



## What You Will Learn...

## Main Ideas

1. The Indian Removal Act authorized the relocation of Native Americans to the West.
2. Cherokee resistance to removal led to disagreement between Jackson and the Supreme Court.
3. Other Native Americans resisted removal with force.

## The Big Idea

President Jackson supported a policy of Indian removal.

## Key Terms and People

Indian Removal Act, p. 332  
 Indian Territory, p. 332  
 Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 332  
 Sequoya, p. 333  
*Worcester v. Georgia*, p. 334  
 Trail of Tears, p. 334  
 Black Hawk, p. 335  
 Osceola, p. 335



hmhsocialstudies.com

TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the steps Andrew Jackson and the U.S. government took toward Indian removal.

# Indian Removal

## If YOU were there...

You belong to the Cherokee nation. Your family has farmed rich lands in Georgia for as long as anyone can remember. You've learned some new ways from white settlers, too. At school you've learned to read both English and Cherokee. But now that doesn't seem important. The U.S. government is sending you and your people far away to unknown places in the West.

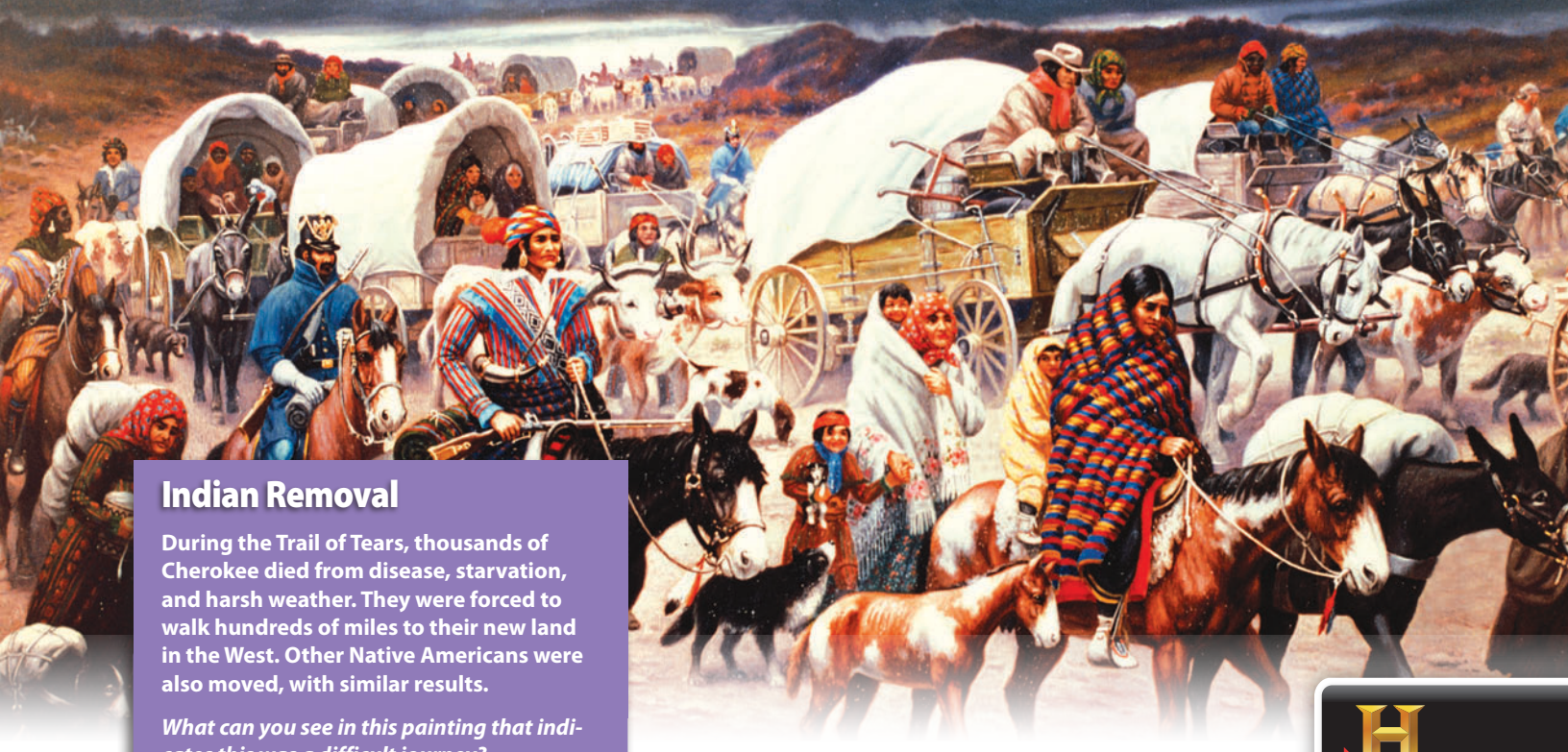
**How would you feel about being taken away from your home?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** President Andrew Jackson had become famous as an American Indian fighter. He had no sympathy with Native Americans' claim to the lands where they had always lived. With public support, he reversed the government's pledge to respect Indian land claims. The result was the brutal removal of the southeastern peoples to empty lands in the West.

