The Oklahoma Hall of Fame is making available tuition grants and cash scholarships to high school students who have paid attention in their Oklahoma history classes.

In the Oklahoma Scholarship Competition, students in grades 9 through 12 take a test on Oklahoma history at one of the testing sites in the state. Regardless of where students take the test, they compete for scholarships in the county in which they attend school. Those with high scores in each county receive a cash scholarship or tuition grant to an Oklahoma college or university. Each of Oklahoma’s 77 counties has at least ten scholarships available. Scholarships are made possible through generous donations by individuals, corporations and Oklahoma colleges and universities.

**OLNE Testing**
The 2020 Oklahoma Scholarship Competition will be administered online, allowing more students access to the opportunity. Students registered to take the examination will be provided an individual password to access the testing site on March 28. There will be a one-hour time limit on the examination and guidelines for participating will be provided with confirmations sent between March 16 and 20.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE**
Students in grades 9-12 who attend school in Oklahoma.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**
At least ten $1,000 scholarships are available in each of Oklahoma’s 77 counties.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** FRIDAY, MARCH 13
Please complete registration document online OklahomaHOF.com.

**WHAT THE TEST COVERS**
Oklahoma’s history, people, and geography. A supplemental study guide on the most recent Oklahoma Hall of Fame Class is available for download at OklahomaHOF.com.

**CONTACT**
For more information or with questions, contact Gini Moore Campbell at 405.523.3202 or gmc@oklahomahof.com.

**STUDY MATERIALS**
The contents in this Study Guide feature Oklahoma’s greatest asset—our people—and are a supplement to the information found in Oklahoma History textbooks adopted by the State of Oklahoma.

Individuals featured include the most recent Inductees into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. The majority of questions on the Oklahoma Scholarship Examination will come from information in the state adopted textbooks.
CHARLIE CHRISTIAN

Born in Bonham, Texas, Oklahoma City became Charlie Christian’s home at the age of two. From a musical family, Christian first began playing the trumpet and at age 12 was playing a cigar box guitar he made himself. When his father and brothers formed a quartet, Christian received his first real guitar as a member of the group. They played Oklahoma City clubs, including those in historic Deep Deuce, before Christian’s reputation spread and he began touring across the United States before moving to California at the age of 23.

Christian had changed the way the guitar was played. He brought it to the forefront as a solo instrument, amplified its sound, and changed what it could do with his single-string solo technique. Christian played with the greats including Jimmy Rushing, Count Basie, and Benny Goodman. Even today, courses on the techniques of Christian are taught in universities and studios worldwide. Carlos Santana has talked about the influence Christian had on him; B. B. King said he just wanted to be able to play like him, but never could; and the Jazz at Lincoln Center curator said he changed the sound of music forever.

Who would have ever imagined that at the time of his death, at only 25, young Charlie Christian would be respected worldwide as the “Father of Bebop” and an inspiration to the greats that followed?

ERLE P. HALLIBURTON

Halliburton was born on a farm in Tennessee and, at the age of 14, began working in railroad construction camps and at 16 was operating a steam crane loading Mississippi River barges. In the Navy he operated the Navy’s first motor barge.

Back in the U.S. he worked for Perkins Oil Well Cementing Company. Cementing of wells was in its infancy and when he proposed several improvements, his ideas were rejected and he was fired.

After spending a few years perfecting his ideas, he had the opportunity to work with Skelly Oil Company and founded Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company in 1924. He purchased and operated a gold mine and hydroelectric venture in Honduras and engaged in farming and ranching.

A great, but little-known philanthropist, he and his wife made many contributions to improve civic and educational facilities in Duncan, as well as assisting orphans, the handicapped, and providing relief overseas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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OklahomaHOF.com
RUSSELL PERRY

Russell Perry is president of Perry Publishing & Broadcasting, publisher and editor of The Black Chronicle, and the previous co-owner and editor of The Black Dispatch. After purchasing its first radio station in 1993, the company continued to make acquisitions and today owns 20 stations in Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Georgia, and purchased a radio and television tower company. Perry served as Oklahoma’s Secretary of Commerce during the Keating administration, as well as a member of the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority, and Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority. Perry serves on the State Fair of Oklahoma board and the National Board of Radio & Television, is the majority principal of the First Security Bank & Trust Co., and has served on the Small Business Bank Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and on the board of trustees of Oklahoma City University.

