

Conflicts Over Land

Essential Question

How did Andrew Jackson's presidency affect Native Americans?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

relocate
(p. 343)

guerrilla tactics
(p. 347)

Academic Vocabulary

federal (p. 343)

survive (p. 347)

Key People and Events

Indian Removal Act (p. 343)

Indian Territory (p. 344)

General Winfield Scott (p. 345)

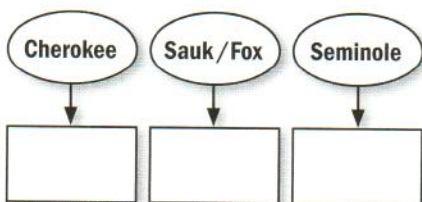
Trail of Tears (p. 346)

Black Hawk (p. 346)

Osceola (p. 347)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to describe how each group of Native Americans resisted removal and the result.



American Diary

As they moved west in 1838 during a forced removal from their lands, the Cherokee were said to be on a "Trail of Tears." A legend developed that a Cherokee rose appeared along the road wherever a Cherokee tear landed. Poet Rick Brown described the event:

"As wagons, weighted,
marked their way, from New
Echota to where they close;
where each tear fell, as some will
tell, will be seen a Cherokee rose."

—quoted from "A Cherokee Rose"

The Seminole people of Florida fought against being forced to abandon their homes and way of life.

Moving Native Americans

Main Idea Thousands of Native Americans were forced to abandon their lands to white settlers and move West.

History and You How long have you lived in your community? How would you feel if you were forced to leave your home? Read how Native Americans reacted to their forced move.

While the nation had expanded westward by the 1830s, many Native Americans still lived in the eastern part of the country. The “Five Civilized Tribes”—the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw—lived in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. These tribes had established farming societies with successful economies.

Because the area west of the Mississippi was dry and seemed unsuitable for farming, few white Americans lived there. Many settlers wanted the **federal**—or national—government to **relocate** Native Americans living

in the Southeast to this area. They wanted to force the Native Americans to leave their land and move west.

President Andrew Jackson, a man of the frontier himself, supported the settlers’ demand for Native American land. Jackson had fought the Creek and Seminole peoples in Georgia and Florida. In his Inaugural Address, he stated that he intended to move all Native Americans to the Great Plains.

Many Americans believed that the Great Plains was a wasteland that would never be settled. They thought that if they moved Native Americans to that region, the nation’s conflict with them would be over.

Indian Removal Act

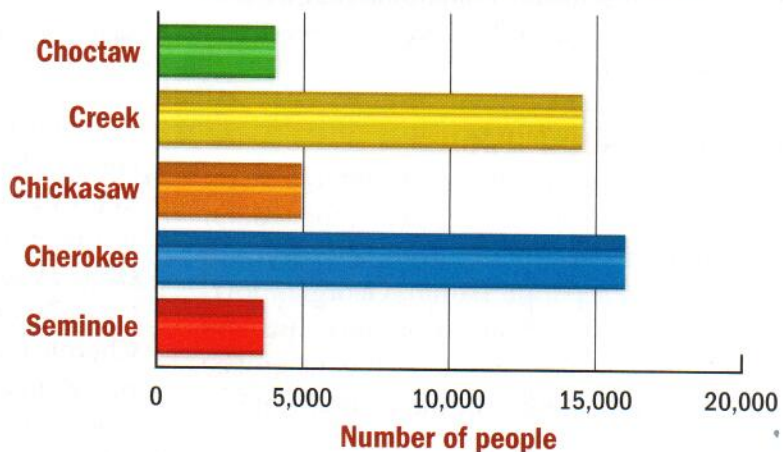
In 1830 President Jackson pushed the **Indian Removal Act** through Congress. The act allowed the federal government to pay Native Americans to move west.

Jackson then sent officials to make treaties with the Native Americans in the Southeast.

