INDIAN REMOVAL STORY

One of the most tragic events in Georgia’s history was the removal of the Creek and Cherokee tribes from the state, culminating with the Trail of Tears, where over 4000 Cherokee died on a forced march from Georgia to Oklahoma.

THE CREEK NATION

The Creek Nation was actually a confederation of several southeastern tribes. The Creeks were the most populous tribe in the state and held the largest amount of land. In the colonial period of Georgia, the Creek Nation became a major trading partner with the colony. Many white Georgians intermarried with the Creek and became members of the tribe. Due to these economic and social ties, Georgians initially hoped that the Creek would become members of the plantation economy. While some did, many chose to continue their traditional lifestyle. Their interactions with runaway slaves also led many Creek to oppose the institution of slavery. Earlier in Georgia’s history, the Creek chose to side with the English during the Revolution; thus, causing a hostile relationship with many Georgians. Once the deer trade ended, due to a decrease in animal's population, many White Georgians desired Creek land and pushed state and federal leaders for their removal. Due to this pressure, there were several major Creek land cessions after the Revolution including the Treaty of New York in 1790, which stipulated that the Creeks ceded most of land east of the Ocmulgee River to the United States. In 1813, a civil war broke out between the Creek Indians. This war called the Red Stick War, was named after the group of Creeks who wanted to fight the White settlers who were intruding on their land (those that did not want to fight were called White Sticks). The war ended in a Creek defeat by future President Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, in present day Alabama. Following this war, the Creek lost 22 million acres of land. In 1825, under the Treaty of Indian Springs, a Creek Chief named William McIntosh signed away the remainder of Creek land in Georgia after taking a bribe from an Indian agent. McIntosh was later killed by the Creek Indians for his actions.

THE CHEROKEE NATION

The Cherokee lived in the mountains of North Georgia long before Spanish exploration. After the English settled South Carolina and Georgia, they became an important trading partner with England. While the Creek traded with both the French and the English, the Cherokee were exclusively loyal to the English; this loyalty caused much conflict between themselves and the Creek. During the Revolution, the Cherokee continued to support the British and fought the Americans even after the war officially ended. The hostilities continued until 1793. Once peace was established, the Cherokee made several treaties with the United States government, including one that led to the Federal Road being built through their land. During this time period, the Cherokee began to believe that their best hope for maintaining their land would be to transform their society to resemble that of the United States. In the 1820s, the Cherokee developed a written language, a written constitution, and a newspaper. They invited Monrovian missionaries to set up schools and adopted an agricultural system that included the use of slavery. However, none of these changes stopped the whites in Georgia from demanding their removal. Once gold was discovered in 1828, the push for Cherokee removal west of the Mississippi River became greater. In 1832, the Cherokee won the Supreme Court case Worcester v. Georgia. This decision should have protected the tribe from removal as it maintained that the Cherokee were an independent nation and were not subject to Georgia law. However, in 1835, a small group of Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota without permission from the Cherokee government. Upon receiving it, Andrew Jackson signed the treaty and Congress approved it. In 1838, most of the Cherokee were forcefully removed from the state and suffered on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma.
Native Removal: History Standard 4 elements d, e Name_______________________

Using the reading excerpts from previous pages, compare how the Creek and Cherokee interacted with citizens of Georgia and the differences/similarities of their approach to avoid removal.

CREEK INDIANS

| Events | People |

| CHEROKEE INDIANS |

| Events | People |

Reading Comprehension Questions: Use reading excerpts from previous pages to answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think the U.S. was so anxious to move Native Americans west?

2. What other Native American tribes were affected by Indian Removal?

3. What were the important events and who were the important individuals of the Creek Nation directly involved with Creek Removal?

4. What were the important events and who were the important individuals of the Cherokee Nation directly involved with Cherokee Removal?

