

Social Studies 8: Lesson 13: April 8th

Learning Target: Discuss the treatment of Native Americans brought on by the Indian Removal Act

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail: ●●● Land Route — Water Route — Other Major Routes

Accessing Background Knowledge

Previously during Lessons 5 and 6 you evaluated Andrew Jackson's Presidency. Here is an overview of the information discussed:

- During Jackson's presidency, the United States evolved from a republic—in which only landowners could vote—to a mass democracy, in which white men of all socioeconomic classes were enfranchised.
- Jackson oversaw the **Indian Removal Act**, which forcibly relocated tens of thousands of Native Americans and had a devastating effect on the Native population
- The tariff of 1828 raised taxes on imported manufactures so as to reduce foreign competition with American manufacturing. Southerners, arguing that the tariff enhanced the interests of the Northern manufacturing industry at their expense, referred to it as the **Tariff of Abominations**.
- The tariff was so unpopular in the South that it generated threats of secession.
- John C. Calhoun, Andrew Jackson's vice president and a native of South Carolina, proposed the theory of **nullification**, which declared the tariff unconstitutional and therefore unenforceable.

Warm Up

Specifically on Lesson 7 you watched a video or read an article from Khan Academy about the Trail of Tears.

Here is the link to the Trail of Tears article: Skim over the article and scroll down to the bottom and think about the discussion questions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/the-early-republic/age-of-jackson/a/indian-removal>

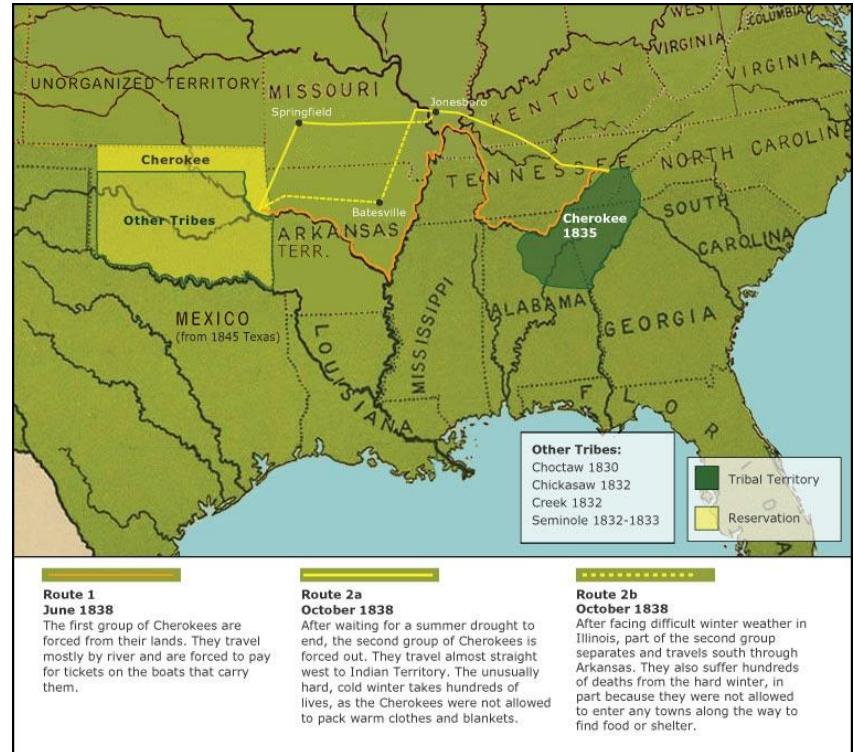
Trail of Tears: The Cherokee Fight Against Removal

Materials: You need a piece of paper and a writing utensil

You will need to record your answers as you progress through the slides.

The following slides will present the information and will provide prompts as you go; to watch videos, read an article and answer questions.

To reflect on what you learned you will complete a flow chart.



Who Were the Cherokees?



Which one of these men was a Native American? Both of them were. The man on the left was a Cherokee Nation chief, and the man on the right was a Fox Nation Chief.

