

The Jackson Era

Lesson 2 Conflicts over Land

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the consequences when cultures interact?

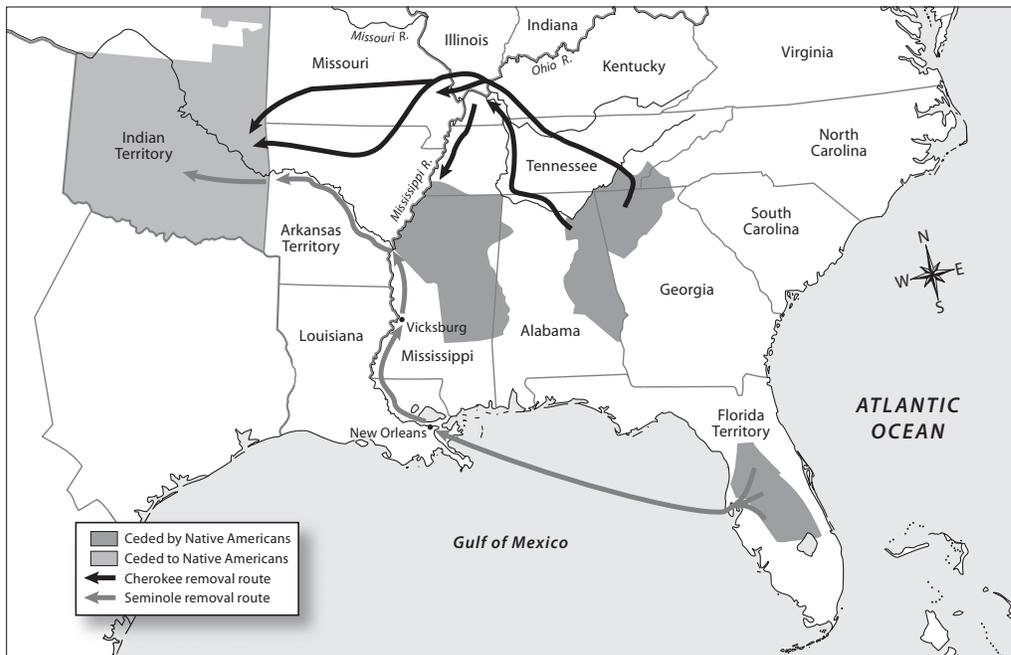
Term to Know

relocate to move to another place

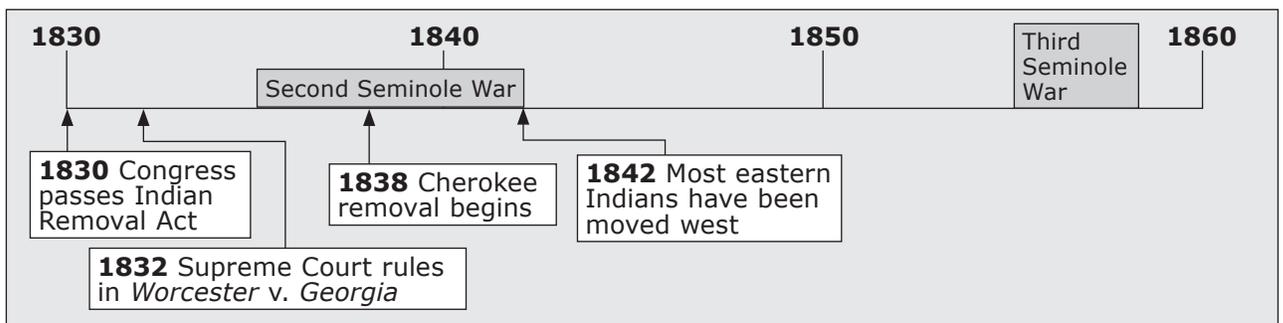
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why were Native Americans forced to abandon their land and move west?*
2. *Why did some Native Americans resist resettlement?*

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



The Jackson Era

Lesson 2 Conflicts over Land, *Continued*

Removing Native Americans

In the early 1800s, American settlers were moving both west and south. The country had to decide what to do about Native Americans who lived on this land. The Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw peoples lived in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. These Native American groups were farmers. Their communities were much like many other American communities. As a result, other Americans called these groups the "Five Civilized Tribes."