5. How else do you think the government could have handled the situation?
Native Removal: History Standard 4 elements d, e  Name_______________________

Map Activity:

1. Color all Indian land cessions before 1790 yellow.
2. Color all Indian land cessions from 1790-1799 orange.
3. Color all Indian land cessions from 1800-1809 light blue.
5. Color all Indian land cessions from 1820-1829 pink.
6. Color all Indian land cessions from 1830-1839 red.
7. Draw a large black star to show where Dahlonega is located.
Native Removal: History Standard 4 elements d, e  Name__________________________

**Indian Removal Timeline**

16-17\textsuperscript{th} Century—White expansion; cession of Natives’ lands.

1800+— Southerners urge Congress to acquire lands for cotton and mining

1813 — Creek War between Red Sticks and White settlers.

1814 — Andrew Jackson commands U.S. forces against Creek Nation; cedes 22 million acres of Creek land to U.S.

1818 — Jackson defeats Seminoles in Spanish Florida as punishment for harboring fugitive slaves; U.S. cedes portion of Seminole lands.

1827 — Georgia’s Cherokee adopt a constitution to secure Nation status and lands, but Georgia maintains Cherokees are subject to state laws.

1829 — In his 1\textsuperscript{st} inaugural address, President Andrew Jackson sets policy for relocating Native People west.

1830 — Congress Passes Indian Removal Act, requiring all tribes east of Mississippi to relocate to western lands.

1830 — Choctaw first to sign removal treaty; trip supposedly voluntary, but people who stay behind are forced from their land.

1831 — Cherokee petition Supreme Court for right to self-government; Court finds in favor of Cherokee, but Georgia refuses to abide by decision and President Jackson refuses to enforce it.

1832 — Creeks sign a treaty opening portions of land to settlement, in exchange for government protection that never comes.

1832 — Chickasaws, viewing movement as inevitable, sign treaty with U.S. for suitable western land and protection, but U.S. backs out of agreement.

1833 — Small group of Seminoles signs removal treaty, but majority of tribe declare treaty illegitimate and refuse to leave.

1835 — Small group (not leaders) of Cherokees sign Treaty of New Echota agreeing to relocate. Chief John Ross petitions courts.

1836 — Supreme Court upholds Cherokee treaty; people given two years to leave or be forcibly removed.

1836 — Secretary of War orders Creeks to be removed from land for illegal activities, such as stealing livestock and crops from settlers.

1837 — 15,000 Creeks move west.

1838 — 7,000 U.S. troops led by General Winfield Scott force Cherokees off land; no time to gather belongings; begin westward journey called the “Trail of Tears” to Indian Territory.
Creek Removal Story

PEOPLE

Alexander McGillivray

William McIntosh
   GA Stories Video “The Story of Chief William McIntosh”

Treaty of _________________________________
which results in lands ________________ of the ________________ River being ceded.

Andrew Jackson (Creek Removal)

Treaty of _________________________________
which results in _______________________________
Creek lands being ceded to the government.

EVENTS

The Creek War

Cherokee Removal Story
Native Removal: History Standard 4 elements d, e

Name ____________________________

Sequoyah (GA Stories Video “Sequoyah, A Georgia Biography”)

John Ross (GA Stories Video “John Ross, A Georgia Biography”)

John Marshall

Andrew Jackson

Dahlohega Gold Rush
GA Stories Video “America’s First Gold Rush”

Worcester v. Georgia (Video on Moodle)

Treaty of New Echota

Trail of Tears
### Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears

[https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/indian-treaties](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/indian-treaties)

The U.S. Government used treaties as one means to displace Indians from their tribal lands, a mechanism that was strengthened with the Removal Act of 1830. In cases where this failed, the government sometimes violated both treaties and Supreme Court rulings to facilitate the spread of European Americans westward across the continent.

As the 19th century began, land-hungry Americans poured into the backcountry of the coastal South and began moving toward and into what would later become the states of Alabama and Mississippi. Since Indian tribes living there appeared to be the main obstacle to westward expansion, white settlers petitioned the federal government to remove them. Although Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe argued that the Indian tribes in the Southeast should exchange their land for lands west of the Mississippi River, they did not take steps to make this happen. Indeed, the first major transfer of land occurred only as the result of war.