The Cherokees lived in their own nation in the southeastern United States, mostly in what is now Georgia, North and South Carolina, and eastern Tennessee. Of all the Native American groups living in the Southeast in the early 1800s, the Cherokees were the most successful at **assimilating**—adopting parts of another **culture** different from their own. Because of this, the Cherokees were known as one of the “**civilized** tribes” who had taken on American ways.

In this lesson, you will learn about how the Cherokees **assimilated** parts of the **culture** of the white American South and whether this helped them to keep their land.

The Cherokees Begin to Assimilate



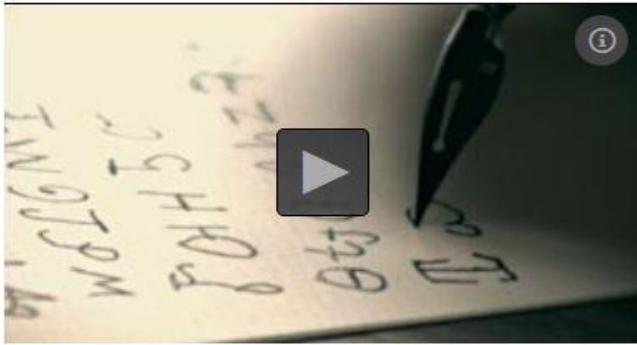
This is an example of what a traditional Cherokee summer house looked like.

Hundreds of years before white settlers came to America to create a new nation, Cherokees lived well off the land. Everyone in a Cherokee village could use the surrounding land—no one person owned it. Women did most of the farming, while the men hunted. Cherokee summer houses were made of wooden sticks covered in bark or clay; the winter houses were partially underground and round on top.

When white Americans began settling around them, the Cherokees began to adopt parts of this new **culture**, like living in wooden houses and owning land. They began to rely on farming more than hunting for their food. Rich Cherokees had plantations worked by hired men and, like white plantation owners, even enslaved black people.

The Cherokee Alphabet: Watch It!

Most Native American groups, including the Cherokees, did not have a system of writing. But the Cherokees saw how important writing was in other American **cultures**, so they learned to read and write in English. They also created a Cherokee alphabet so they could read and write in their own language.



In this video, you will learn how a Cherokee man named Sequoyah created the Cherokee alphabet. As you watch, think about how this alphabet was an important tool that the Cherokees used to preserve parts of their own culture while **assimilating** parts of American culture, including the English language.

Click on the left to watch the video.

How did Sequoyah's Cherokee alphabet change the Cherokee way of life?

Click here to watch the video:

<https://kcpt.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/arct.socst.ush.ttwrittenlanguage/creating-a-written-alphabet-for-the-chokeee/>

After watching the video, answer this question on your piece of paper.

How did Sequoyah's Cherokee alphabet change the Cherokee way of life?



Cherokee leaders compromised with Americans in order to keep their land.

As the population of the United States moved closer to the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee leaders agreed to give up some of their land to the newly arriving Americans. They did this for two reasons:

- First, they wanted to be seen as reasonable people who treated these Americans as their friends and neighbors, not as their enemies.
- Second, they did not want to fight a war. Native Americans who went to war to keep their lands had almost always been defeated. Sometimes the U.S. Army attacked them. More often, they were just outnumbered by the ever-growing population of American settlers and realized they would not be able to defeat them.

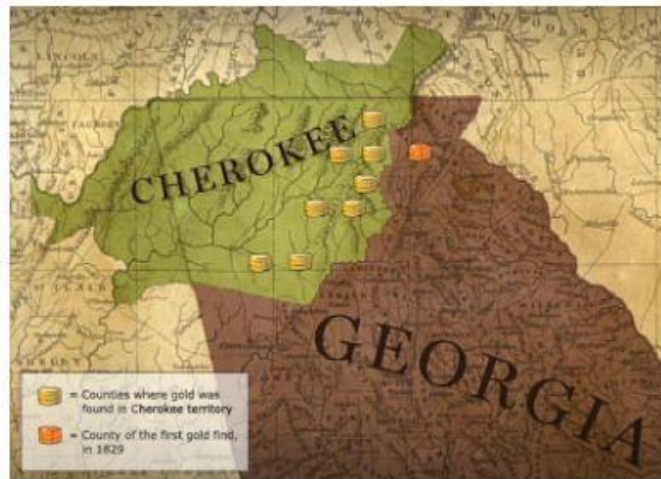
The Cherokees' willingness to compromise helped them to live in peace with their American neighbors for several decades.

