

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Geronimo**

In 1886, over five thousand U.S. troops marched through Arizona. They were hunting fewer than *twenty* warriors. These warriors were Indians, the last free men of the Apache tribe. Their chief was Geronimo.

Today, people shout, "Geronimo!" when they parachute. But who were Geronimo and the Apaches? The answers begin hundreds of years ago.

### **Apache, Hunters and Raiders of the Southwest**

An Apache (ah-PACH-ee) once said that his people had lived in the Southwest since "before the rocks were hard." The Apache people lived all over the Southwest, including what is now Arizona and New Mexico. The Apaches thought that the first Apache was a boy who killed a great, evil dragon with four arrows. When Geronimo told the story as an old man, he said you could still see this dragon's bones!

The name "Apache" means "enemy". This is what another tribe called them. The Apache called themselves Inde (or words like Inde), which meant "the people".

Although they were one tribe, the Apaches had several separate bands. Each band had its own name, lands, and slightly different language.

Apaches moved from camp to camp. They gathered wild plants and hunted animals such as deer, antelope, and elk. Some Apaches grew crops like corn, beans, and squash.

The Apaches often attacked other tribes, or even other bands of Apaches. They would take the other tribe's food and animals.

We don't know how long ago the Apaches came to the Southwest, but in the 1500s, the Spanish arrived. They tried to take the Apache lands. But the Apaches wanted to keep their home, and they fought the Mexicans for it.

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**Exercise A:**

1. Where did the Apaches live?

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2. What does "Apache" mean?

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3. What enemy did the first Apache conquer?

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4. How did the Apaches find their food?

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5. True or false: An Apache might attack another tribe, but he would never attack another Apache. Explain.

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6. Why did the Apaches fight the Mexicans?

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## **Geronimo and Mexico**

When Geronimo was born in 1829, the Mexicans were the Apache's worst enemy. In the 1830s, Mexican governments paid people to kill Apaches, even women and children. Once, a U.S. man invited some Apache friends to a picnic, then killed them all so he could get that money.

The Apaches sometimes killed women and children too, during a raid or in revenge. But they usually took prisoners instead of killing. They would make their prisoners part of the tribe or trade prisoners with the Mexicans.

After many years of fighting, one Mexican state decided to make peace with the Apaches. In 1858, Geronimo went with his wife and children to the Mexican town of Janos. These Mexicans gave the Apaches gifts so they wouldn't attack anymore.

But while the Apache warriors feasted in town, *other* Mexicans attacked on the Apache camp! The people of Janos didn't know these soldiers were coming. It was a surprise attack.

All the Apache women and children had stayed at the camp to be safe. Now, soldiers killed many of them.

Geronimo's wife, children, and mother were all killed. For the rest of his life, Geronimo hated Mexicans.

Apaches did not forgive their enemies. They took revenge. Months later, they attacked the Mexican town of Arizpe. The other Apaches thought they'd had their revenge. But Geronimo never forgave the Mexicans. For decades, he raided and killed them. He last fought Mexicans in 1884. By then he had a bigger problem: the U.S.

The U.S. fought a war with Mexico over the Southwest. When the U.S. won, they bought most of what is now California, Arizona, and New Mexico. The Mexicans were not fighting with the Apaches over land anymore. Now the Apaches had to fight the U.S. to keep their homeland.

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**Exercise B:**

1. How did Mexican governments try to use money to get rid of the Apaches?

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2. Did the Apaches ever kill women and children?

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3. What happened to the women and children in the camp outside Janos?

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4. Who did Geronimo lose at Janos?

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5. What did the Apaches do because of what happened at Janos?

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6. What would the Apaches think of the idea that you should “love your enemies”?

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## **Geronimo and the U. S.**

Geronimo was about five feet eight inches, with dark eyes and a mouth like “a sharp long gash”. For many years, he was just another warrior. Then he became chief of his band.

His people had lived in Arizona for centuries, but the U.S. kept taking more land. There were fewer animals for the Apaches to hunt and fewer places to camp. Many Apaches decided to live on a **reservation**, a place just for Indians. There, the Apaches were given food, but they had to follow U.S. rules.

The U. S. wanted all the Apaches on a reservation—or dead. Geronimo fought for his freedom. Many times, the U.S. got him on a reservation, but he always escaped. He kept raiding. Now, maybe the Apaches *had* to raid to eat, because so much of their land had been stolen. But they killed people on these raids, too.

In 1886, all of the Apaches were on the reservation except Geronimo and about twenty warriors. U. S. General Miles took over 5,000 troops to go capture them. But he couldn't find Geronimo. He hired Apache scouts, and they found Geronimo. On September 4, 1886, Geronimo surrendered for the last time.