JAMES J. MCALESTER

Acclaimed by contemporaries as the founder of the Oklahoma coal industry, McAlester also contributed to the development of McAlester. Following discharge from the Confederate Army after the Civil War, McAlester was given a memorandum that detailed the vast coal fields from an engineer who had surveyed Indian Territory. With this information, McAlester left school and moved to Indian Territory. At age twenty-four he entered the Choctaw Nation. He found employment with the Indian trading firm of Harlan and Rooks. Later he worked for Reynolds and Hannaford, a firm of post traders. Eventually McAlester bought out his partners and established a store near the outcroppings of coal. His marriage had granted him full citizenship in both Choctaw and Chickasaw nations and allowed him to stake a claim to coal deposits within a one-mile radius from point of discovery. Over time, McAlester’s interests in coal burgeoned, and with the arrival of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, the J.J. McAlester Mercantile Company flourished as coal production soared.

TOM LOVE

Oklahoma native and CEO of Love’s Country Stores, Inc. and Musket Corporation, Love graduated from St. Gregory’s High School before attending college at St. John’s in Minnesota and the University of Oklahoma. After serving in the Marines, Tom purchased an abandoned Mobil station in Watonga. Less than eight years later, the company had grown to 40 discount filling stations. Love’s Travel Stops originally concentrated in small towns but expanded to the interstate in metropolitan areas.

Love has been involved in both state and national oil markets and activities. He was presented with the “Corporation of the Year” award and was inducted into the Sales and Marketing Executives International Academy of Achievement. In 2006, Love was listed among the “50 Most Powerful Oklahomans.”

DID YOU KNOW?

FROM THE OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME

Erle Halliburton started his own airline in Tulsa in 1931 called Southwest Air Fast Express, or Safeway Airlines, which later merged with American Airlines.

Charlie Christian was the first person to bring the guitar to the forefront as a solo instrument?

Sequoyah is one of only two Oklahomans on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington, D.C.?
T. BOONE PICKENS

A Holdenville native, Pickens graduated as a geologist from Oklahoma State University and began working for Phillips Petroleum Co. for a monthly salary of $290. After three and a half years, he set out to become an independent geologist-oilman at the Anadarko Basin and the Hugoton Field. On a borrowed $2,500, Pickens and two partners formed the predecessor to Mesa Petroleum Company and eventually made it one of the largest independent producers of oil and gas in the U.S. He formed the United Shareholders Association and became the largest stockholder in Tokyo-based Koieto Manufacturing Company.

He created the B.P. Capital Energy Fund and has been a generous philanthropist to OSU and multiple other institutions, including the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum in Oklahoma City.

FRANK PHILLIPS

A pioneer oilman and philanthropist, Phillips was only 29 when he used his savings from work and commissions as a bond salesman to found the Citizens Bank and Trust Company at Bartlesville. Success in banking and oil went hand in hand for Phillips and, in 1917, he and his brother, L.E. Phillips, incorporated the Phillips Petroleum Company with 27 employees and $3 million in assets. He would serve as chairman of the board until 1949 and the company would grow to more than 23,000 employees with assets exceeding $1 billion. Always interested in aviation, Phillips backed Art Goebel’s successful flight from Hawaii, the first non-stop flight westward, and supported Wiley Post in his test flights into the stratosphere.

Phillips’ grand home would later be donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society and Woolaroc, Phillips’ ranch retreat remains open to the public.

SEQUOYAH

Sequoyah was born circa 1776 at the village of Tuskegee, Tennessee. Although Sequoyah was exposed to the concept of writing early in his life, he never learned the English alphabet. He began to toy with the idea of literacy, “talking leaves”, for the Cherokee people. Unlike the white soldiers, he and the other Cherokees were not able to write letters home, read military orders, or record events as they occurred. After the war, he began in earnest to create a writing system for his fellow Cherokees. He began by making symbols that could make words. He reduced the thousands of Cherokee thoughts to 85 symbols that represented sounds. In 1821, after 12 years of working on the new language, he and his daughter introduced his syllabary to the Cherokee people. It was approved by the Tribal Council and within months, thousands of Cherokees became literate. In 1822 Sequoyah visited Cherokees in Arkansas, and in 1828 he moved with them to Oklahoma. He was active in the political life of the tribe, serving as envoy to Washington in 1828 and helping Cherokees displaced from eastern lands. His statue is one of only two Oklahomans on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington, D.C.
The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was founded in 1927 to preserve Oklahoma’s unique history, promote pride in our great state, honor our state’s best and brightest, and provide educational programming for students of all ages. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, the organization honors our state’s rich tradition by telling Oklahoma’s story through its people.