By the Numbers Forced Migration

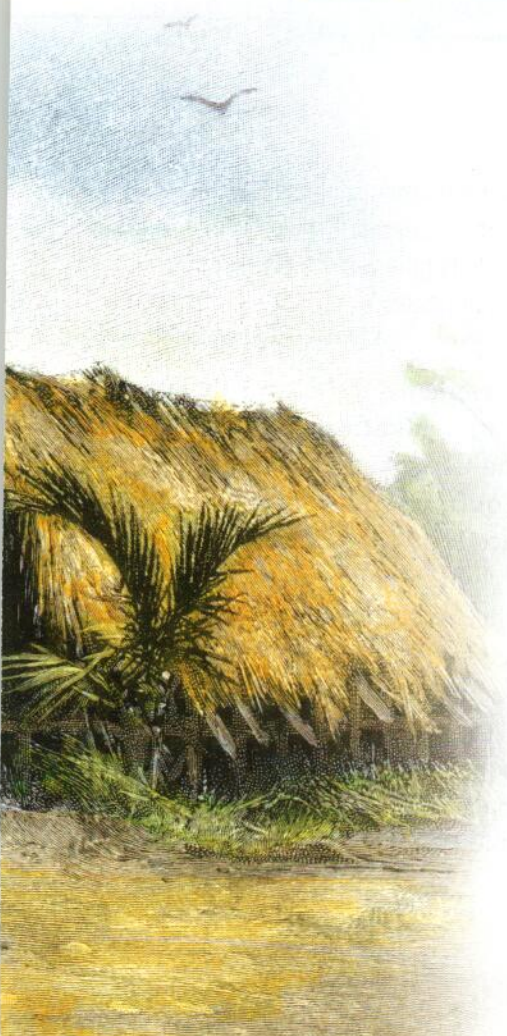
The Five Civilized Tribes east of the Mississippi were forced to migrate to Oklahoma under provision of Congress. Thousands died along the way.