The U.S. had promised the Apaches they could stay in the Southwest. But Miles had all the Apaches shipped to Florida! For the rest of his life, Geronimo was a captive.

As time passed, Geronimo found out that not everyone in the U.S. hated him. In 1903, he was baptized as a Christian. He liked his new religion. In 1904, he visited the World's Fair and rode in a Ferris wheel. He called the people he met “kind and peaceful”. In 1905, he rode in a parade, and a crowd cheered his name!

But Geronimo longed for his homeland until, on Feb. 17, 1909, he died. He had killed innocent people and broken promises. But he had also fought for his people's freedom. Today, no one shouts “Miles!” when they jump into the sky.

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**Exercise C:**

1. What did Geronimo look like?

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2. How did it hurt the Apaches when the U. S. settled more land?

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3. Did General Miles catch Geronimo with all his U.S. troops?  
Who did catch Geronimo?

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4. What promise was broken when Miles sent the Apaches to Florida?

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5. What new religion did Geronimo take in 1903?

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6. What did Geronimo say about the people of the World's Fair?

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### Exercise D: Thinking About Geronimo

**Please answer in complete sentences.**

1. What do you think of Geronimo's fight to keep the ancient Apache lands? Was he right or wrong?

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2. How do you wish the Apache story had happened?

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3. What are some things (if any) you *don't* admire in Geronimo?

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4. What are some things (if any) you *do* admire in Geronimo?

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**Exercise E: Word Search**

Find each word and cross it out. Words can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. A letter may be part of more than one word.

A P S O E D P Y Z F G H X B W  
 F L O R I D A F M G W C G F T  
 N G U D T N P H T D H T E S F  
 B M T I G D A J P K Y X R Y W  
 P D H Y M T C C N R S L O G N  
 X M W G I V H D K T H W N C F  
 M F E K L X E Y W S N Z I G R  
 G V S T E K Q X M V B X M Q V  
 B Z T Y S P H T A R I Z O N A  
 O K B D D H D T M G H F Y T I  
 R E S E R V A T I O N W V B Z  
 G C R F J A N O S F N G C S R

GERONIMO	APACHE	ARIZONA	JANOS
RESERVATION	MILES	FLORIDA	SOUTHWEST

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**Answer Key:**

**Exercise A**

1. They lived in what is now Arizona and New Mexico, as well as parts of Texas and northern Mexico.
2. enemy
3. An evil dragon.
4. They hunted, gathered wild plants, farmed, and raided.
5. False. An Apache might raid another band of Apaches.
6. The Mexicans wanted their land.

**Exercise B**

1. They paid people to kill Apaches.
2. Yes, on raids or in revenge.
3. They were attacked by Mexican soldiers from Janos.
4. His mother, his wife, and his three children.
5. They took revenge by attacking the Mexican town of Arizpe.
6. They'd probably disagree, since they wanted revenge.

**Exercise C**

1. about five feet eight inches  
dark eyes  
mouth was "a sharp long gash"
2. There were less game to hunt and fewer camping sites.
6. No, Apache scouts caught him.
3. The U.S. had promised the Apaches they could stay in their homeland.
5. Christianity
6. He called them "kind and peaceful"

**Exercise F**

Answers vary.

**Exercise G**

A	P	<u>S</u>	O	E	D	P	Y	Z	F	G	H	X	B	W
<u>F</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>A</u>	F	M	G	W	C	<u>G</u>	F	T
N	G	<u>U</u>	D	T	N	<u>P</u>	H	T	D	H	T	<u>E</u>	S	F
B	M	<u>T</u>	I	G	D	<u>A</u>	J	P	K	Y	X	<u>R</u>	Y	W
P	D	<u>H</u>	Y	<u>M</u>	T	<u>C</u>	C	N	R	S	L	<u>O</u>	G	N
X	M	<u>W</u>	G	<u>I</u>	V	<u>H</u>	D	K	T	H	W	<u>N</u>	C	F
M	F	<u>E</u>	K	<u>L</u>	X	<u>E</u>	Y	W	S	N	Z	<u>I</u>	G	R
G	V	<u>S</u>	T	<u>E</u>	K	Q	X	M	V	B	X	<u>M</u>	Q	V
B	Z	<u>T</u>	Y	<u>S</u>	P	H	T	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>A</u>
O	K	B	D	D	H	D	T	<u>M</u>	<u>G</u>	H	F	Y	T	I
<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	W	V	B	Z
G	C	R	F	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>S</u>	F	N	G	C	S	R