

Native American Removal from Georgia

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Native Americans in Georgia

Native Americans had been in Georgia for around ten thousand years

There were two main groups in Georgia, the Creek and the Cherokee

New settlers in Georgia wanted Native American lands

They used any means possible, including forced removal, to take possession of those lands



The Creek

The Creek had lived mostly in northern Georgia, along the Oconee River

Tension had increased between the Creek and settlers in the late 1700s as more settlers moved into the area

Eventually, those tensions increased to become the Oconee War



The Oconee War

Tribes of Creek would attack some of the pioneer settlements

They would burn houses, steal horses and cattle, and kill or capture settlers

Georgia settlers got some men together and told them to kill on sight any Creek who was not a member of a friendly tribe

The Creek were led by their chief, Alexander McGillivray



Chief Alexander McGillivray

The fighting went on for several years

President Washington called Chief

McGillivray to New York to meet and talk

After the meetings, McGillivray signed the

Treaty of New York, by which the Creek
gave up all lands east of the Oconee River

In return, the U.S. promised that no whites
would go onto land west of the boundary



Reaction in Georgia

When Georgians found out about the treaty, they were mad because they felt the federal government had taken the side of the Creek

Over the next few years, neither the Creek or the Georgians paid much attention to the treaty

It was during this time that the Yazoo Land Fraud happened

Because Georgia had to give up land west of the Chattahoochee, the government promised to remove Native Americans from the state



Chief William McIntosh

As the years passed, the Creek gave more and more of their land to the U.S.

By 1825, William McIntosh had agreed to give up the rest of the Creek lands to Georgia in return for \$200,000

The rest of the Creek were not happy with this because they felt that too much of the land had been given up already



The Murder of McIntosh

Groups of Creek met secretly to discuss how to punish McIntosh

They agreed that he should be executed, in accordance with Creek law

Around 170-400 Creek marched to McIntosh's house and at daybreak, set fire to the house

They allowed the women and children to leave, before they shot at McIntosh

McIntosh could not fight back and was stabbed to death



The Removal of the Creek

After the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830, many Creek refused to leave their lands

In 1832, the Treaty of Washington was signed

Creeks gave up remaining 5 million acres of land, but the US let them keep 2 million to live and farm. They could stay on the reserved land or move west, it was their choice

By 1835, many Creek gave up and moved west after whites burned their homes, stole from their farms, or killed them

Others were forced to move by the government once they began attacking whites



The Cherokee

Considered to be the most advanced
Native Americans in Georgia

Most Cherokee had converted to
Christianity

They had a written language

They published the first Native
American newspaper



Sequoyah

A Cherokee blacksmith who was very interested in the white man's "talking leaves"

In 1809, he began developing a syllabary

Syllabary: group of symbols that stand for whole syllables

The tribal council sent Sequoyah all over the territory to teach his written language

As a result, the Cherokee were the first Native Americans to have their language in written form



