WILL ROGERS

Will Rogers is one of Oklahoma’s most famous citizens. He was proud to be an Oklahoman and proud to be part Cherokee, too. Will grew up in Claremore, Indian Territory. He learned the many skills of being a cowboy on his father’s ranch.

When we was a young man, he joined a wild west show. People came from miles around to see Will do rope tricks—even while riding a horse at the same time! He was called the “Cherokee Kid.”

Later, movies were invented. And Will moved to Hollywood to become a movie star. He acted in westerns and even had his own show on the radio. He knew that he could make people smile. Will could tell jokes about anything. He even made jokes about what was going on in the news!

Soon, he was writing his own newspaper articles about the news—making people laugh. This was good. It was a time in our country when many people were out of work. Some people had lost their homes and were even going hungry.

Although Will made jokes about the news, our government leaders listened to his jokes. He let them know what changes the people wanted to see. You can learn more about Will Rogers by visiting his museum in Claremore sometime.

1. How did Will use the things he learned on a ranch to earn money?

2. Where would you have been able to see, hear, or read Will Rogers?

3. How did Will Rogers help the people of Oklahoma and our country?