## Indian Removal Act

Native Americans had long lived in settlements stretching from Georgia to Mississippi. However, President Jackson and other political leaders wanted to open this land to settlement by American farmers. Under pressure from Jackson, Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830, authorizing the removal of Native Americans who lived east of the Mississippi River to lands in the West.

Congress then established **Indian Territory**—U.S. land in what is now Oklahoma—and planned to move Native Americans there. Some supporters of this plan, like John C. Calhoun, argued that removal to Indian Territory would protect Indians from further conflicts with American settlers. "One of the greatest evils to which they are subject is that incessant [constant] pressure of our population," he noted. "To guard against this evil . . . there ought to be the strongest . . . assurance that the country given [to] them should be theirs." To manage Indian removal to western lands, Congress approved the creation of a new government agency, the **Bureau of Indian Affairs**.



## Indian Removal

During the Trail of Tears, thousands of Cherokee died from disease, starvation, and harsh weather. They were forced to walk hundreds of miles to their new land in the West. Other Native Americans were also moved, with similar results.

*What can you see in this painting that indicates this was a difficult journey?*

The Choctaw were the first Indians sent to Indian Territory. The Mississippi legislature abolished the Choctaw government and then forced the Choctaw leaders to sign the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. This treaty gave more than 7.5 million acres of their land to the state. The Choctaw moved to Indian Territory during a disastrous winter trip. Federal officials in charge of the move did not provide enough food or supplies to the Choctaw, most of whom were on foot. About one-fourth of the Choctaw died of cold, disease, or starvation.

News of the Choctaw's hardships caused other Indians to resist removal. When the Creek resisted in 1836, federal troops moved in and captured some 14,500 of them. They led the Creek, many in chains, to Indian Territory. One Creek woman remembered the trip being filled with "the awful silence that showed the heartaches and sorrow at being taken from the homes and even separation from loved ones." The Chickasaw, who lived in upper Mississippi, negotiated a treaty for better supplies on their trip to Indian Territory. Nevertheless, many Chickasaw lives were also lost during removal.

**READING CHECK** **Finding Main Ideas** What major changes did President Jackson make to U.S. policy regarding Native Americans?

## Cherokee Resistance

Many Cherokee had believed that they could prevent conflicts and avoid removal by adopting the **contemporary** culture of white people. In the early 1800s they invited missionaries to set up schools where Cherokee children learned how to read and write in English. The Cherokee developed their own government modeled after the U.S. Constitution with an election system, a bicameral council, and a court system. All of these were headed by a principal chief.

A Cherokee named **Sequoya** used 86 characters to represent Cherokee syllables to create a writing system for their own complex language. In 1828 the Cherokee began publishing a newspaper printed in both English and Cherokee.

The adoption of white culture did not protect the Cherokee. After gold was discovered on their land in Georgia, their treaty rights



### VIDEO

Jackson:  
Cherokees, Tariffs  
and Nullification

[hmhsocialstudies.com](http://hmhsocialstudies.com)

### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**contemporary**  
existing at the  
same time

## THE IMPACT TODAY

Members of the Cherokee Nation of northeastern Oklahoma are descendants of the Cherokee who were removed to Indian Territory.

The group's population is almost 300,000 and is the largest tribal nation in the United States. Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are descendants of the Cherokee who escaped removal. The 12,500 members of this group live mostly in western North Carolina.

were ignored. Georgia leaders began preparing for the Cherokee's removal. When they refused to move, the Georgia militia began attacking Cherokee towns. In response, the Cherokee sued the state. They said that they were an independent nation and claimed that the government of Georgia had no legal power over their lands.

In 1832 the Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice John Marshall, agreed. In **Worcester v. Georgia** the Court ruled that the Cherokee nation was a distinct community in which the laws of Georgia had no force. The Court also stated that only the federal government, not the states, had authority over Native Americans.

Georgia, however, ignored the Court's ruling, and President Jackson took no action to make Georgia follow the ruling. "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it," Jackson supposedly said. By not

enforcing the Court's decision, Jackson violated his presidential oath to uphold the laws of the land. However, most members of Congress and American citizens did not protest the ways Jackson removed Native Americans.

In the spring of 1838, U.S. troops began to remove all Cherokee to Indian Territory. A few were able to escape and hide in the mountains of North Carolina. After the Cherokee were removed, Georgia took their businesses, farms, and property.

The Cherokee's 800-mile forced march became known as the **Trail of Tears**. During the march, the Cherokee suffered from disease, hunger, and harsh weather. Almost one-fourth of the 18,000 Cherokee died on the march.

## READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas

What was the *Worcester v. Georgia* ruling, and what was Jackson's response?

## Primary Source

### PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

## Trail of Tears

The Cherokee knew that they would be forced to march West, but they did not know that so many of their people would die on the way. Here are two accounts of the Trail of Tears, one written before it started and one written after, both by Cherokee who made the trip.

March 10, 1838

*Beloved Martha, I have delayed writing to you so long . . . If we Cherokees are to be driven to the west by the cruel hand of oppression to seek a new home in the west, it will be impossible . . . It is thus all our rights are invaded."*

—Letter from Jenny, a Cherokee girl, just before her removal

*"Long time we travel on way to new land. People feel bad when they leave Old Nation. Women cry and make sad wails, Children cry and many men cry . . . but they say nothing and just put heads down and keep on go towards West. Many days pass and people die very much."*

—Recollections of a survivor of the Trail of Tears

## ANALYSIS SKILL

### ANALYZING POINTS OF VIEW

1. What is different about the concerns of the Cherokee before and after the Trail of Tears?
2. How do you think the survivors of the Trail of Tears felt when they reached Indian Territory?



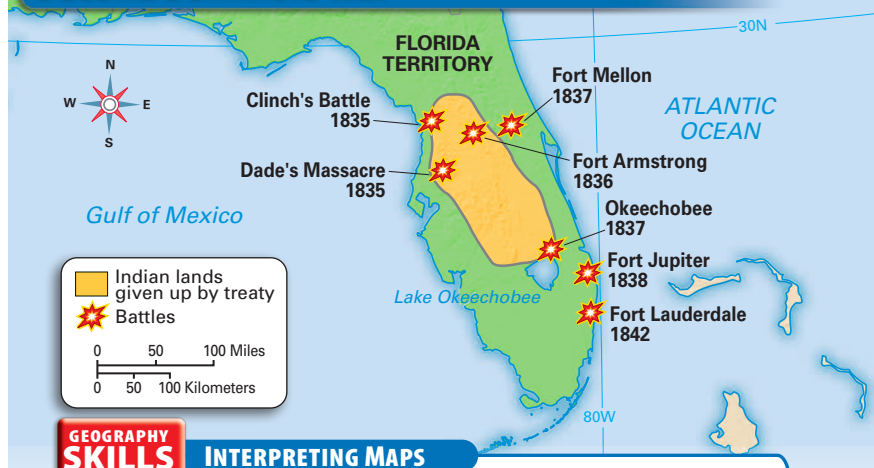
## Other Native Americans Resist

Other Native Americans decided to fight U.S. troops to avoid removal. Chief **Black Hawk**, a leader of Fox and Sauk Indians, led his people in a struggle to protect their lands in Illinois. By 1832, however, the Sauk forces were running out of food and supplies, and by 1850 they had been forced to leave.

In Florida, Seminole leaders were forced to sign a removal treaty that their followers decided to ignore. A leader named **Osceola** called upon his people to resist with force, and the Second Seminole War began. Osceola was captured and soon died in prison. His followers, however, continued to fight. Some 4,000 Seminole were removed and hundreds of others killed. Eventually, U.S. officials decided to give up the fight. Small groups of Seminole had resisted removal, and their descendants live in Florida today.

**READING CHECK** **Evaluating** How effective was Native American resistance to removal?

## Second Seminole War



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

### INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Location** In what parts of Florida was the Second Seminole War fought?
- 2. Place** Where was the last battle of the Second Seminole War fought?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** President Jackson supported the removal of thousands of Native Americans from their traditional lands to federal territory. In the next chapter you will learn about the westward growth of the nation as farmers, ranchers, and other settlers moved West.

## Section 3 Assessment



hmhsocialstudies.com  
**ONLINE QUIZ**

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** What Native American groups were affected by the **Indian Removal Act**? Where were they relocated?

**b. Explain** Why did government officials want to relocate Native Americans to the West? How was the conflict resolved?

**c. Predict** What are some possible effects that the Indian Removal Act might have on Native Americans already living in the West?
- a. Analyze** What caused the **Trail of Tears** and what were its effects?

**b. Analyze** Why did the state of Georgia want to relocate the Cherokee, and what did the Cherokee do in response?

**c. Analyze** What do you think of President Jackson's refusal to enforce the **Worcester v. Georgia** ruling?
- a. Describe** What led to the Second Seminole War?

**b. Compare and Contrast** How were the Seminole and the Sauk resistance efforts similar and different?

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Comparing and Contrasting** Review your notes on Indian removal. Then copy the chart below and use it to identify the Native American groups and their responses to removal.

Native American Group	Response to Removal

### FOCUS ON WRITING

myWriteSmart

- 5. Understanding Causes and Effects** Review this section and identify the causes and effects of the Jackson administration's policy of Indian relocation.