Induction to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is our state’s highest honor. To date 698 individuals have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928, all of whom are recognized at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Not only do we honor Oklahomans who have contributed to our state’s rich heritage, but they inspire Oklahomans of all ages and instill state pride by preserving and telling the stories of extraordinary people by publishing Oklahoma’s stories, providing tuition grants and cash scholarships for students across the state, and welcoming visitors throughout the year to the interactive Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

As a 501(c)3 organization, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame relies on the support of private donations to sustain its important programs. Proceeds from this event not only honor those being inducted during the ceremony, but make opportunities to explore our state’s rich heritage available year round.

ADA LOIS SIPUEL FISHER

A graduate of Langston University, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher dreamed of being a lawyer. However, Langston did not have a law school and at that time state statutes prohibited blacks from attending white state universities. At the urging of the NAACP, twenty-one-year-old Fisher agreed to seek admission to the University of Oklahoma’s law school and challenge Oklahoma’s segregation laws. Her application was denied, not because of her academic credentials, but because of her race. Fisher filed a lawsuit, represented by a young Thurgood Marshall who later went on to become U.S. Supreme Court Justice. After losing at the county and state levels, she appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The nation’s highest tribunal ruled that Oklahoma must provide Fisher with the same opportunities for securing a legal education as it provided to other citizens. Fisher graduated from the OU College of Law and earned a master’s degree in history. After practicing law in Chickasha, she joined the faculty at Langston University. She retired 30 years later as assistant vice president of academic affairs.
JAMES C. DAY

James Day was reared in the town of Pond Creek, Oklahoma and graduated from Enid High School before attending the University of Oklahoma and Phillips University where he earned his B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He spent forty-four years in the energy sector—fourteen years at ONEOK and thirty years at Noble Corporation. As chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and president of Noble Corporation, founded in 1921, the Noble team helped build one of the largest worldwide offshore drilling companies. Over Day’s tenure, Noble’s share price increased substantially and the company became a member of the Standard & Poor’s 500 and Fortune 500.

Day has received the American Petroleum Institute’s Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement and the World Affairs Council’s International Citizen of the Year Award. He has served or is currently serving on the board of many organizations including ONEOK, Noble Energy, Inc., Tidewater, EOG Resources, the International Association of Drilling Contractors, the National Ocean Industries Association, and the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. He currently serves as a member of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Board of Visitors at the University of Oklahoma.

In 2007, Day established the James C. and Teresa K. Day Foundation. Through the foundation, and personally, he has been a strong supporter of many Oklahoma endeavors and entities, including the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, Charles B. Goddard Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Inc., Arcadia Trails, Pond Creek-Hunter Schools, and the University of Oklahoma. Day also served as co-chair for the 125th Live On University Campaign for the University of Oklahoma and was inducted into the Seed Sower Society in 2019.

Day resides in Sugar Land, Texas, with his wife Pinkie.

TRICIA EVEREST

Tricia Louise Everest is a native of Oklahoma City and fourth-generation Oklahoman. She graduated from Casady High School before earning her Bachelor of Science Degree from Vanderbilt University in 1993 and, after returning home to Oklahoma, her Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma School of Law in 2003. She also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from Oklahoma City University.

Her professional law career led her to the Attorney General’s office where she was Assistant Attorney General representing the State of Oklahoma. Everest serves as a trustee of the E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation and chair of Inasmuch Foundation’s Advisory Committee, continuing her family’s legacy of philanthropy while simultaneously crafting her own.

Everest focuses her efforts and time on leading initiatives designed to help people find hope and purpose by creating pathways for stronger lives. She plays an integral role as the founding chair of Palomar, Oklahoma City’s Family Justice Center, which removes barriers for abuse victims to access the services they need. She is the founding chair of ReMerge, which diverts mothers from prison and empowers women to build healthy foundations for themselves and their children. Other philanthropic endeavors of Everest include chair of Allied Arts, past-chair of YMCA—the organization’s first female chair in its 128-year history—and serves on numerous nonprofit boards. Recognized by United Way of Central Oklahoma as the John and Berta Faye Rex Community Builder Honoree in 2019, Everest was also named Societies Philanthropist of the Year in 2012 and received the Lee Allan Smith Oklahoma Legacy Award in 2013.

Everest loves the outdoors, relaxing on the lakes in Michigan, and hiking the mountains in Colorado. Always an adventurer, she has hiked the Swiss Alps and followed the Raika, a tribe of nomadic herdsmen in India.
DID YOU KNOW?

Induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the highest honor an individual can receive from the State of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony is held annually in November, the month of Statehood.

