

## networks

There's More Online!

- ✓ **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**  
Seminole and Cherokee Resistance
- ✓ **MAP** The Removal of Native Americans, 1820–1840
- ✓ **PRIMARY SOURCE** Osceola
- ✓ **VIDEO**



## Lesson 2

# Conflicts Over Land

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What are the consequences when cultures interact?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*The forced removal and relocation of Native Americans in the 1830s largely ended the Native American presence in the eastern United States.*

## Removing Native Americans

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why were Native Americans forced to abandon their land and move west?

As the nation expanded west, many Native Americans still remained in the East. The Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw peoples lived in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. These groups had created successful farming communities that were much like many other American communities. As a result, Americans considered them “civilized” and referred to them as the “Five Civilized Tribes.”

Though Americans recognized the success of the Five Civilized Tribes, they did not necessarily respect their rights. In fact, some white people wanted the Native Americans’ lands for themselves. To make this possible, they wanted the **federal** government to force eastern Native Americans to **relocate** to lands west of the Mississippi River.

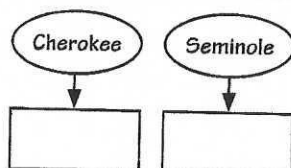
Andrew Jackson supported the white settlers’ demand for Native American land. He had once fought the Creek and Seminole in Georgia and Florida to give the settlers more land. When he became president in 1829, he stated that he wanted to move all Native Americans to the Great Plains. Many people believed this region to be a wasteland

New York Academic Standards  
7.6b

Reading **HELPDESK** **CCSS**

### Taking Notes: Describing

As you read, use a graphic organizer like this one to describe how each group of Native Americans resisted removal, and the result.



### Content Vocabulary

• **relocate**





Like most people of the Americas in the early 1800s, the Seminole in this village lived off the land they farmed.

where American settlers would never want to live. Many people thought that if all Native Americans moved there, conflict with them would be ended.

## The Cherokee Versus Georgia

In 1830 President Jackson pushed the Indian Removal Act through Congress. This law allowed the federal government to pay Native Americans to move west. Jackson then sent officials to make treaties with the Native Americans in the Southeast. In 1834 Congress established the Indian Territory. Most of the region was located in what is now the state of Oklahoma. This area was to be the new home for the Native Americans of the Southeast.

Most eastern Native American peoples felt forced to sell their land and move west. The Cherokee refused to do so. In treaties of the 1790s, the federal government had recognized the Cherokee as a separate nation. However, the state of Georgia, in which many Cherokee lived, refused to accept the Cherokee's status. In 1830 Georgia made Cherokee land part of the state. It also began to enforce state laws in the Cherokee Nation.

As pressure for relocation mounted, the Cherokee appealed to the American people:

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“We are aware, that some persons suppose it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the Mississippi. . . . Our people universally think otherwise. . . . We wish to remain on the land of our fathers.”

—Appeal of the Cherokee Nation, 1830

**relocate** to move to another place

### Academic Vocabulary

**federal** relating to a national government

### Build Vocabulary: Multiple Meaning Words

The term *federal* applies to more than just the national government of the United States. It describes any system of government in which several smaller state or district governments unite but still keep control over their own internal affairs.





This painting depicts the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Analyzing Images** What does this image suggest about the Native Americans' experience on the Trail of Tears? Use details from the painting to explain your answer.

Still, Georgia pressured the Cherokee. In response, the Cherokee turned to the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Georgia had no right to interfere with the Cherokee. President Jackson, who supported Georgia's efforts to remove the Cherokee, declared that he would ignore the Supreme Court's ruling. "John Marshall has made his decision," Jackson is said to have declared, "now let him enforce it." No one was willing or able to challenge the president's failure to enforce the Court's ruling.

### The Trail of Tears

By 1835, the Cherokee were divided about what to do. That year the federal government convinced a small number of Cherokee—about 500 of them—to sign the Treaty of New Echota. In this treaty, the group agreed to give up all Cherokee land by 1838.

