

A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol dome, showing the golden cupola and the statue of Liberty atop the dome. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Georgia Studies

Unit 3: Revolution, Statehood, and Westward Expansion

Lesson 5: Indian Removal

Study Presentation

Lesson 5: Indian Removal

- Essential Question
 - How do economic and political factors affect disenfranchised groups? (e.g. Creeks and Cherokees)

Creek Indians

- Series of clashes between Creek and settlers who pushed into their land known as Oconee War
- Treaty of New York: Creek Chief **Alexander McGillivray** signed the treaty giving up all land east of the Oconee River, but could keep land on the west side; this angered Georgia settlers, who felt betrayed by their government
- Land treaties were often broken
- Red Stick Creeks endorsed war to fight for their land claims; White Stick Creeks wanted peace

The Creek War

- Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims, killing more than 400 people
- The Battle of Horseshoe Bend, in Alabama, ended the Creek War in 1814; **Andrew Jackson** led the U.S. troops
- The Creeks were forced to give up nearly all their land to the U.S. government
- The Treaty of Indian Springs gave up last Creek lands in Georgia to the U.S.; Chief **William McIntosh** was later murdered by rival Creeks for signing the treaty

Removal of the Creeks

- Treaty of Washington (1832) resulted in 5 million acres of Creek land ceded to the United States
- U.S. agreed to allow Creeks who wished to remain and live on 2 million of those acres; the U.S. promised to protect those who stayed
- Those who didn't wish to stay would have to move to the western territories
- The treaty was broken; by 1840, nearly all Creeks were forced to move west

Cherokee Culture

- Most advanced of Georgia's tribes; learned quickly from white settlers
- Some, like Chief James Vann, lived in large houses
- Chief Vann encouraged Christianity
- **Sequoyah** developed a syllabary, a group of symbols that stand for whole syllables; it gave Cherokees a written form of their language
- Government modeled on that of United States; capital at New Echota by 1825

Cherokee Removal

- Indian Removal Act of 1830 – Signed by President **Andrew Jackson**; made the practice of forcibly removing Native Americans legal.
- **Dahlonega Gold Rush** – Gold was discovered on Cherokee land in north Georgia near the city of Dahlonega; heightened demand for Cherokee land
- The Supreme Court of the United States and Chief Justice **John Marshall** decided that the Cherokee were a sovereign nation and should be allowed to rule themselves (**Worcester v. Georgia**).
- Without the support of Chief **John Ross**, a rebellious Cherokee group signed a treaty giving away all Cherokee land

The Trail of Tears

- Between 1832 and 1835, Cherokees were stripped of their land
- In the winter of 1838, thousands of Cherokees were forcibly removed to Oklahoma; about 4,000 died from disease, exposure, or hunger
- 700 to 800 escaped and hid in the North Carolina mountains