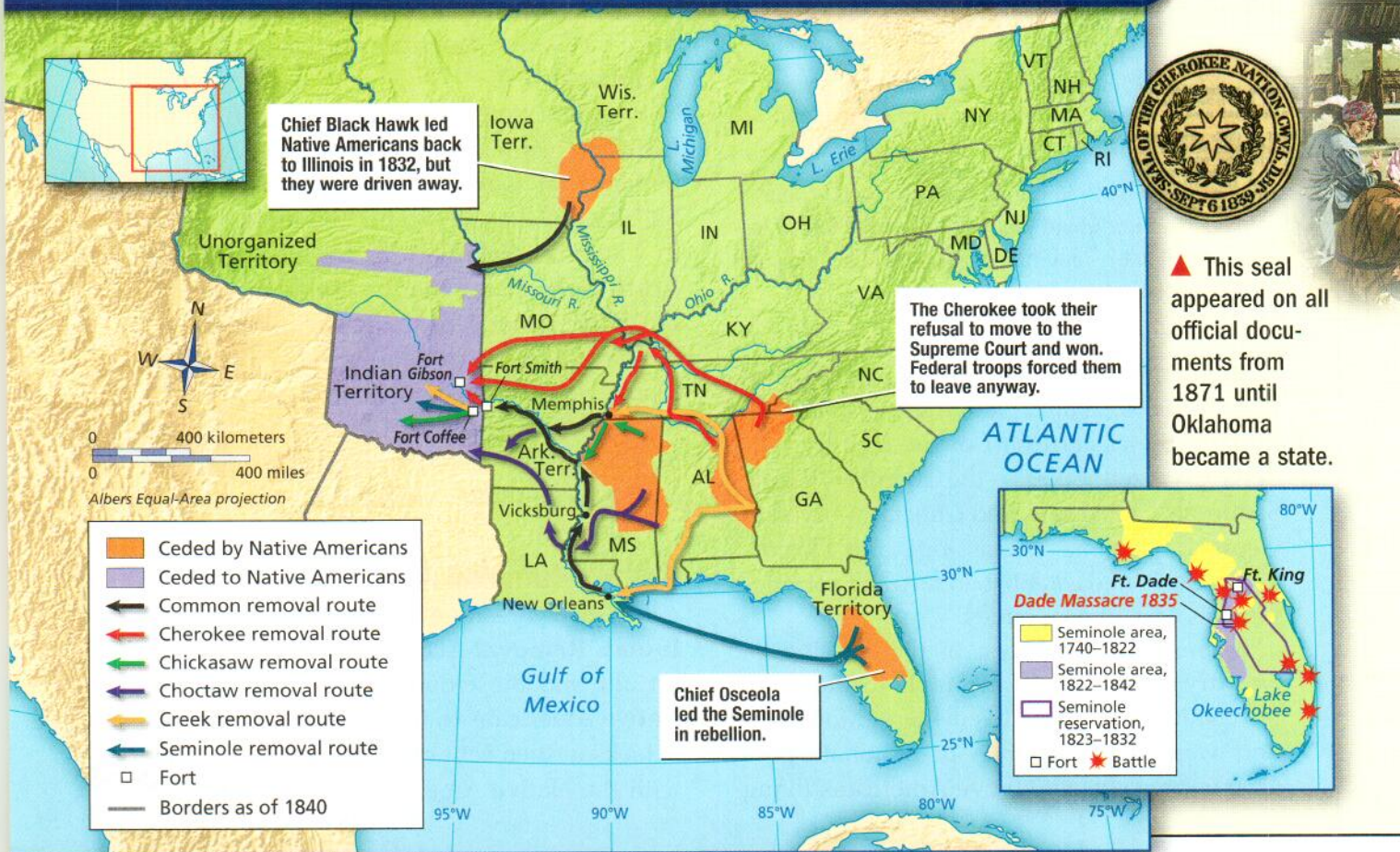
Forced Migration, 1830–1840



Critical Thinking

Analyzing What would be the advantage to white settlers if Congress forced Native Americans off their Eastern lands?





▲ This seal appeared on all official documents from 1871 until Oklahoma became a state.

Most Native American leaders felt forced to accept payment for their lands. In 1834 Congress created the **Indian Territory**. This was an area in present-day Oklahoma that was set aside for the relocation of Native Americans from the Southeast.

The Cherokee Nation

The Cherokee, however, refused to give up their land. In treaties of the 1790s, the federal government recognized the Cherokee in Georgia as a separate nation. Georgia, however, refused to recognize Cherokee laws. As pressure to leave mounted, the Cherokee appealed to the people of the United States:

History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Web Activity about the struggles of Native Americans.

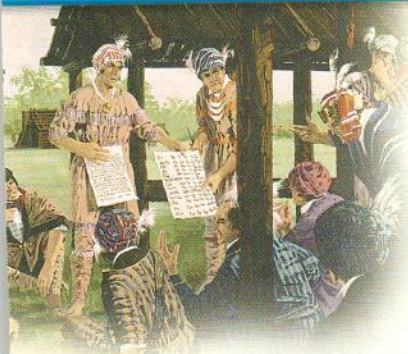
PRIMARY SOURCE

“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.”

—Cherokee appeal, 1830

When the government’s position did not change, the Cherokee sued the state of Georgia. Eventually the Cherokee took their case to the Supreme Court. In *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Georgia had no right to interfere with the Cherokee. Only the federal government had power in Cherokee matters.

President Jackson supported Georgia’s efforts to remove the Cherokee. He declared that he would ignore the Supreme Court, saying, “John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it.”



◀ A Cherokee village in the Southeast

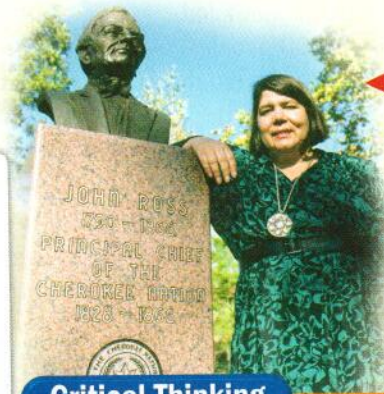
“My troops already occupy many positions in the country that you are to abandon, and thousands and thousands are approaching from every quarter, to render [make] resistance and escape alike hopeless. All those troops, regular and militia, are your friends. . . . Obey them when they tell you that you can remain no longer in this country.”