Cherokee Chief John Ross sent a protest to the U.S. Senate. Ross explained that the few Cherokee who signed the treaty did not speak for all the 17,000 Cherokee in the region. Many white Americans, including senators Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, also opposed the treaty as unfair. However, their pleas did not change the minds of President Jackson or the white settlers. In 1836 the Senate approved the treaty by a single vote.

The Cherokee Museum, Bartlesville, OK/SuperStock

#### Reading **HELP**DESK



#### Reading in the Content Area: Bar Graphs

Bar graphs often have vertical bars, but they may also appear with horizontal bars, as in the graph on the opposite page. In such graphs, the subject of each bar appears on the left. The item being measured—in this case, people—appears at the bottom of the graph.



When the treaty's 1838 deadline arrived, only about 2,000 Cherokee had moved west. Jackson's successor, President Martin Van Buren, ordered the army to move the rest of them. In May 1838, General Winfield Scott arrived in the Cherokee Nation with 7,000 troops to remove the remaining Cherokee by force. He told them that resistance and escape were hopeless. The Cherokee knew that fighting would lead to their destruction. Filled with sadness and anger, Cherokee leaders gave in.

Between June and December 1838, soldiers rounded up Cherokee in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Under guard, the Cherokee began their march to Indian Territory in the West.

The forced relocation of some 15,000 Cherokee was a terrible ordeal. Most people were not prepared for the journey. Trouble started even before they set out. As the Cherokee crowded in camps and awaited the command to begin their march, illness broke out. As many as 2,000 Cherokee died.

Once on the trail, the Cherokee suffered from hunger and from exposure to the weather. These conditions led to the deaths of another 2,000 people.

When the relocation was over, about one quarter of the Cherokee population was dead. The Cherokee came to call their forced journey west the Trail Where They Cried. Historians call it the Trail of Tears.

#### ✓ PROGRESS CHECK

**Assessing** What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?



## New York CONNECTION

### Native People in New York

In the late 1700s, the Iroquois of New York relied on subsistence agriculture and some hunting and gathering. As white settlers moved on to the land, many Iroquois moved away or were forced to move out of New York State. Later on, canal building ran through the homelands of Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, and others. State and federal policy forced many Native Americans to move.

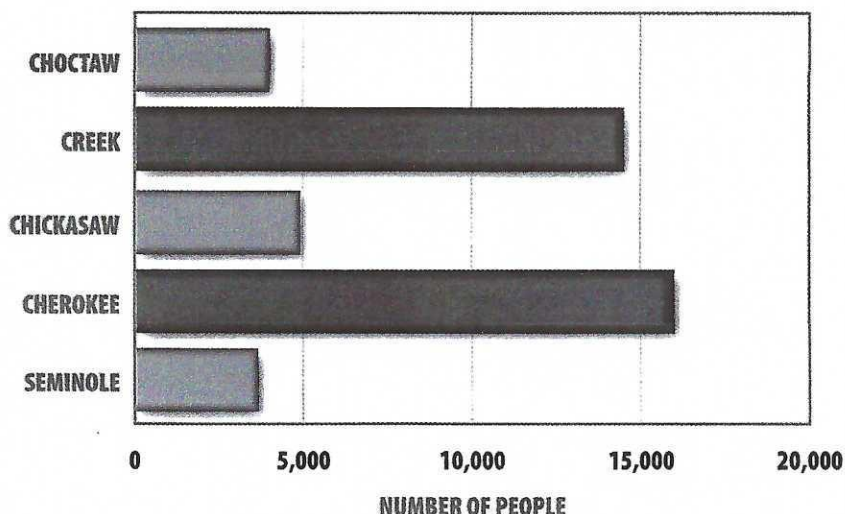
In the 1800s, nearly all tribes were placed under the control of various agencies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The agencies negotiated treaties, managed Indian schools, and resettled people onto reservations. The system changed the traditional way of life for Native Americans.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Comparing** Were the native people of New York treated more humanely than the people of the southern states? Explain.

## NATIVE AMERICAN REMOVAL

### FORCED MIGRATION, 1830–1840



### GRAPH SKILL

After passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the government began to force the Five Civilized Tribes living east of the Mississippi River to move to an area that was located in what is now part of the state of Oklahoma.