698 individuals have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Each member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is featured in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, in Oklahoma City.

GRAY FREDERICKSON

OSCAR and Emmy Award-winning producer Gray Frederickson's career has spanned more than five decades. Three of his films are included in The American Film Institute’s Top 100. He earned an OSCAR for producing The Godfather Part II and an Emmy Award for Dream No Little Dream, The Life and Times of Robert S. Kerr.

A native of Oklahoma City, Frederickson attended Casady School and the University of Oklahoma before making it on the big screen. With more than fifty titles to his credit, the list includes The Godfather trilogy, Apocalypse Now, and cult hits The Outsiders and UHF both filmed in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Other credits include Ladybugs, My Five Wives, and One From the Heart.

Frederickson served as executive producer of Heaven's Prisoners starring Alec Baldwin and wrote the original story for Twentieth Century Fox's film Bad Girls starring Drew Barrymore, Andie MacDowell, and Madeleine Stowe.

Shortly after producing South of Heaven, West of Hell in 1999, Frederickson returned home to support the creation of a technical digital cinema program at Oklahoma City Community College. Graduates are finding success and recognition in the entertainment industry throughout the United States. In addition to the nine movies Frederickson has produced locally through his production company GrayMark Productions, including Cloud 9, Surveillance, and Soul's Midnight, he recently teamed with longtime friend and colleague Francis Ford Coppola to produce Distant Vision, an experimental live cinema movie, in the college's movie studio.

A former vice president in charge of feature film production at Warner Bros./Lorimar and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Academy of Television Art and Sciences, Directors Guild of America, and the Screen Actors Guild, Frederickson is married to Karen and is the father of two—Kelsey and Tyler.

JOHN HERRINGTON

John Bennett Herrington is a retired United States Naval Aviator, Naval Test Pilot, and NASA astronaut. A native of Wetumka, Oklahoma, he graduated from Plano Senior High School in Plano, Texas, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He enlisted in the United States Navy, earning a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a place in NASA's Group 16 Astronaut Class of 1996.

In 2002, Commander Herrington flew on the Space Shuttle Endeavour STS-113, the 112th Shuttle mission, logging more than 330 hours in space and performing 19 hours, 55 minutes of Extra-Vehicular Activity—the 143rd person to walk in space and the first Native American in history.

Since retiring from NASA, his focus has been promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and careers, particularly for Native American youth. He undertook RocketTrek, a 4,300-mile cross-country solo bicycle ride from Makah, Washington, to Cape Canaveral's Kennedy Space Center, earned a PhD in education from the University of Idaho, and wrote a children's book, Mission to Space. He serves as a judge and judge advisor for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Oklahoma Regional and supports cultural and educational initiatives across the country.

Herrington's honors include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, NASA Spaceflight Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal. He received the Red Dirt to Rockers Oklahomans in Space Award, the Wiley Post Spirit Award, was an inaugural inductee into the Native American Hall of Fame, an inductee into the San Diego International Air and Space Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame, and The Chickasaw Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City.
An NFL Hall of Famer, former Congressman, and CEO, native Tulsan Steve Largent accepted a football scholarship and earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from The University of Tulsa. For 14 years he was a record-setting receiver with the Seattle Seahawks, setting six different NFL career records and participating in seven Pro Bowls. He was named NFL Man of the Year for his community service and Athletes in Action recognized him with the inaugural Bart Starr Award for serving as an exemplary role model on and off the field. At the time of his retirement from professional sports, he held every receiving record in the NFL.

Respected and known for working “across the aisle,” Largent served four terms as a member of the United States Congress representing Oklahoma’s 1st Congressional District. During his tenure he served as vice chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee and on the Telecom Subcommittee, the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee, and the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. His four-term voting record reflected consistent support for lower taxes, less regulation, and strong free markets.

As president and CEO of CTIA, a trade association representing the wireless communication industry in the United States, he saw extraordinary growth in the wireless industry with limited interference from the regulatory agencies and Congress.

Largent’s for-profit and nonprofit board service includes Cross First Bank, B&T Engineering, Focus on the Family, The University of Tulsa, and Code 3—an organization mending the relationship between law enforcement and local communities. He has served as the Midwest Chapter executive director of the Wheelchair Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing wheelchairs to every adult and child worldwide who needs one but cannot afford it.

The father of four and grandfather to 10, Largent and his wife, Terry, make Tulsa their home.

