Georgia Studies

Unit 3: Revolution, Statehood, and Westward Expansion

Lesson 5: Indian Removal

Study Presentation
Lesson 5: Indian Removal

• Essential Question
  – How do economic and political factors affect disenfranchised groups? (e.g. Creeks and Cherokees)
Creek Indians

• Series of clashes between Creek and settlers who pushed into their land known as Oconee War
• Treaty of New York: Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray signed the treaty giving up all land east of the Oconee River, but could keep land on the west side; this angered Georgia settlers, who felt betrayed by their government
• Land treaties were often broken
• Red Stick Creeks endorsed war to fight for their land claims; White Stick Creeks wanted peace
The Creek War

- Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims, killing more than 400 people.
- The Battle of Horseshoe Bend, in Alabama, ended the Creek War in 1814; Andrew Jackson led the U.S. troops.
- The Creeks were forced to give up nearly all their land to the U.S. government.
- The Treaty of Indian Springs gave up last Creek lands in Georgia to the U.S.; Chief William McIntosh was later murdered by rival Creeks for signing the treaty.
Removal of the Creeks

- Treaty of Washington (1832) resulted in 5 million acres of Creek land ceded to the United States
- U.S. agreed to allow Creeks who wished to remain and live on 2 million of those acres; the U.S. promised to protect those who stayed
- Those who didn’t wish to stay would have to move to the western territories
- The treaty was broken; by 1840, nearly all Creeks were forced to move west
Cherokee Culture

• Most advanced of Georgia’s tribes; learned quickly from white settlers
• Some, like Chief James Vann, lived in large houses
• Chief Vann encouraged Christianity
• **Sequoyah** developed a syllabary, a group of symbols that stand for whole syllables; it gave Cherokees a written form of their language
• Government modeled on that of United States; capital at New Echota by 1825
Cherokee Removal

- Indian Removal Act of 1830 – Signed by President Andrew Jackson; made the practice of forcibly removing Native Americans legal.
- Dahlonega Gold Rush – Gold was discovered on Cherokee land in north Georgia near the city of Dahlonega; heightened demand for Cherokee land
- The Supreme Court of the United States and Chief Justice John Marshall decided that the Cherokee were a sovereign nation and should be allowed to rule themselves (Worcester v. Georgia).
- Without the support of Chief John Ross, a rebellious Cherokee group signed a treaty giving away all Cherokee land.
The Trail of Tears

• Between 1832 and 1835, Cherokees were stripped of their land

• In the winter of 1838, thousands of Cherokees were forcibly removed to Oklahoma; about 4,000 died from disease, exposure, or hunger

• 700 to 800 escaped and hid in the North Carolina mountains