In 1814, Major General Andrew Jackson led an expedition against the Creek Indians climaxing in the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend (in present day Alabama near the Georgia border), where Jackson's force soundly defeated the Creeks and destroyed their military power. He then forced upon the Indians a treaty whereby they surrendered to the United States over twenty-million acres of their traditional land—about one-half of present day Alabama and one-fifth of Georgia. Over the next decade, Jackson led the way in the Indian removal campaign, helping to negotiate nine of the eleven major treaties to remove Indians. Under this kind of pressure, Native American tribes—specifically the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw—realized that they could not defeat the Americans in war. The appetite of the settlers for land would not decrease, so the Indians adopted a strategy of appeasement. They hoped that if they gave up a good deal of their land, they could keep at least some a part of it.

When Andrew Jackson became president (1829–1837), he decided to build a systematic approach to Indian removal on the basis of these legal precedents. To achieve his purpose, Jackson encouraged Congress to adopt the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Act established a process whereby the President could grant land west of the Mississippi River to Indian tribes that agreed to give up their homelands. As incentives, the law allowed the Indians financial and material assistance to travel to their new locations and start new lives and guaranteed that the Indians would live on their new property under the protection of the United States Government forever. With the Act in place, Jackson and his followers were free to persuade, bribe, and threaten tribes into signing removal treaties and leaving the Southeast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer the questions below and mark where you found the answer in the text.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What states were desired by “land-hungry Americans” during this period of western expansion?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What basic right was used by white settlers seeking help from the federal government to remove Native Americans?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Describe the methods of Andrew Jackson to remove Native American tribes starting in 1814.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Define the “strategy of appeasement” adopted by Indians in response to the appetite of settlers for land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Describe how the Indian Removal Act of 1830 allowed President Jackson to acquire Indian land in the Southeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Describe the impact of Andrew Jackson on the Indian tribes in the Southeast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general terms, Jackson’s government succeeded. By the end of his presidency, he had signed into law almost seventy removal treaties, the result of which was to move nearly 50,000 eastern Indians to Indian Territory—defined as the region belonging to the United States west of the Mississippi River but excluding the states of Missouri and Iowa as well as the Territory of Arkansas—and open millions of acres of rich land east of the Mississippi to white settlers. Despite the vastness of the Indian Territory, the government intended that the Indians’ destination would be a more confined area—what later became eastern Oklahoma.

The Cherokee Nation resisted, however, challenging in court the Georgia laws that restricted their freedoms on tribal lands. In his 1831 ruling on Cherokee Nation v. the State of Georgia, Chief Justice John Marshall declared that

> “the Indian territory is admitted to compose a part of the United States,”

and affirmed that the tribes were

> “domestic dependent nations” and “their relation to the United States resembles that of a ward to his guardian.”

However, the following year the Supreme Court reversed itself and ruled that Indian tribes were indeed sovereign and immune from Georgia laws. President Jackson nonetheless refused to heed the Court’s decision. He obtained the signature of a Cherokee chief agreeing to relocation in the Treaty of New Echota, which Congress ratified against the protests of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay in 1835. The Cherokee signing party represented only a fraction of the Cherokee, and the majority followed Principal Chief John Ross in a desperate attempt to hold onto their land. This attempt faltered in 1838, when, under the guns of federal troops and Georgia state militia, the Cherokee tribe were forced to the dry plains across the Mississippi. The best evidence indicates that between three and four thousand out of the fifteen to sixteen thousand Cherokees died en route from the brutal conditions of the “Trail of Tears.”

Through a combination of forced treaties and the violation of treaties and judicial determination, the United States Government succeeded in paving the way for the westward expansion and the incorporation of new territories as part of the United States.

| 7. How might John Marshall’s ruling in “Cherokee Nation v. the State of Georgia” help the Cherokee against removal? |
| 8. How were treaties harmful to the Native American tribes even though the purpose of the treaties was to prevent violence and further loss of Native American land? |