Born in Muskogee, John Nickel grew up alongside his younger brother Gil working in his parents’ retail landscape nursery. He attended Connors State College in Warner and the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Santa Monica, California. At the age of 22, he established Greenleaf Nursery Wholesale south of Tahlequah on Lake Tenkiller. Today, Greenleaf is one the nation’s largest wholesale producers of shrubs and trees with locations in Oklahoma, Texas, and North Carolina. To foster continued horticulture education, Nickel and leadership of his company made a $1-million donation to the Horticulture Department at Oklahoma State University for a new greenhouse teaching facility.

In 1979, John and Gil, as Nickel & Nickel, made the first Chardonnay wine bottled under the new label of Far Niente Winery in Napa Valley. Built in 1885 and closed during prohibition, Far Niente has now grown into one of the world’s great wine estates.

Because of his passion for nature, Nickel donated 14,000 acres to The Nature Conservancy to ensure the land would remain pristine and undeveloped. Nested in the rolling Cookson Hills and overlooking the Illinois River, The J. T. Nickel Family Nature & Wildlife Preserve is the largest privately protected conservation area in the Ozarks and was officially dedicated in 2000. In 2005 elk were reintroduced to the preserve, a dream fulfilled for Nickel. For his dedication, Nickel received The Nature Conservancy’s first Oak Leaf Award and a Wildlife Stewardship Award from Nature Works, which included a bronze monument of a Cimarron Pronghorn Antelope that is located on Tulsa’s Riverside Drive.

Nickel’s honors include being named Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in Dallas, Texas, and induction during Oklahoma’s Centennial to the Tulsa Hall of Fame.

Nickel lives in Tulsa with his wife, Julie, and is the proud father of five and grandfather of two.
J.C. Watts, Jr.

A fourth-generation Oklahoman, J.C. Watts, Jr. was born in Eufaula to Helen Watts and Julius Caesar “Buddy” Watts. He graduated from Eufaula High School before being recruited on an athletic scholarship to the University of Oklahoma. After leading the Sooners to back-to-back Orange Bowl victories, where he was named MVP of both games, and earning a degree in journalism, Watts was drafted by the New York Jets. However, he opted to sign with the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League. After five seasons, leading the Rough Riders to Canada’s Super Bowl—the Grey Cup—and again being named MVP, Watts returned to Oklahoma.

He served as youth pastor for Sunnylane Baptist Church in Del City before becoming the first African American elected to a statewide office when he ran for a seat on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. In 1994, he was elected to serve the 4th Congressional District of Oklahoma in the United States House of Representatives and four years later was elected by his peers to serve as chairman of the Republican Conference. While on the Hill, Watts delivered the GOP Response to President Bill Clinton’s State of the Union Address and played a critical role in the legislation creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

After eight years in Congress, Watts established a private consulting business, became president of Mustang Equipment, the first African-American owned John Deere Dealerships, and began writing. His latest book, Dig Deep: 7 Truths to Finding the Strength Within, was released in 2016. Early next year Watts will launch BNC, the nation’s only channel dedicated solely to covering the unique perspective of African American communities.

Watts is married to Frankie and is the father of six and grandfather to nine.

Chief Allen Wright

Allen Wright, whose Choctaw name was Kiliahote, was born in Attala County, Mississippi, in 1826. Following the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, which forced the removal of the Choctaw, he immigrated to Indian Territory and settled near present-day Lukfata, Oklahoma, in McCurtain County. At the age of 13 he relocated to Boggy Depot, making it home for the remainder of his life.

Wright served as Chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1866 to 1870 and was an accomplished civic and religious leader. He made a significant impact on the Choctaw Nation post-Trail of Tears, post-Civil War, and prior to Oklahoma’s statehood. Chief, Presbyterian minister, diplomat, linguist, and rancher are all titles that are associated with Wright; the title he cherished most was Servant of Christ.

Wright is best known for suggesting the name Oklahoma for the new territory during his role as lead negotiator of the Choctaw–Chickasaw Treaty of 1866. Other significant accomplishments include translating portions of the Bible from Hebrew to Choctaw and the creation of the Choctaw dictionary, Chahta Lexicon, for use in the tribal school system. Wright also spoke five languages—English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Choctaw.

Learning was a lifelong passion for Wright, who earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the 1850’s, remarkable accomplishments for the times and considering he did not begin his formal education until age fourteen. In addition, he graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the first Native American from Indian Territory to earn the degree. Throughout his life he used his intellectual and leadership gifts for the advancement of his people.

Wright married a direct descendant from Mayflower passengers. Harriet Newell Mitchell was a missionary from Ohio and had ten children with Wright. Today, there are 234 living descendants of the union.