The Cherokee Syllabary

	A	E	I	O	U	V
	D _a	R _e	T _i	Ꭰ _o	Ꭱ _u	Ꭲ _v
G/K	Ꭶ _{ga} Ꭷ _{ka}	Ꭸ _{ge}	Ꭹ _{gi}	Ꭺ _{go}	Ꭻ _{gu}	Ꭼ _{gv}
H	Ꭽ _{ha}	Ꭾ _{he}	Ꭿ _{hi}	Ꮀ _{ho}	Ꮁ _{hu}	Ꮂ _{hv}
L	Ꮃ _{la}	Ꮄ _{le}	Ꮅ _{li}	Ꮆ _{lo}	Ꮇ _{lu}	Ꮈ _{lv}
M	Ꮉ _{ma}	Ꮊ _{me}	Ꮋ _{mi}	Ꮌ _{mo}	Ꮍ _{mu}	
N	Ꮎ _{na} Ꮏ _{hna} Ꮐ _{nah}	Ꮑ _{ne}	Ꮒ _{ni}	Ꮓ _{no}	Ꮔ _{nu}	Ꮕ _{nv}
QU/KW	Ꮖ _{qua}	Ꮗ _{que}	Ꮘ _{qui}	Ꮙ _{quo}	Ꮚ _{quu}	Ꮛ _{quv}
S	Ꮝ _{sa} Ꮞ _s	Ꮟ _{se}	Ꮠ _{si}	Ꮡ _{so}	Ꮢ _{su}	Ꮣ _{sv}
D/T	Ꮤ _{da} Ꮥ _{ta}	Ꮦ _{de} Ꮧ _{te}	Ꮨ _{di} Ꮩ _{ti}	Ꮪ _{do}	Ꮫ _{du}	Ꮬ _{dv}
DL/TL	Ꮮ _{dla} Ꮯ _{tla}	Ꮰ _{tle}	Ꮱ _{tli}	Ꮲ _{tlo}	Ꮳ _{tlu}	Ꮴ _{tlv}
TS/J	Ꮵ _{tsa}	Ꮶ _{tse}	Ꮷ _{tsi}	Ꮸ _{tso}	Ꮹ _{tsu}	Ꮺ _{tsv}
W	Ꮻ _{wa}	Ꮼ _{we}	Ꮽ _{wi}	Ꮾ _{wo}	Ꮿ _{wu}	Ᏸ _{wv}
Y	Ᏹ _{ya}	Ᏺ _{ye}	Ᏻ _{yi}	Ᏼ _{yo}	Ᏽ _{yu}	᏶ _{yv}

The *Cherokee Phoenix*

The *Cherokee Phoenix* was the first Native American newspaper

It was printed in Cherokee and English

It helped draw together various tribes of the Cherokee Nation

Since the Cherokee Nation spread from Georgia to Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama, the *Phoenix* helped spread news among them all



The Dahlonega Gold Rush

Gold was discovered in Dahlonega in 1829

Over ten thousand miners moved onto
Cherokee land looking for gold

The Georgia legislature passed a law that
placed part of the Cherokee land under
state control

It declared all Cherokee laws void

The Cherokee began losing their homes and
lands, along with their legal rights



Worcester v. Georgia

While many Georgians did not care what happened to the Cherokee, a group of white missionaries did. Reverend Samuel Worcester refused to sign an oath of allegiance to the governor and was jailed. He, along with 10 others, were found guilty in court, and sentenced to 4 years in state penitentiary. The governor agreed to pardon anyone who would take the oath. Worcester refused and took his case to the Supreme Court.



Decision of the Supreme Court

John Marshall, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, ruled that the state court's decision could not stand because Cherokee territory was not subject to state law and the rights of the Cherokee were protected

The state court refused to set Worcester free, and the governor and President Jackson refused to honor the Supreme Court ruling

Because the court ruled that Cherokee territory was not subject to state law, they thought that meant they could keep their land

President Jackson and Congress passed the 1830 Indian Removal Act giving the U.S. government authority to remove Native Americans from their land



Chief John Ross

Cherokee lands were being divided into lots of 40 and 160 acres

In 1832, a lottery was held to give lands to white men

Even then, many Cherokee refused to leave

Chief Ross made many trips to Washington to ask Congress for help, but no help was given



The Removal of the Cherokee

Even though the Cherokee had done their best to change their lifestyle to a more “European” one, Georgians wanted Cherokee lands for gold

They had established a government like the US government, they lived in log cabins, they practiced Christianity, and they published the *Cherokee Phoenix* in English and Cherokee



The Removal of the Cherokee, cont'd

In 1835, the Cherokee signed a treaty [The Treaty of New Echota] stating they would move west and that the state government would give them a little money and food for the trip

By 1838, about 2000 had left, but the remaining 15,000 refused to leave

Many were rounded up and sent on boats down the Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas rivers to their new homes