As settlers moved farther south and west, many people wanted the federal government to force the Five Civilized Tribes to **relocate**. Settlers needed more land. They wanted to take it from Native Americans. President Jackson had once fought the Creek and Seminole people in Georgia and Florida. He agreed that Native Americans should not be allowed to stand in the way of this expansion.

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As president, Jackson pushed a bill through Congress that would help the settlers. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 allowed the federal government to pay eastern Native Americans to give up their land and move west. Most Native American groups signed treaties and agreed to do so. However, the Cherokee already had a treaty with the federal government. That treaty said that Cherokee land was not part of the United States. Much of this Cherokee land was inside the state of Georgia. By 1830, Georgia wanted it. The state of Georgia ignored the Cherokee treaty. Georgia asked the federal government to use the new law to take the Cherokee's land.

The Cherokee took the matter to court. The case, called *Worcester v. Georgia*, went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Cherokee owned the land. He said that the state of Georgia could not take control of it. President Jackson disagreed with the Court's ruling. He refused to prevent Georgia from making the Cherokee move.

In 1835 the federal government signed a new treaty with a small group of Cherokee. In the Treaty of New Echota, this small group promised that all the Cherokee would move by 1838. However, Cherokee chief John Ross and most of the Cherokee leaders had not signed this treaty. For this reason, Ross did not think the treaty could be enforced. Some members of Congress agreed. But most agreed with President Jackson and the treaty became law.



Locating

1. In which states did most of the "Five Civilized Tribes" live?



Explaining

2. What was the Supreme Court's ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*?



Describing

3. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text that begins with "As president, Jackson pushed a bill through ..."
Write the title *Native Americans* on the anchor tab. Label the two tabs *The Indian Removal Act of 1830* and *Treaty of New Echota*. On both sides of the tabs, write a description of the documents.

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Marking the Text

4. Underline the sentence that explains the meaning of *guerrilla tactics*.

Identifying

5. Who were the Black Seminoles?

Making Connections

6. Why were Black Seminoles willing to support the Seminole fight to stay in Florida?

Summarizing

7. What finally happened to the Seminoles?

Most Cherokee did not want to relocate. In 1838 President Van Buren sent the army to enforce the treaty. The army forced the Cherokee off their land and into a new territory west of the Mississippi River. It was called the Indian Territory because Congress had created it to be the new home of many eastern Native Americans. Most of this territory is the present-day state of Oklahoma. The other Five Civilized Tribes and other Native Americans were also forced to move to the Indian Territory.

The Cherokee had to travel from their homes in Georgia to the Indian Territory. Losing their homes and taking this long and difficult journey greatly saddened the Native Americans. Many died waiting for the journey to begin. Many more died along the way. Their journey was later called the Trail of Tears.

Resistance and Removal

Most of the Five Civilized Tribes did not want to sell their lands. Osceola, a leader of the Seminoles in Florida, refused to move. Instead, he and his followers decided to stay and fight. This began a long and bloody fight called the Seminole Wars. The Seminoles were skilled at fighting in Florida's swamps and marshlands. Small groups surprised and attacked army troops and then ran away into the swamps. This method of fighting is called guerilla tactics. It was successful, at least for a while. The Seminoles were greatly outnumbered, but they kept the army from a quick victory.

In their fight, Seminoles were joined by Black Seminoles. Black Seminoles were escaped slaves who ran away to Florida. Because Florida was not a state yet, they thought they would be safe there. Some of the runaway slaves built their own homes. Others lived with the Seminole people. When war broke out, Black Seminoles fought alongside the Native Americans. They were afraid that the army might return them to slavery.

The fighting continued, on and off, for more than 20 years, from 1832 to 1858. Neither side was able to defeat the other. Eventually, most of the Seminoles either died or moved to the Indian Territory. Some, however, stayed in Florida, where their descendants still live today.

By the end of the Seminole Wars, very few Native American groups were still living in the eastern United States. Most had been removed to the Indian Territory. They shared the land with other Native American groups

