Sequoia was a Cherokee Indian, who was born around 1770. He created the Cherokee alphabet. The Cherokee alphabet was not created overnight; Sequoyah worked on the new alphabet from 1809 up until 1821. The alphabet contains over 80 characters.

Once the alphabet was complete, every man, woman, and child in the Cherokee nation could read and write the language within one year. Before that, the Cherokee people could only communicate by speaking to one another. They could not write letters or read books.

The Cherokee people also could not write down their history. The creation of the Cherokee alphabet helped to preserve the history of the Cherokee culture. That is one of the reasons that we know more about the Cherokee Indians than other tribes in America.

After he created the alphabet, Sequoyah created a newspaper for the Cherokee people, called the “Cherokee Phoenix.” This newspaper was written in Cherokee and in English, so that the Cherokee people and the new settlers could read it and learn what was going on.