The Kiowa Artists

The Kiowa Artists were young Kiowa Indians from the Anadarko area of Oklahoma. They were so talented that they were given a chance to learn more about art at the University of Oklahoma. Soon, their paintings made them known far and wide. These five Indian artists were able to tell the world about their Indian customs and traditions through their artwork. Many of their paintings show ceremonial singing and dancing. Today, their art is on display in museums both in Oklahoma and around the world.

Who were the Kiowa Artists?
Stephen Mopope was the oldest in the group. He was born on the Kiowa Reservation in Oklahoma Territory. His uncles were artists and they taught him Kiowa painting.
Jack Hokeah was orphaned at a young age and raised by his grandmother.
Monroe Tsatoke’s and James Auchiah’s grandfathers were both ledger artists. A ledger artist drew on the government papers thrown away from the reservation offices. Because artists on the reservation did not have the art supplies they needed, they used this thrown away paper.
Here is a ledger painting:

1. Where were the Kiowa artists born and raised?

2. How did the artist’s family help them become artists?

3. How did the artists show their culture through their art?

Spencer Asah’s father was a medicine man. His leadership in the tribe can be seen in the paintings his son drew. Lois Smoky was the only woman in the group of artists. Below is one of her paintings.