

Jackson's Viewpoint

“It will incalculably strengthen the southwestern frontier and render the adjacent states strong enough to repel future invasions without remote aid . . . and enable those states to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power.”

—Andrew Jackson, explaining the benefits of Indian removal, 1830

◀ Seminole woman

Indian Removal

Objectives

- Describe the culture of Native Americans in the Southeast.
- Describe the conflict over land occupied by Native Americans in the Southeast.
- Discuss the forced removal of Native Americans.

Reading Skill

Identify Long-Term Effects Many historical events have long-term effects—lasting effects that build up over time. As you read Section 4, look for events that have long-term effects. Think about why these causes have had such a lasting effect.

Key Person
Sequoyah

Why It Matters As a general, Andrew Jackson won great popularity for his victories over Indians in Georgia and Florida. As President, he worked to remove Native Americans from their homelands. This forced migration still affects Native Americans today.

Section Focus Question: Why did Jackson use force to remove Indians from the Southeast?

Native Americans of the Southeast

When Andrew Jackson became President, more than 100,000 Native Americans still lived east of the Mississippi River. Many were farmers or lived in towns.

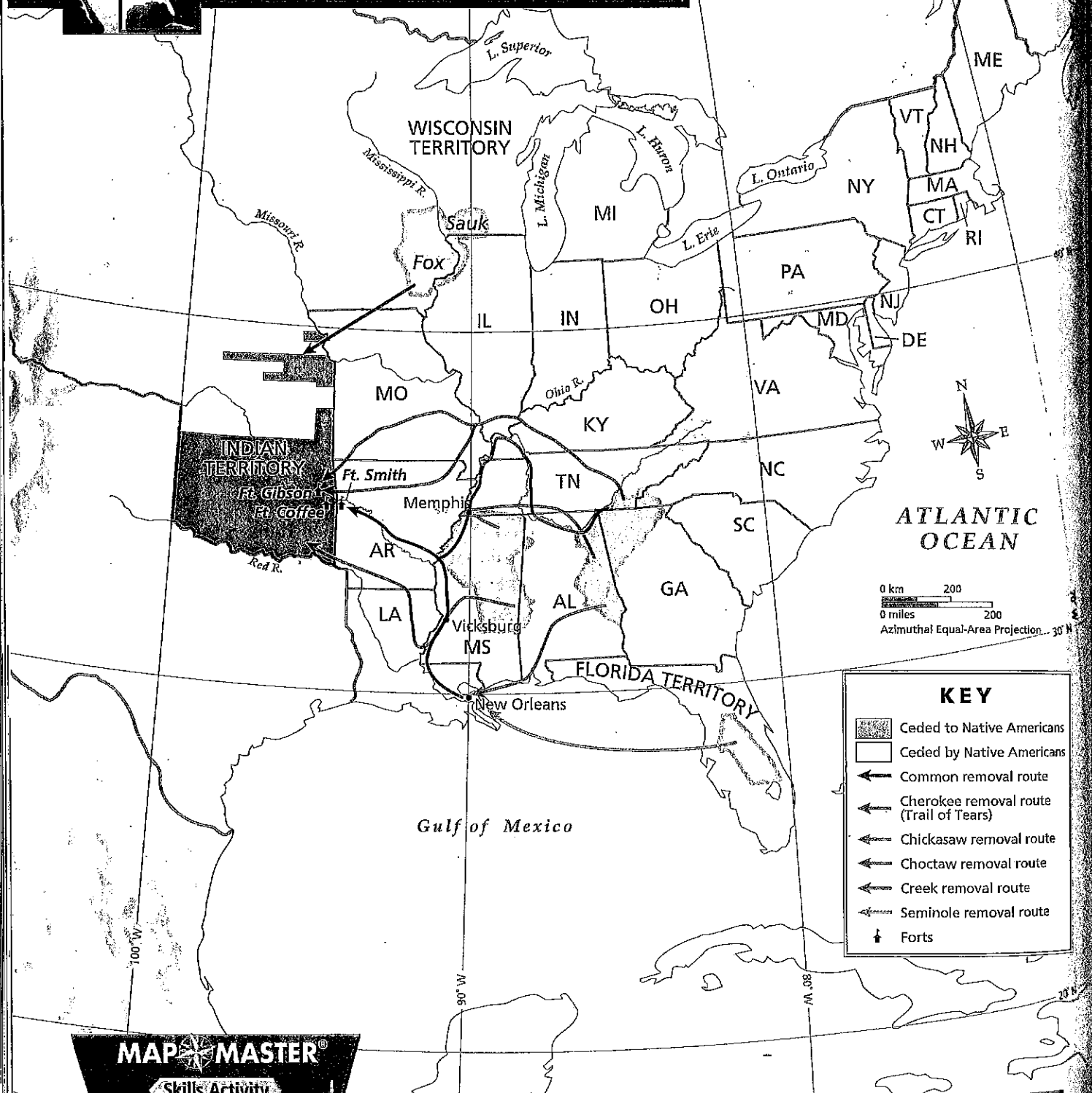
The Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Creek nations lived in parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The Seminoles, who lived in Florida, had an unusual origin. They were a combination of Creeks who had moved into Florida, Florida Native Americans, and escaped African American slaves.

