

Code \_\_\_\_\_ (Revision 11/2701)

INTERVIEWERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CHEROKEE LANGUAGE SURVEY INTEVIEWER'S GUIDE**

***The Cherokee Nation is conducting its first comprehensive survey of more than 800 Cherokees who live in our jurisdictional service area to determine the current use of the Cherokee language. This interview will take about 30 minutes to complete. I will ask you some direct questions but you can choose not to answer any question. However, if you complete the interview, you will receive a \$20 gift certificate. Here is a copy of the interview guide so you can follow along. Do you have any questions?***

Gender: ***(fill in for participant)***

Female                       Male

Age in years: ***(ask participant to select one)***

10-20                       31-40                       51-60                       71-80  
 21-30                       41-50                       61-70                       81 and above

Level of education attained: ***(ask participant to select one)***

Elementary                       GED                       Some College  
 High School                       Voc-Tech                       College graduate  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your Cherokee blood quantum? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you now live? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is your "home community"? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1 – Use of Cherokee Language in the Household**

1. Which language is used most in your home?

- Cherokee                       English                       Both English & Cherokee  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the first language you spoke as a child?

- Cherokee                       English                       Both English & Cherokee  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you speak or understand Cherokee now?

- Yes                       No, but I used to                       Never spoke/understood

*If “Yes,” or “No”, continue with Question 4; If “Never spoke/understood,” go to Question 13.*

4. My ability to speak Cherokee is: **(rank only one)**

- Understand, but can’t speak  
 Understand and speak a little  
 Conversational  
 Highly Fluent

5. Did you stop speaking Cherokee? \_\_\_\_ No, \_\_\_\_ If Yes, please answer both (a) and (b):

a. When did you stop speaking Cherokee?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Before I started school           | <input type="checkbox"/> When I began school      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In elementary school (Grades 1-6) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Jr. high (Grades 7-8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In high school (Grades 10-12)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____              |

b. Why did you stop speaking Cherokee?

*Not applicable for Cherokee speakers.*

6. Can you read Cherokee?

- Yes                       No                       Some/A little

If yes, what do you read? \_\_\_\_ English phonetics \_\_\_\_ Cherokee syllabary    What types of material do you read? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Can you write Cherokee?

- Yes                       No                       Some/A little

If yes, what do you read? \_\_\_\_ English phoenics \_\_\_\_ Cherokee syllabary. What kind of material can you write? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Can you verbally translate the Cherokee language?

Yes  No

If yes, in what situation have you translated for another person?

- Home  School  Work
- Court  Church  Grounds
- Hospital  Other

(specify) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Can you translate written materials from English to Cherokee?

Yes  No  Some/A little

If yes, what have you translated? \_\_\_\_\_ English phonics \_\_\_\_\_ Cherokee syllabary. What kind of material can you translate? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Can you translate written materials from Cherokee to English?

Yes  No  Some/A little

If yes, what have kind of material can you translate? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Where do you speak Cherokee?  I do not speak Cherokee anyplace.

- Home  School  Work
- Sports  Church  Grounds
- Hospital  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- any place

12. To whom do you speak Cherokee?  I do not speak Cherokee to anyone.

- Grandparents  Parents  Children
- Brother/Sister
- Other relative/s \_\_\_\_\_
- Teachers  Teens  Friends
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- anyone

13. Do you have children?

Yes  No

***If "Yes," go to Question 14; if "No," go to Question 16.***

14. How many children do you have?

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  more than 8, enter number

15. Ask this question about each child: Does your child speak Cherokee?

- Child 1: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speaks a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 5: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speak a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 2: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speaks a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 6: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speak a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 3: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speaks a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 7: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speak a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 4: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speaks a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

- Child 8: Age \_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_  
 Doesn't understand & speak  
 Understands but can't speak  
 Understands & speak a little  
 Conversational Cherokee  
 Highly Fluent

*If there is a difference in language ability among children: Ask why*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What relative(s) in your family speaks (or spoke) Cherokee? (check all apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brother(s)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister(s)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father's sister (aunt)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's sister (aunt)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father's brother (uncle)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's brother (uncle)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother on Father's side | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother: Mother's side   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandfather on Father's side | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandfather on Mother's side |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great-grandparent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Great-grandparent            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                  |   |

*Mark y=yes, n=no, dk=don't know*

17.. Who was the last relative to speak Cherokee? \_\_\_\_\_

*Include self.*

18. Where do you hear Cherokee being spoken?  Do NOT hear Cherokee spoken

- |                                   |  |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home     | <input type="checkbox"/> School                | <input type="checkbox"/> Work    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports   | <input type="checkbox"/> Church                | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |                                  |

**Part 2 – Cherokee Language Transmission and Preservation**

1. How important is it for the Cherokee language to be preserved?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Absolute necessity | <input type="checkbox"/> Not important   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Important     | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Important          |  |

2. Please respond to question (a) or (b).

a. Why is preserving Cherokee important?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Why is preserving Cherokee not important?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where should the Cherokee language be taught? (Choose all that apply)

- |   |                                 |                                 |                                      |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home   | <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> During or before traditional cultural activities |                                 |                                 |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In classes open to the whole community           |                                 |                                 |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                      |                                 |                                 |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above                                 |                                 |                                 |                                      |

4. Who should learn the Cherokee language?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool children         | <input type="checkbox"/> High School students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary school students | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior High students       | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above     |

5. Which group is most important? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you like to learn how to speak Cherokee?

- Yes  No  I already speak Cherokee

7. Should different fluency levels (beginning, intermediate, fluent) be taught?

- Yes  No If yes, where or to

whom \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you speak Cherokee, would you like to improve your ability in the language?

- Yes  No

9. Would you like to learn how to read and write Cherokee?

Yes  No  I already know how to read & write Cherokee.

10. The Cherokee Nation currently offers Cherokee language classes for adults in various communities, at two high schools, in an immersion-language setting for 3-year olds, language lessons on the website, and various other programs.

Have you participated in any of these programs?

Yes  No  I was not aware

11. If you answered "Yes" above, please state which program you have attended?

---

12. What else could the Cherokee Nation do to help preserve the Cherokee language?

13. What could your community do to help preserve Cherokee as a language?

14. What could you and your family do to promote Cherokee language use?

15. If the respondent lists several activities, ask: Which is most important (or what needs to be done first)?

16. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

READ AND ASK THEM TO SIGN THE MARKED COPY.

***Thank you for giving your time to participate in this important survey. The results of the survey will be published in the Cherokee Advocate and Phoenix newspaper. These results will help us develop a long-range plan to preserve the Cherokee language for future generations. Thank you again. (Give the incentive and ask participant to sign below)***

**Acknowledgement for Receipt of Incentive**

**Participant Signature**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_