

## WORD SEARCH

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

BOX SOCIAL  
COWMAN  
CURLY  
FARMER  
HAMMERSTEIN  
HOEDOWN  
LAUREY  
OKLAHOMA  
PEDDLER  
RODGERS  
SURREY  
TERRITORY

## OK Think About It...

*Oklahoma!* was adapted from *Green Grow the Lilacs*. **Read Lynn Riggs' original play, and compare the two versions of the story. What elements stayed the same, and what changes were made? Which version do you prefer?**

Many other plays have been adapted into famous musicals, including *My Fair Lady* (*Pygmalion*), *Kiss Me, Kate* (*The Taming of the Shrew*), *She Loves Me* (*Parfumerie*), and *West Side Story* (*Romeo and Juliet*). **Check out some of these shows and their source material to see how the changes that they underwent compare to *Oklahoma!***

Traditions – especially those regarding marriage – play a big part in the story of this show. **What traditions related to dating and marriage can you think of that are common today? How have things changed since the early 1900s?**

The Act I song *People Will Say We're In Love* can be seen as a “conditional” love song – Curly and Laurey are singing about their relationship, but will not admit their true feelings for each other. **What lyrics reveal the truth? How does the reprise in Act II reflect the change in their relationship?**

## BROADWAY SACRAMENTO PRESENTS



# OKLAHOMA!

JUNE 25-30, 2019 | EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

## ABOUT THE SHOW

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Oklahoma!* is often considered to be the first “musical play.” Although other popular musicals such as *Show Boat* and *Anything Goes* preceded it, *Oklahoma!*'s 1943 premiere marked the first time that a Broadway show had successfully incorporated dance, story, and music into a cohesive project.

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The show began as a play by Lynn Riggs called *Green Grow the Lilacs*, which premiered in 1930. A decade later, theatre producer Theresa Helburn contacted the famed composing duo of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart to see if they would be interested in adapting the play into a musical, and Rodgers invited Oscar Hammerstein II to collaborate with them. Hart soon withdrew from the project due to his declining health, and the now-iconic team of Rodgers and Hammerstein came together.

While prior shows relied on big, flashy chorus line routines that more or less brought the story to a halt, Rodgers and Hammerstein created a musical filled with intimate solos and duets that helped further develop the plot. This revolutionary concept made producers and critics uneasy at first, but it quickly became a smash success. The dramatic scenes and powerful performances, coupled with references to recent American history, struck a chord with audiences in post-war America and the original production ran for 2,212 performances.

Broadway would never be the same, as *Oklahoma!* ushered in what is commonly referred to as the “Golden Age” of theatre. This era led to a revitalized interest in the art of musical theatre and spawned other big hits like *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Hello, Dolly!* The first Broadway At Music Circus production of *Oklahoma!* was in 1954, and this production is the 14th time the show has been done here in the round! With a Broadway revival currently playing to sold-out crowds and regional productions happening across the country, it is clear that *Oklahoma!*'s story and songs are still resonating with audiences, even after more than 75 years.



# The History of Oklahoma!

Most of the land that will later become Oklahoma is acquired through the Louisiana Purchase.

The region is designated as "Indian Territory"

The region splits into Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory.

Lynn Riggs publishes *Green Grow the Lilacs*, a play set in Indian Territory at the beginning of the 1900s

*Oklahoma!* is produced at Broadway At Music Circus for the 14th time, making it the most-produced show in the company's history.

A film adaptation of *Oklahoma!* is released. It goes on to win four Academy Awards.

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's *Oklahoma!*, a musical adaptation of Riggs' play, opens on Broadway to critical acclaim. It runs for over 5 years and inspires multiple national tours and Broadway revivals.

The territories combine and are incorporated into the state of Oklahoma, the 46th state to enter the union.

2 million acres of unpopulated land are opened for settlement as part of the Oklahoma Land Rush. An estimated 50,000 people hurry to stake their claims on the land.

1803 1834 1889 1890 1907 1930 1943 1955 2019



1963



1975 Playbill Cover



1975 Souvenir Program



1992



1997

Previous Broadway At Music Circus Productions of *Oklahoma!*

# The Language of Oklahoma!

Oscar Hammerstein's book and lyrics for *Oklahoma!* are written in the dialect of early 1900s Indian Territory, a stylistic choice designed to guide the actors' performances and construct a more authentic world. As a result, some of the words and phrases used may seem foreign to us today. Here are a few prominent ones:

**TOOK UP WITH**  
To become friendly or start a relationship with someone

**BOX SOCIAL**  
A fund-raising affair at which box lunches are auctioned to the highest bidder

**HOEDOWN**  
An informal country party with dancing

**INDIAN TERRITORY**  
A former territory of the U.S., now in east Oklahoma

**PEDDLER**  
Someone who sells things in small amounts, often by traveling to different places

**PAYIN' HEED TO**  
Paying attention to

**SMOKEHOUSE**  
A building where meat or fish is given flavor and kept from spoiling by the use of smoke

**SURREY**  
An old-fashioned carriage with two wide seats and four wheels, pulled by a horse

**SHIVOREE**  
An elaborate, noisy celebration for a newly married couple, with pans, kettles, etc.

**HAMPER**  
A large basket, usually with a cover, used for picnics

**UNION**  
A group of states ruled by one government; in this case, the United States of America