The Cherokees had adopted some white customs. Aside from farming, they ran successful businesses, such as grain and lumber mills. Some could speak and read English. Many had converted to Christianity.

The Cherokees even had a written alphabet for their language. It had been created by a learned leader named Sequoyah (seh KWOY uh). In 1827, the Cherokees established a government based on a written constitution. They claimed status as a separate nation. The next year, they started a newspaper in both English and Cherokee.

Checkpoint What were some of the customs and ways of life of the Cherokees?

Indian Removal



MAP MASTER®

Skills Activity

In the 1830s, some 100,000 Native Americans of the Southeast were driven from their homes and forced to walk to a new home across the Mississippi River.

- Read a Map** Which five Southeast nations were affected by the movement?
- Apply Information** Use the scale of miles and the map above to answer the following question: About how far did the Seminoles have to travel to get from Florida Territory to New Orleans?

MapMaster Online

For: Interactive map
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Conflict Over Land

To government leaders, the presence of Native Americans in the Southeast stood in the way of westward expansion of the United States. Furthermore, the Native Americans lived on fertile land. White farmers wanted that land for growing cotton.

Forced Movement Policies to move Native Americans from their lands dated from the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson hoped the movement would be voluntary. He believed that moving west was the only way the Native Americans could preserve their cultures.

After the War of 1812, the federal government signed treaties with several Native American groups of the Old Northwest. Under those treaties, the groups gave up their lands and moved west of the Mississippi River.

However, the Native Americans of the Southeast would not move. In 1825, President James Monroe suggested a plan to move all Native Americans living east of the Mississippi to land west of the river. However, nothing came of the plan. Yet, year by year, the pressure on the Native Americans of the Southeast grew. By the 1820s, many white southerners were demanding that Native Americans be removed by force.

In 1825 and 1827, the state of Georgia passed a law forcing the Creeks to give up most of their land. In 1828, Georgia tried to get the Cherokees to do the same. The state said the Cherokees were not a separate nation and they had to move off their land.

Support for Native Americans Georgia's actions were challenged in two suits that reached the Supreme Court. The decision in the first suit went against the Cherokees. In *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* (1831), the Court refused to stop Georgia from enforcing its law. But in *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), the Court declared that Georgia's laws "can have no force" within Cherokee territory.

Chief Justice John Marshall wrote the Court's majority opinion in *Worcester v. Georgia*. He quoted treaties that the United States had signed, guaranteeing certain territory to Native Americans. Under the Constitution, treaties are the supreme law of the land. Therefore, Marshall said, Georgia had no say over Cherokee territory.

Like the state of Georgia, President Jackson wanted to remove the Native Americans from their land. He was furious when he heard of the ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*. "John Marshall has made his decision," he is reported to have said. "Now let him enforce it!"

