check for understanding. Answers:

7. Tribe/Location	Natural Resources	Human Resources	Capital Resource
<b>Inuit</b> Alaska and Canada	Seal Skin, Driftwood, Whale Bone	Kayak builders	Bone Skinning Knife, Blubber Pounder
<b>Kwakiutl</b> Pacific Northwest	Salmon and Sea Mammals	Fishermen	Canoes and Fish Traps
<b>Lakota</b> Great Plains	Bison, Deer, Elk, and Bear	Hunters	Bows and Arrows, Snares, Spears, Tomahawks
<b>Pueblo</b> New Mexico and Arizona	Adobe (clay, water, plant material)	Dwelling Builders	Wooden Ladders, Carts, and Brick Molds
<b>Iroquois</b> Northeast Woodlands	Corn, Beans, and Squash	Farmers	Wooden Rakes, Stone Axes, and Wooden Hoes

8. Conclude the lesson by discussing why the different Native American tribes became skilled, creating tools to help them become hunters, builders, and farmers. [Most students will note that the natural resources that were available were important to the tools that were made. Most of their “products” were related to items needed for survival: food, shelter, and clothing.]

Visual-

## Native American Productive Resources

**Natural Resources:** Things that come directly from nature.

*Native Americans fished, hunted and grew crops for their food.*

**Human Resources:** People working to produce goods and services.

*Native Americans were hunters, farmers, fishermen, and boat builders.*

**Capital Resources:** Goods produced and used to make other goods and services.

*Native Americans used bows and arrows, wooden rakes, and kayaks.*

### ACTIVITY SHEET EXAMPLE:

The Cherokee Indians are a Native American tribe. They are largest tribe in the United States. Traditionally the Cherokee made coil pots. They were smoothed out using large wooden paddles and then stamped with detailed designs using pottery stamps.



Tribe/Location	Natural Resources	Human Resources	Capital Resources
<b>Cherokee</b> Smokey Mountains	Clay, River Stones, Dry Bark	Potter	Wooden Pottery Stamps, Pottery Paddle, Fire Pit

Activity Sheet-

### Native American Productive Resources

- **Natural Resources:** Things that come directly from nature.
- **Human Resources:** People working to produce goods and services.
- **Capital Resources:** Goods produced and used to make other goods and services.

**Directions:** Complete the chart using the words listed below.

Tribe/Location	Natural Resources	Human Resources	Capital Resources
<b>Inuit</b> Alaska and Canada		Kayak builders	
<b>Kwakiutl</b> Pacific Northwest			Canoes and Fish Traps

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<b>Lakota</b> Great Plains		Hunters	
<b>Pueblo</b> New Mexico and Arizona	Adobe (clay, water, plant material)		
<b>Iroquois</b> Northeast Woodlands		Farmers	

- Dwelling Builders
- Wooden Rakes, Stone Axes, and Wooden Hoes
- Seal Skin, Driftwood, Whale Bone
- Fishermen
- Bows and Arrows, Snares, Spears, Tomahawks
- Bone Skinning Knife, Blubber Pounder
- Corn, Beans, and Squash
- Salmon and Sea Mammals
- Wooden Ladders, Carts, and Brick Molds
- Bison, Deer, Elk, and Bear

Answer Key:

## Native American Productive Resources

Tribe/Location	Natural Resources	Human Resources	Capital Resource
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<b>Lakota</b> Great Plains	Bison, Deer, Elk, and Bear	Hunters	Bows and Arrows, Snares, Spears, Tomahawks
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