Conditions on the boat weren't good, and many died



The Trail of Tears

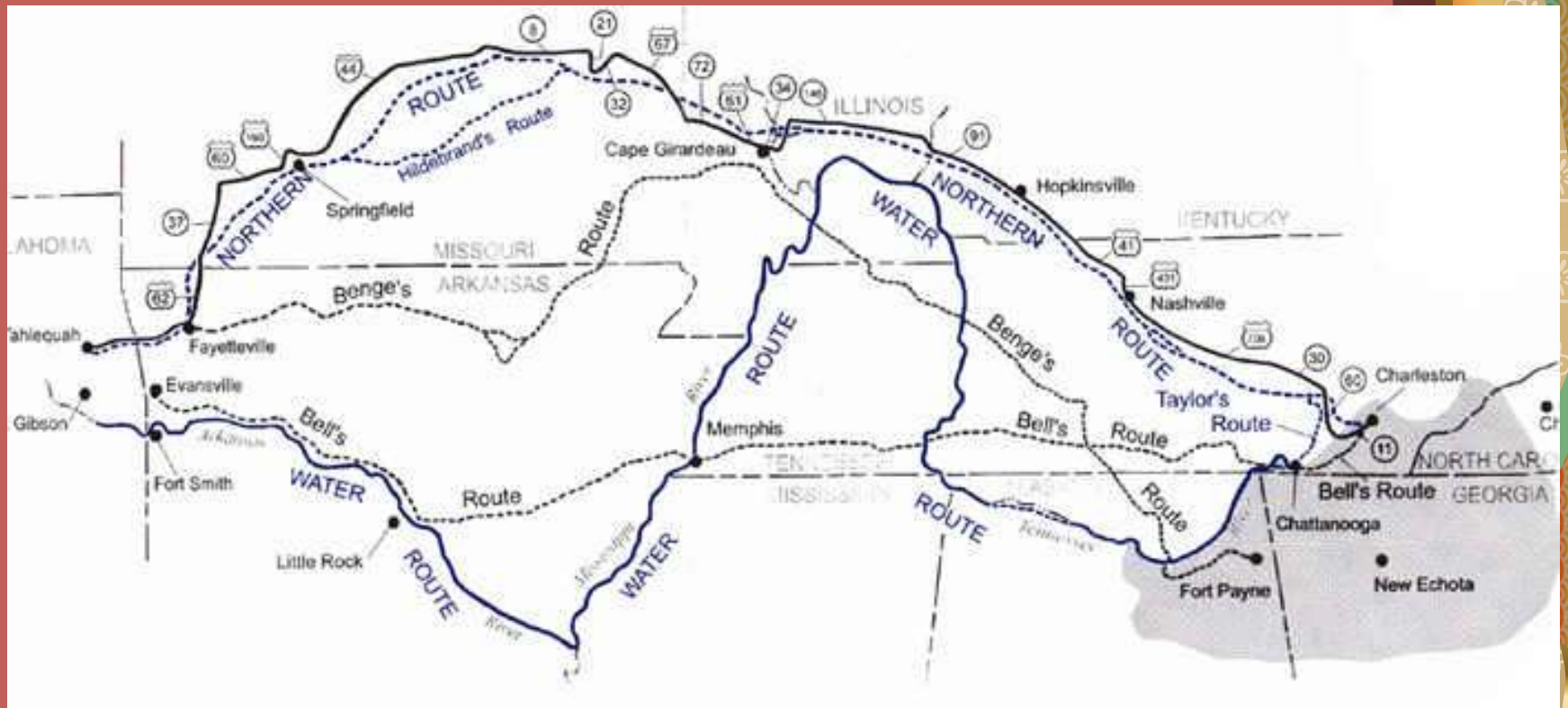
The rest not sent on boats began the 700-800 mile walk to Indian Territory in Oklahoma

The U.S. government was sadly mistaken when they said the move was made “without apparent reluctance”

Many died from winter winds, snow, and not enough food



The Trail of Tears



Questions...

- 1) Who were the 2 main groups of Native Americans in Georgia?
- 2) Who developed the Cherokee written language?
- 3) Why was the *Cherokee Phoenix* important?
- 4) Who led the Creek during the Oconee War?
- 5) What did the Treaty of New York say?
- 6) Who agreed to give up the rest of the Creek lands in 1825?
- 7) Why was Chief William McIntosh executed?
- 8) When was gold discovered in Dahlonega?
- 9) In what Supreme Court case did the court find that the rights of the Cherokee are protected?
- 10) Who was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court when *Worcester v. Georgia* was decided?
- 11) Why did Chief John Ross go to Washington?
- 12) When was the Indian Removal Act passed?
- 13) What did the Treaty of Washington say?
- 14) Why did Georgians want Cherokee lands?
- 15) What was the Trail of Tears?

