

Jawhawks and Mysterious Southern University Mascots



“Jayhawkers,” was the term used to describe anti-slavery settlers who poured into Kansas in 1854 in an attempt to sway the popular vote in that territory against slavery. The town of Lawrence, Kansas, a Free State stronghold, would be sacked as a result of violence between Jayhawkers and proslavery Missourians known as Border Ruffians. To honor the Jayhawkers, the University of Kansas made its mascot a “jayhawk,” a sort of hybrid between a blue jay and hawk, meant to represent the antislavery settlers. Other universities in the southern United States have mysterious mascots as well. In the spaces provided below, hypothesize about the meaning of the various mascots, and render drawings that reflect how you think each mascot should appear.

University and mascot	What does it mean?	Picture
University of North Carolina TARHEELS		
University of Oklahoma SOONERS		
University of Arkansas RAZORBACKS		

University and mascot	What does it mean?	Picture
University of North Carolina TARHEELS	The exact meaning is unknown, but one legend claims the name originates from the idea that North Carolina Confederate soldiers stuck to their ranks as if they had tar on their heels.	
University of Oklahoma SOONERS	This name refers to settlers who rushed to Oklahoma before the official land Rush of 1889. These settlers entered Oklahoma illegally and when the Land Rush was officially announced, they were already there to stake their claims.	
University of Arkansas RAZORBACKS	A razorback is a type of wild boar introduced into the Americas during the Age of Exploration. These animals have a reputation of being violent and wild.	