

Unit: Western Expansion
Indian Removal #3

Essential Questions:

- What was the removal like for the natives?
- What role did the environment play on the forced journey?

Sourcing--

Have a student on the overhead display the following:

- Circle who wrote the ordinance...
- Underline twice when the document was written
- Put a box around the area that gives a general purpose for **why** the document was written

Contextualization--

Read background information on WHO WAS REMOVED-- Information about the five civilized tribes before the removal.

Comprehension--

Students should complete the Acrostic that lays out the main ideas of what the journey was like for those who were forced to travel on it...based on the information that the accounts give

Corroboration--

Compilation of Trail of Tears Primary Sources & Powerpoint
http://www.tahg.org/module_display.php?mod_id=24&review=yes

TWO ACCOUNTS OF LIFE ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Account of John G. Burnett, Cherokee Messenger

<http://www.powersource.com/chokeee/burnett.html>

...I saw the helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes, and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades. And in the chill of a drizzling rain on an October morning I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into six hundred and forty-five wagons and started toward the west... One can never forget the sadness and solemnity of that morning. Chief John Ross led in prayer and when the bugle sounded and the wagons started rolling many of the children rose to their feet and waved their little hands good-by to their mountain homes, knowing they were leaving them forever. Many of these helpless people did not have blankets and many of them had been driven from home barefooted... On the morning of November the 17th we encountered a terrific sleet and snow storm with freezing temperatures and from that day until we reached the end of the fateful journey on March the 26th, 1839, the sufferings of the Cherokees were awful. The trail of the exiles was a trail of death. They had to sleep in the wagons and on the ground without fire. And I have known as many as twenty-two of them to die in one night of pneumonia due to ill treatment, cold, and exposure. Among this number was the beautiful Christian wife of Chief John Ross. This noble hearted woman died a martyr to childhood, giving her only blanket for the protection of a sick child. She rode thinly clad through a blinding sleet and snow storm, developed pneumonia and died in the still hours of a bleak winter night, with her head resting on Lieutenant Greggs saddle blanket...

Account of a Traveler who signed himself, "A Native of Maine" The New York Observer- January 1839

<http://marchand.ucdavis.edu/lessons/HS/CherokeeHS.htm>

On Tuesday evening we fell into a detachment of the poor Cherokee Indians, about eleven hundred... We found them in the forrest camped for the night...under a severe fall of rain...many of the aged Indians were suffering extremely from the fatigue of the journey, and ill health... We found the road literally filled with a procession for nearly three miles in length...The sick and feeble were carried in wagons...multitudes go on foot--even aged females apparently nearly ready to drop in the grave, were traveling with heavy burdens...on the sometimes frozen ground...with no covering for feet...They buried 14 or 15 at every stopping place...some carry a downcast dejected look...of despair, others wild frantic appearance as if to pounce like a tiger upon their enemies...

TWO ACCOUNTS OF LIFE ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Account of John G. Burnett, Cherokee Messenger

<http://www.powersource.com/cherokee/burnett.html>

...I saw the helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes, and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades. And in the chill of a drizzling rain on an October morning I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into six hundred and forty-five wagons and started toward the west...

...One can never forget the sadness and solemnity of that morning. Chief John Ross led in prayer and when the bugle sounded and the wagons started rolling many of the children rose to their feet and waved their little hands good-by to their mountain homes, knowing they were leaving them forever. Many of these helpless people did not have blankets and many of them had been driven from home barefooted...

...On the morning of November the 17th we encountered a terrific sleet and snow storm with freezing temperatures and from that day until we reached the end of the fateful journey on March the 26th, 1839, the sufferings of the Cherokees were awful. The trail of the exiles was a trail of death. They had to sleep in the wagons and on the ground without fire. And I have known as many as twenty-two of them to die in one night of pneumonia due to ill treatment, cold, and exposure. Among this number was the beautiful Christian wife of Chief John Ross. This noble hearted woman died a martyr to childhood, giving her only blanket for the protection of a sick child. She rode thinly clad through a blinding sleet and snow storm, developed pneumonia and died in the still hours of a bleak winter night, with her head resting on Lieutenant Greggs saddle blanket...

Account of a Traveler who signed himself, "A Native of Maine" The New York Observer- January 1839

<http://marchand.ucdavis.edu/lessons/HS/CherokeeHS.htm>

On Tuesday evening we fell into a detachment of the poor Cherokee Indians, about eleven hundred... We found them in the forrest camped for the night...under a severe fall of rain...many of the aged Indians were suffering extremely from the fatigue of the journey, and ill health... We found the road literally filled with a procession for nearly three miles in length...The sick and feeble were carried in wagons...multitudes go on foot--even aged females apparently nearly ready to drop in the grave, were traveling with heavy burdens...on the sometimes frozen ground...with no covering for feet...They buried 14 or 15 at every stopping place...some carry a downcast dejected look...of despair, others wild frantic appearance as if to pounce like a tiger upon their enemies...

-Native American Removal-

Directions-- Using the accounts from those that traveled on the trail; paraphrase or take direct quotes about what the journey was like for those that were forced to travel on the trail to Indian Territory.

R _____

E _____

M _____

O _____

V _____

A _____

L _____

Removed: The Five Civilized Tribes

The Five Civilized Tribes have played an important role in Oklahoma history. So how much do *you* know about them? Hopefully, you know that they include the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole. But why were they called civilized? Actually, that is an irritation to many other tribes, as the implication is that these five and only these five were civilized. Obviously, this was not true. But, back to the question, “Why were these five identified as civilized?” White settlers invented the term because they *thought* that these tribes had adopted many of the White Man’s ways. They lived in settled towns; farmed and in many instances used plowed agriculture, and raised animals; and held elections. And since some of these tribes married with whites, there developed a small class of Native Americans from these tribes that managed plantations and kept slaves. What the whites failed to recognize was that these tribes in large part had been doing many of these things, long before contact with white men.

Only the Seminoles were never completely relocated. The Seminoles were actually an offshoot of the Creek. They were formed from Creek runaways escaping the white settlement, and settled in the swamps and jungles of Florida which provided them more isolation and thus an advantage in resisting the relocation. In addition to their belief in resistance, the Seminole were also firm believers in education, and those who moved to Indian Territory founded four schools by 1868.

The Cherokee lived in the Appalachians and parts of the South. White interest in their lands was sparked when rumor of gold on their land surfaced. By the mid-18th century most Cherokee were planters, owning homes, plantations, and even slaves. They had schools, were literate, published a newspaper, and had a formal constitution and legal system. Approximately one fourth of the Cherokee nation died on the Trail of Tears.



The Creek, whose real name is Muscogee, were not a true tribe but rather a confederation of approximately 300 tribes speaking 6 different languages. The Creek were matrilineal with women owning family property. They were traditionally either peaceful tribes (white tribes) or warring tribes (red tribes). Following relocation they divided into Lower Creek who became Christian and Upper Creek who maintained the Green Corn Ceremony.



The Choctaw were the first of the civilized tribes to sign a removal treaty and move to Indian Territory. Choctaw life centered about growing corn, and while other vegetables and even poultry were added the scarcity of meat led them west into Oklahoma for “big hunts” even before the Indian Removal. As one of the earlier tribes to relocate they benefited from the rich timberland and discovery of coal on their land. As such they were able to maintain a relatively high standard of living with a model school system.

While the Chickasaw were the smallest of the Five Civilized Tribes, they were known for their warfare. They played a significant role in Britain’s victory over France in the control of North America.