—General Winfield Scott’s address to the Cherokee Nation, 1838

- ▼ John Ross was elected chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1828 and held that post until his death in 1866. In the late 1830s, he led the fight against removal.

“A [false] Delegation, . . . proceeded to Washington City with this pretended treaty, and by false and fraudulent representations [replaced] . . . the legal and accredited Delegation of the Cherokee people, and obtained for this instrument, . . . the recognition of the United States Government. And now it is presented to us as a treaty, ratified by the Senate, and approved by the President.”

—letter to the Senate and House of Representatives, 1836



- ◀ Wilma Mankiller, first female chief of the Cherokee, at a monument to John Ross on the Cherokee Reservation in Oklahoma, 2000

Critical Thinking

Making Inferences Do you think that General Scott wanted a peaceful solution to the government’s disagreement with the Cherokee Nation? Why or why not?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus
or glencoe.com.

The Trail of Tears

By 1835, the Cherokee were divided and feeling hopeless. That year, the federal government persuaded a small number—about 500—of Cherokee to sign The Treaty of New Echota, giving up their people’s land. The treaty gave Jackson the legal document he needed to remove Native Americans. Approval of the treaty by the U.S. Senate sealed the fate of the Cherokee. Among the few who spoke out against approving the treaty were Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, but the treaty passed by a single vote.

Most of the 17,000 Cherokee, however, refused to honor the treaty. Cherokee Chief John Ross wrote a letter to the United States government. The letter explained that the Cherokee who had signed the treaty did not represent the Cherokee people. The letter asked the government not to enforce the

treaty. This plea, however, did not soften the resolve of either President Jackson or the white settlers.

The Cherokee resisted the government’s offer of western lands until 1838 when Jackson’s successor, Martin Van Buren, began their removal. General John Wool resigned his command in protest. This delayed the action, but only temporarily. His replacement, **General Winfield Scott**, arrived at New Echota, the Cherokee capital, in May 1838. With 7,000 federal troops, General Scott and the U.S. Army began the invasion of the Cherokee Nation.

Scott threatened to use force if the Cherokee did not leave. He told them he had positioned troops all around the country so that resistance and escape were hopeless. The Cherokee knew that fighting would lead to their destruction.

People IN HISTORY

Black Hawk



Leader of a group of Sauk and Fox Native Americans

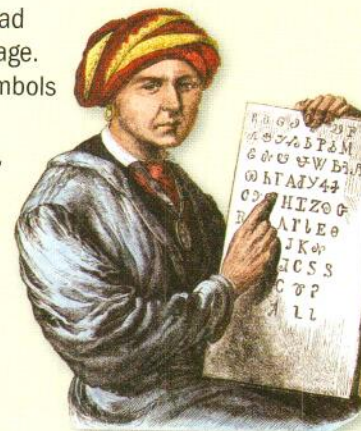
Black Hawk led 1,000 people, including old men, women, and children, back into Illinois in order to plant crops in their old tribal lands. He

did not plan on an armed confrontation but believed that they still owned the land. "We had never sold our country. We never received any annuities [payments] from our American father! And we are determined to hold on to our village!"

Sequoyah

Developed the written alphabet for the Cherokee language

Sequoyah believed that Europeans had power because of their written language. He spent 12 years developing 86 symbols to represent all the syllables of the Cherokee language. A Cherokee poet, Alexander Lawrence Posey, wrote about the importance of Sequoyah's achievement: "Thy name shall descend to every age. . . . The people's language cannot perish—nay."



CRITICAL Thinking

1. **Analyzing** What did each Native American leader hope to accomplish?
2. **Evaluating** Which leader's actions had a better result? Why?

