

Zach Franklin

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Museum Of the Cherokee Indian

I thought the museum was a very good learning experience to learn up close and more personally about the cherokee indians, you learn about these things in classrooms from teachers in highschool, but I don't think it has the same effect as it does when you get to learn about it from actual cherokee indians. The cherokee were first discovered by Europeans in 1540 by desoto's expedition, they found the cherokee in sturdy houses surrounded by corn fields, they found the women were wearing skirts and mantles made of thread just as fine as european thread, they found the men wearing different sorts of clothing. The europeans also realized the men could shoot their bows accurately 7 times in the time it took for the Europeans to get off one shot with their guns. Europeans brought over diseases with them and these diseases killed around 90% of American Indians between 1500 and 1650. There was a long section about the trail of tears as there should be, that was a very dark time for the indians. The cherokee were forcibly removed from their homes which most people know, but some new information I learned that I don't think most people know is that the cherokee resisted this removal by creating their own newspaper called the Cherokee Phoenix. They sent there educated speakers around the united states, they ended up getting together a petition which had 15,000 Cherokee signatures against removal, they then took this to the U.S supreme court where they were ruled as a sovereign nation, but president Andrew Jackson ignored this decision made by the U.S supreme court and enforced his indian removal act in 1830. The indians were then forced to walk around 1,000 miles by foot to indian territory which is now Oklahoma, around 4,000 indians died on this walk and our buried

in unmarked graves along the trail. That part of the museum was very sad to me, especially knowing that they are more citizens of this country then we are, they know how to live off of this land and most of us do not, and our president killed over 4,000 members of their people.

The cherokee people also like to have fun just like everyone else, I learned at the musuem of a new game I have never heard of called stick ball which is a lot like lacrosse. To the cherokee this game has political, social, and spiritual importance. The cool thing about this sport is that the cherokee make all the things needed to play the game which is 2 sticks to catch and throw the ball, 2 goals, and the ball itself which they make using a rock covered with hair, then they cover it again with hide which is then sewn on with sinew, this is to make the ball somewhat similar to a baseball. I enjoyed being able to learn about all this stuff in the museum but the most interesting part to me was getting to see it all and how the cherokee have evolved all the way from 11,000 B.C until now. I got to see the stone weapons they use to use like spears and arrowheads, I got to see all the farming they knew how to do and all the different things they could eat off the land and grow themselves, I even got to see how they can make there own fires which was really cool. In my opinion the cherokee people live their lives better than most people, they eat the right kind of healthy foods, they don't waste money on material things, they spend a lot of time with family and friends building close relationships with people in their tribe, and everyone in the tribe looks out for each other, there are no enemies within the tribe. I think the american people should learn something from the cherokee, I think everyone that has a chance should go to this museum because it is a good learning experience and an eye opener to how life could be for us instead of living off fast food, working a desk job, and never getting to spend time with your family, we could be living like them and not letting the government and money

control our lives. Overall it was a great experience going to the museum and I would definitely go again.