

Activity: Cherokee writing system

(1) Here is a text in the Cherokee language, written in the Cherokee orthography.

Sample text in Cherokee (Printed)

ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ
ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ. ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵ
ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ ᎠᎵᎵᎵᎵᎵ.

(2) Here is the same text in an alphabetic system based on the Roman alphabet.
(The 'v' is used to spell a central nasalized vowel [ã], similar to French *en*.)

Nigada aniyvwi nipegudalvna ale unitloyi unadehna duyugadv
gesvi. Getsinela unadanvtedi ale unotlisadi ale squu
gesv tsunilwisdanedi anatlinvtlv adanvdo gvdi.

- Is the Cherokee writing system exemplified in (1) an **alphabet**, a **syllabary**, or an **alphasyllabary**? How do you know?

Translation of the text shown above:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Source:

Ager, Simon. Omniglot—Writing systems and languages of the world. Accessed March 21, 2022. [<https://omniglot.com/writing/ Cherokee.htm>]