

Indian Removal

The Big Idea

President Jackson supported a policy of Indian removal.

Main Ideas

- The Indian Removal Act authorized the relocation of Native Americans to the West.
- Cherokee resistance to removal led to disagreement between Jackson and the Supreme Court.
- Other Native Americans resisted removal with force.

Main Idea 1: The Indian Removal Act authorized the relocation of Native Americans to the West.

- Native Americans had long lived in settlements stretching from Georgia to Mississippi.
 - Jackson and other political leaders wanted to open land to settlement by American farmers.
- Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830.
 - The act authorized the removal of Native Americans living east of Mississippi to lands in the West.
- Congress then established the **Indian Territory**.
 - Native Americans would be moved to land in present-day Oklahoma.
- Congress approved the creation of the **Bureau of Indian Affairs** to manage removal.

Native American Removal

- **Choctaw**
 - First to be sent to Indian Territory.
 - 7.5 million acres of their land taken by Mississippi.
 - One-fourth died on the way.
- **Creek**
 - Resisted but were captured and forced to march to Indian Territory.
- **Chickasaw**
 - Negotiated treaty for better supplies, but many died.

Main Idea 2: Cherokee resistance to removal led to disagreement between Jackson and the Supreme Court.

Cherokee Nation

- Cherokees adopted white culture, had own government and a writing system developed by **Sequoya**.
- Georgia took their land, and Cherokees sued the state.
- Supreme Court ruled in the Cherokees' favor in *Worcester v. Georgia*, but President Jackson sided with Georgia and took no action to enforce the ruling. This violated his presidential oath to uphold the laws of the land.

Trail of Tears

- In 1838, U.S. troops forced Cherokees on 800-mile march to Indian Territory. One-fourth of 18,000 Cherokees died.

Main Idea 3: Other Native Americans resisted removal with force.

- Chief **Black Hawk** of the Fox and Sauk fought rather than leave Illinois.
 - He was eventually forced to leave, after running out of food and supplies.
- **Osceola** led his followers in the Second Seminole War in Florida.
 - Hundreds of Seminoles, including Osceola were killed, and some 4,000 Seminoles were removed
 - Small groups of Seminole resisted removal, and their descendants live in Florida today.