Land and Loss

How conflict and removal reshaped Alabama settlement

SS24.AS.10 "Develop an argument regarding the impact of the Creek Wars and Native American removal on the settlement of Alabama."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two claims about how settlement changed, circle evidence that supports each claim, and number the major events in the order they happened. Use your marks to build an argument about who gained land and who bore the costs.

How Alabama Settlement Changed

1. In 1813, fighting broke out among Creek people as some resisted growing United States influence, while others allied with U.S. forces. After an attack on Fort Mims, a militia led by Andrew Jackson fought Creek warriors. The battle at Horseshoe Bend in 1814 crushed the Red Stick resistance. Under the Treaty of Fort Jackson, the United States took about 23 million acres from the Creek Nation, including land from Creeks who had fought alongside U.S. forces. The treaty opened large areas of present-day Alabama to land sales and incoming settlers, even though Creek communities still lived in the region.

2. Land transfers did not create empty land. Alabama became a state in 1819, and settlers expanded farms and towns on land taken from Native nations. Cotton planters sought rich soil, and enslaved African Americans were forced to clear fields and grow cotton. This growth brought profits to some white settlers while deepening slavery and limiting Native people's control over their homelands. The Creek War helped make this expansion possible, but it did not remove every Creek person. Nor did it account for all land taken from other Native nations in Alabama, including the Choctaw.

3. Federal removal policy pushed the process further. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 authorized the president to negotiate treaties exchanging Native land east of the Mississippi River for land farther west. Under the 1832 Treaty of Cusseta, Creek land in Alabama was divided into individual allotments, which were often sold through pressure or fraud. In 1836 and 1837, U.S. forces removed many Creek people to Indian Territory. Choctaw people also faced removal after an 1830 treaty. Together, the war and later removals increased land available to white settlers, but this settlement depended on dispossession and coercion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What evidence supports the claim that the Creek War made more land available to settlers?

2. Why would the claim that the Creek War alone explains Alabama's growing cotton farms be incomplete? Use two details from the passage.

3. How did later removal policies extend the changes that followed the Creek War? Support your answer with two details.

4. A settler claimed that Alabama's growth benefited everyone. What two details from the passage challenge that claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Which more decisively reshaped settlement in Alabama, the Creek War or later Native American removal? Write one paragraph of 4 to 6 sentences with a clear position, two dated details from the passage, a response to the other side, and an explanation of who bore the costs.

ANSWER KEY

Land and Loss

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.AS.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two claims about how settlement changed, circle evidence that supports each claim, and number the major events in the order they happened. Use your marks to build an argument about who gained land and who bore the costs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What evidence supports the claim that the Creek War made more land available to settlers?	**The Treaty of Fort Jackson took about 23 million acres from the Creek Nation and opened large areas of present-day Alabama to land sales and settlers.**
2	Why would the claim that the Creek War alone explains Alabama's growing cotton farms be incomplete? Use two details from the passage.	**The war did not account for all land taken from other Native nations, and enslaved African Americans were forced to clear fields and grow cotton.**
3	How did later removal policies extend the changes that followed the Creek War? Support your answer with two details.	**The 1832 Treaty of Cusseta divided Creek land into allotments that were often sold through pressure or fraud. U.S. forces then removed many Creek people in 1836 and 1837, further increasing land available to white settlers.**
4	A settler claimed that Alabama's growth benefited everyone. What two details from the passage challenge that claim?	**Native nations lost control of their homelands, and enslaved African Americans were forced to clear fields and grow cotton.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Later removal was more decisive than the Creek War in reshaping Alabama settlement because it pressured Native communities still living on the land. The 1814 Treaty of Fort Jackson had already taken about 23 million acres, giving settlers access to large areas, so the war clearly mattered. Yet the 1832 Treaty of Cusseta divided Creek land into allotments often sold under pressure or through fraud. U.S. forces then removed many Creek people in 1836 and 1837. These changes expanded white settlement at the expense of Native homelands, while enslaved African Americans were forced to work on growing cotton farms.

Accept either position in Part 3 if the student supports it with two accurate dated details, addresses the other side, and explains a cost of settlement. For the short answers, accept equivalent evidence and reasoning grounded in the passage.