Jackson was already putting into effect a federal law called the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The law gave him authority to offer Native American nations land west of the Mississippi in exchange for their lands in the East. It also provided money so the law could be carried out.

Checkpoint According to Marshall, why was Georgia barred from applying its laws to Cherokee territory?

Vocabulary Builder

voluntary (VAHL ahn tair ee)
adj. done willingly, of one's own free will

Vocabulary Builder

quote (kwoht) **v.** to repeat the exact words spoken or written

A Tragic Journey This painting, *Shadow of the Owl*, by Cherokee artist John Guthrie portrays the Trail of Tears. More than 4,000 Cherokees died along the trail. **Critical Thinking:** *Interpret Art* What do you think the owl in the main picture represents?



On the Trail of Tears

Believing they had no choice, most Native American leaders signed new treaties giving up their lands. They agreed to move to what was called the Indian Territory. Today most of that area is in the state of Oklahoma.

Removal of the Choctaws The Choctaws signed the first treaty in 1830. The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek stated that

“the United States under a grant . . . shall cause to be conveyed to the Choctaw Nation a tract of country west of the Mississippi river . . .”

—Article II, Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, 1830

Closely guarded by American soldiers, the Choctaws moved west between 1831 and 1833.

The federal government did not provide enough tents, food, blankets, shoes, winter clothes, or other supplies. Heavy rain and snow caused enormous suffering. An army lieutenant wrote that one group “walked for 24 hours barefoot through the snow and ice” before reaching shelter.

Cherokee Removal The Cherokees held out a few years longer. They were still on their land in 1837 when Jackson left office.

Finally, in 1838, President Martin Van Buren forced the Cherokees to move. In the winter of 1838–39, they went to Indian Territory, guarded by 7,000 soldiers. The route is called the Trail of Tears. A soldier's description helps explain why:

“On the morning of November 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 Cherokee were awful. The trail of the exiles was a trail of death.”

—Memoirs of Private John G. Burnett, December 1890

The Cherokees were forced to march hundreds of miles. They had little food or shelter. Many did not survive. Of 15,000 Cherokees who began the trip, 4,000 died along the way.

One group refused to move. The Seminoles fought three wars against removal. However, in the 1840s most Seminoles were forced to move. In their new homes in the Indian Territory, Native Americans struggled to rebuild their lives under very difficult conditions.

✓Checkpoint What mistakes in planning did the government make before removing Native Americans?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** Andrew Jackson was determined to be a strong President. He defied the Supreme Court by enforcing the Indian Removal Act. In Section 5, you will learn about his stands against the nation's bankers and his dramatic actions to save the Union.

HISTORIAN'S APPRENTICE ACTIVITY PACK

To further explore the topics in this chapter, complete the activity in the Historian's Apprentice Activity Pack to answer this essential question:

Who owns the land?



Identify Long-Term Effects

President Jackson sent federal agents to finalize treaties for Native American removal. Summarize the long-term effects of this policy. Explain how the policy affected the Native Americans in the region.

Section 4 | Check Your Progress

Progress Monitoring Online

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Recall** How did the Supreme Court rule in the case of *Worcester v. Georgia*?
(b) Detect Bias Why do you suppose President Jackson objected to the Court's decision?
- (a) Compare and Contrast** Describe the removal of the Choc-taws and the Cherokees.
(b) Identify Economic Benefits Why would the Cherokees be particularly opposed to removal from their land?



Reading Skill

- 3. Identify Long-Term Effects** A long-term effect is an effect that lasts over a long period of time. White farmers wanted the lands belonging to Native Americans of the Southeast. Write three sentences summarizing the long-term effects of this desire for land.

Writing

- 4.** A paragraph should focus on a single topic. Rewrite the following paragraph to get rid of any sentences that stray from the topic. **Paragraph:** By the 1830s, Native Americans had fought several legal battles over land. Many Native Americans wore traditional clothing. The states tried to make the Native Americans move. However, the Supreme Court decided that states could not force them from their homes.