

Student Worksheet 1-CHAUTAUQUA

Chautauqua (shuh-**taw**-kwuh) is an American Indian phrase for the shape of the lake in southwestern New York State, where the original Chautauqua meeting occurred in 1874. (Translated specifically, it means “bag with a string tied around the middle.”) Led by two Christians, Lewis Miller and John Heyl Vincent (pictured respectively on the right), the first Chautauqua meeting assisted Sunday school teachers with lessons on the Bible. By 1880 the institute quickly expanded to include academic subjects like music, art, and physical education, and the Chautauqua was offered to Americans in many places throughout the country.

The Chautauqua provided communities, who otherwise felt isolated and uncultured, the opportunity to hear a number of orators, artists, musicians, comedians, and educators address issues concerning their time. Subjects ranged from science, religion, and literature to international relations. In addition to various presentations, Chautauqua participants enjoyed recreational activities.

In the state of Pennsylvania, the Chautauqua took place in many towns. Using the map, identify some of the towns where the Chautauqua meetings occurred and write down the related counties.



Chautauqua Founders Lewis Miller and John Heyl Vincent
Courtesy of the Chautauqua Institute Archives

Town	County in Pennsylvania
Boswell	
Carbondale	
Charleroi	
Gettysburg	
Indiana	
Mifflinburg	
Mount Gretna	
Oxford	
Stroudsburg	
Susquehanna	
Swarthmore	
Warren	
Waynesboro	
Wellsboro	