Gold and the Indian Removal Act

In the late 1820s, gold was discovered on Cherokee land. Click on the image below to see a map of where it was found.

People from the neighboring state of Georgia wanted that gold. Georgia passed laws that took away Cherokee rights and started giving away Cherokee land to Georgians. When the Cherokees protested to the U.S. government, they found that the new president, Andrew Jackson, would not help them.

In 1830, with Jackson's support, Congress passed the Indian **Removal** Act. The act gave Native Americans new land west of the Mississippi River in return for their giving up their land in the Southeast. The Cherokees knew this was unfair, and they were determined to fight the Act.



Answer this question on your piece of paper.

What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?

Review what you have learned so far...

You have learned how the Cherokees

assimilated parts of American culture and

struggled to keep their land.

Now show what you have learned so far about the Cherokees by answering these questions on your piece of paper. .

What were some of the ways the Cherokee assimilated parts of American culture?

Why did the Cherokee adopt some of the American culture?

Assimilation vs Removal: Read it!

Click on this link and read
the article.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KafwF66qrAJq2wDkq1ofQubc8VWsCl1k/view?usp=sharing>

On your piece of paper
answer the following:

Why do you think the
Cherokee **assimilation**
strategy to keep the
Cherokee Nation safe finally
failed?



The Cherokee Removal: Watch it!

In June 1838, the army began to force groups of Cherokees to leave. The second group, which left in October, had to walk for five to seven months during a terribly cold and snowy winter. As many as 4,000 Cherokees died on that journey—known as the Trail of Tears.

This video shows you what happened when the Cherokees were forced to leave their land. As you watch the video, think about why the Cherokees were unable to stop the U.S. government from enforcing the Indian **Removal** Act against them. Click on the right to watch the video.

Click on this link to watch the Trail of Tears video.

<https://kcpt.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/akh10.socst.ush.exp.trail/trail-of-tears/>

Match It!

The Cherokees used the strategy of as one way to stay on their land despite American expansion.

Doing this had caused the Cherokees to lose some parts of their own .

Americans had even called the Cherokees one of the "" tribes.

The Cherokees had with the U.S. government saying that they could stay on their land

But it was no use: the of the Cherokees began in the fall of 1838.

Drag the words below to the appropriate space in the text on the left.

civilized

removal

treaties

culture

assimilation

On you piece of paper. Write down the words in the correct order to complete the sentences. Check your answers on the next slide!

Answers for Match it!

The Cherokees used the strategy of **assimilation** as one way to stay on their land despite American expansion.

Doing this had caused the Cherokees to lose some parts of their own **culture**.

Americans had even called the Cherokees one of the "**civilized**" tribes.

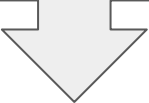
The Cherokees had **treaties** with the U.S. government saying that they could stay on their land

But it was no use: the **removal** of the Cherokees began in the fall of 1838.

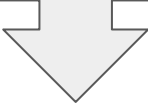
Review the answers to the questions you have answered throughout this presentation.

Reflection - Based on what you have read and viewed fill in the flow chart.

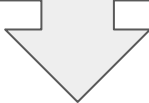
Ways the
Cherokees
Assimilated



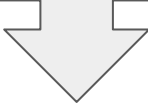
How the U.S.
attacked the
Cherokees



How the
Cherokees fought
removal



How the conflict
ended



Go to the next slide to check your thinking!

Reflection Answer Key - here are some possible details you may have written down.

Ways the
Cherokees
Assimilated

Created their
own alphabet

Learned
English

Became
Christians

Lived on
American style
farms

How the U.S.
attacked the
Cherokees

Georgia started
taking their land

Cherokees
were forced
from their
homes by US
Army

How the
Cherokees fought
removal

Cherokees
protested to
Congress

Cherokees
appealed to the
Supreme Court

How the conflict
ended

Indian Removal
Act of 1830

Forced to
march to
Oklahoma -
Trail of Tears

Resettled in
Oklahoma on
reservations