Filled with sadness and anger, the Cherokee leaders gave in, and the long march to the West began. One traveler from Maine witnessed seeing hundreds of Cherokee marching by:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"[The] aged . . . nearly ready to drop into the grave, were traveling with heavy burdens attached to the back—on the frozen ground . . . with no covering for the feet."

—from *The Trail of Tears*

Around 2,000 Cherokee died in camps waiting for the move to begin. About another 2,000 died along the way from starvation, disease, and exposure to brutal weather. Their forced journey west became known to the Cherokee people as the Trail Where They Cried. Historians call it the **Trail of Tears**.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?

Native American Resistance

Main Idea Some groups of Native Americans attempted to resist relocation. Most were taken from their lands by force.

History and You Think about how you might react if you were forced to do something that you thought was wrong. Would you attempt to resist? Read how some Native Americans responded to relocation.

In 1832 the Sauk chieftain, **Black Hawk**, led a group of Sauk and Fox people back to Illinois, their homeland. They wanted to recapture this area, which had been given up in a treaty. The Illinois state militia and federal troops responded with force, gathering nearly 4,500 soldiers. They chased the Fox and Sauk to the Mississippi River and slaughtered most of them as they tried to flee westward into present-day Iowa.

The Seminole people of Florida were the only Native Americans who successfully resisted their removal. Although they were pressured in the early 1830s to sign treaties giving up their land, the Seminole chief, **Osceola**, and some of his people refused to leave Florida. The Seminole decided to go to war against the United States instead.

In 1835 the Seminole joined forces with a group of African Americans who had run away to escape slavery. Together they attacked white settlements along the Florida coast. They used **guerrilla tactics**, making surprise attacks and then retreating back into the forests and swamps. In December 1835, the Seminole ambushed soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade. Only a few of the 110 soldiers **survived**, or lived through, the attack. The Dade Massacre prompted a call for more troops to fight the Seminole.

By 1842, more than 1,500 Americans had died in the Seminole wars. The government gave up and allowed some Seminole to stay in Florida. Many, however, had died fighting. Many more were caught and forced to move west.

After 1842, only a few scattered groups of Native Americans lived east of the Mississippi. Most had been moved west. Native Americans had given up more than 100 million acres (40 million ha) of Eastern land to the federal government. In return, they received about \$68 million and 32 million acres (13 million ha) in lands west of the Mississippi River. There they lived, organized by tribes, on reservations. Eventually, white settlements would extend into these areas as well.

The Five Civilized Tribes were relocated in the eastern half of present-day Oklahoma on lands claimed by several Plains groups, including the Osage, Comanche, and Kiowa. U.S. Army leaders got agreements from the Plains groups to let the Five Civilized Tribes live in peace. Settled in their new homes, the Five Civilized Tribes developed governments and built farms and schools. They also created a police force, the Lighthorsemen, to maintain safety in the area.

 **Reading Check** **Analyzing** What was the significance of the Dade Massacre?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

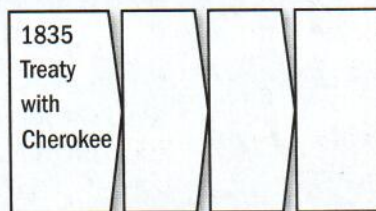
1. Define each of the following terms and use the terms in a paragraph about conflicts over land: **federal**, **relocate**, **guerrilla tactics**, **survive**.

Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** Why did white settlers want the government to move Native Americans from the Southeast to the Great Plains?
3. **Describing** What were some of the features of the new Native American communities in the West?

Critical Thinking

4. **Sequencing** Identify the events that resulted in the eventual removal of the Cherokee from their land. Use a diagram like the one below.



5. **Contrasting** Faced with removal from their lands, how did the response of the Seminole differ from that of the Cherokee?
6. **Persuasive Writing** Write a letter to Andrew Jackson discussing whether the Native Americans should be allowed to stay on their homelands.

- Answer the Essential Question**
7. How did Andrew Jackson's presidency affect Native Americans?