**Dwight Mission, Indian Nation, August 15, 1828**

**Questions:**

1. The word “mission” means several different things. What is “mission” in Whittington’s letter? If you are not sure, look it up in a dictionary.
2. Who established the mission that Whittington visits and where was it established?
3. Who are the Cherokees? What does it mean when Whittington writes that the mission’s purpose was to “civilize the Cherokees”?
4. What do we learn about the school that the mission runs? Who attends the school and who teaches in it? Look up the word “squaw” if you do not know its meaning.
5. What do we learn about interactions between white settlers and the Cherokees from Whittington’s letter?
6. Whittington plans to attend a meeting with the Cherokees. Why does he want to attend it? What is his goal?
7. What do we learn about the newspaper that is planned to be created by the Cherokees? Who was George Guess? Look him up. What was his contribution to Native American history and US history?
8. Whittington writes that the Cherokees will soon move “into their new land … two hundred miles further up the Arkansas.” To what historical events does he refer? If you are not sure, investigate how and when the Cherokees first arrived in Arkansas and what happened to them in the 1820s and 1830s.
9. What do we learn about the lives of Native Americans in Arkansas from this letter? Consider Whittington’s point of view. How could Whittington’s background influence what he wrote about the Cherokees? Keep in mind that Whittington was not a Native American. He was a white middle class educated man who moved to Arkansas from Boston, which at the time was one of the largest cities in the United States.
10. Whittington writes that the Dwight Mission provided education to the Cherokees. Research the role of Christian missions and their schools in Native American history. In what other ways, besides education, did the missions impact the lives of Native Americans? Was the impact of Christian missions on Native Americans beneficial or disadvantageous? You can find more information about the Dwight Mission here: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/dwight-mission-2473/>.