**1 CALCULATING** About how many Native Americans had to move to Indian Territory between 1830 and 1840?

**2 CRITICAL THINKING**  
**Drawing Inferences** Which Native American groups in the South had the largest population in the early 1800s? How can you tell?



# Resistance and Removal

**GUIDING QUESTION** *Why did some Native Americans resist resettlement?*

Many Native American peoples did not want to give up their lands. However, the Seminole in Florida were the only group to successfully resist removal. They faced pressure in the early 1830s to sign treaties giving up their land, but the Seminole leader Osceola (ah•see•OH•luh) and his followers refused to leave. They decided to fight instead. Osceola was born a Creek but lived among the Seminole of Florida. “I will make the white man red with blood, and then blacken him in the sun and rain,” Osceola vowed.

## The Seminole Wars

In 1835 the U.S. Army arrived in Florida to force the removal of the Seminole. Instead, in December 1835, a group of Seminole attacked troops led by Major Francis Dade as they marched across central Florida. Only a few soldiers **survived**. The Dade Massacre prompted a call for additional troops to fight the Seminole.

Between 1835 and 1842, about 3,000 Seminole and African Americans known as Black Seminoles fought some 30,000 U.S. soldiers. The Black Seminoles were escaped slaves from Georgia and South Carolina. Some lived among the Seminole people. Others had built their own settlements. Like the Seminole, they did not want to move. One reason is that they feared the American soldiers would force them back into slavery. Together, the Seminole and Black Seminoles attacked white settlements along the Florida coast. They made surprise attacks and then retreated back into the forests and swamps.



Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division [LC-DIG-pga-00467]

Reading **HELP**DESK



There is a statue of Osceola located in Tallahassee, Florida.

### Academic Vocabulary

**survive** to continue existing or living after nearly being destroyed

The war cost the U.S. government over \$20 million and the lives of more than 1,500 soldiers. Many Seminole also died. Others were captured and forced to move west. In 1842, with most of the surviving Seminole now in Indian Territory, the fighting stopped.

War broke out again in 1855 over what little land in Florida the Seminole had left. By 1858, the few remaining Seminole had escaped into the Everglades, where their descendants still live today.

## Life in the West

By 1842, only a few scattered groups of Native Americans remained east of the Mississippi River. Most of them now lived in the West. They had given up more than 100 million acres of land. In return, they received about \$68 million and 32 million acres west of the Mississippi. There they lived, organized by tribes, on reservations. Eventually, white settlement would extend into these areas as well.

The Five Civilized Tribes relocated in the eastern half of Indian Territory on lands already claimed by several Plains peoples, including the Osage, Comanche, and Kiowa. The U.S. Army built forts in the area and promised to protect the Five Civilized Tribes and maintain peace in the area. The Choctaw police force, known as the Lighthorsemen, also helped maintain order and public safety.

Settled in their new homes, the Five Civilized Tribes developed their own constitutions and governments. They built farms and schools. However, the disputes over removal that arose within each tribal group during the 1830s continued to divide the groups for years to come.

### PROGRESS CHECK

**Analyzing** What effect did the Native Americans' use of surprise attacks have on the Seminole Wars?

## Connections to TODAY

### Oklahoma's Heritage

The state of Oklahoma gets its name from the Choctaw word *okla*—"people"—and *humma*—"red." Although Oklahoma today has a larger Native American population than any other state, only about 8 percent of present-day Oklahomans are Native American. Most Native American Oklahomans are descended from the 67 tribes who lived in what was once part of Indian Territory.

## LESSON 2 REVIEW



### Review Vocabulary

1. Use the term *relocate* to describe the relationship between the United States and Native Americans in the 1830s.

### Answer the Guiding Questions

2. **Explaining** What reason did the government give for forcing the Native Americans to relocate?
3. **Analyzing** Why were the Cherokee forced to move in spite of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*?
4. **Describing** How did the Seminole resist removal?
5. **NARRATIVE** Write a diary entry as a Cherokee traveling to Indian Territory on the Trail of Tears.