Resistance and Removal

How Native nations opposed removal and endured its effects

SS24.US1.5b "Summarize the effects of the Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears on Native Americans, and describe the efforts by different nations to oppose removal."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects of removal on Native Americans. Circle one Cherokee effort and one Seminole effort to oppose removal, then number the two efforts to help you compare them.

The Law, the Resistance, and the Journey

1. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. It authorized the president to negotiate treaties exchanging Native lands east of the Mississippi River for land farther west. Although the law described exchanges, pressure and coercion often shaped the agreements. U.S. leaders wanted eastern land for white settlement, including farms and cotton plantations. For Native nations, removal threatened homes, farms, burial grounds, and the power to govern themselves. The act did not force every nation to move on the day it passed. Instead, it gave the federal government a tool to press nations to surrender their eastern homelands.

2. The Cherokee Nation challenged removal through U.S. courts and public petitions. In 1832, the Supreme Court ruled in Worcester v. Georgia that Georgia could not impose its laws within Cherokee territory. Yet federal officials did not protect Cherokee land from continued pressure. In 1835, a small Cherokee group signed the Treaty of New Echota without the approval of the nation's elected leaders. Thousands of Cherokee people petitioned against that treaty, but the Senate ratified it. In Florida, many Seminoles refused to leave and fought U.S. troops in the Second Seminole War, which began in 1835. Their opposition took a different form: armed resistance.

3. Despite these efforts, U.S. soldiers forced about 16,000 Cherokee people from their homes in 1838. On the journey west, known as the Trail of Tears, thousands died from disease, hunger, and exposure. Other Native nations, including the Choctaw, Creek, and Chickasaw, also endured removals and deadly journeys. Removal tore families from familiar places and disrupted communities, economies, and governments. Many Seminoles were removed after years of fighting, but some remained in Florida. The Trail of Tears was not a single event shared by all nations; it names especially the Cherokee removal and is also used for the suffering of other removed nations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Indian Removal Act give the federal government a way to seek Native land, and why did that threaten Native nations?

2. Compare one way the Cherokee Nation opposed removal with one way Seminoles opposed it.

3. The Cherokee won a Supreme Court ruling in 1832. What happened afterward that shows the limits of that victory?

4. Besides deaths during the journey, what were two effects of removal on Native communities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 95 word museum label explaining the gap between the act's plan for land exchanges and what happened. Compare Cherokee and Seminole opposition, describe two effects of removal, and make clear that Native nations did not all have the same experience.

ANSWER KEY

Resistance and Removal

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.5b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two effects of removal on Native Americans. Circle one Cherokee effort and one Seminole effort to oppose removal, then number the two efforts to help you compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Indian Removal Act give the federal government a way to seek Native land, and why did that threaten Native nations?	**It authorized the president to negotiate exchanges of eastern Native lands for western lands. Those exchanges, often shaped by pressure, threatened nations' homes and self-government.**
2	Compare one way the Cherokee Nation opposed removal with one way Seminoles opposed it.	**Cherokee people used courts and petitions to challenge removal. Many Seminoles refused to leave and fought U.S. troops.**
3	The Cherokee won a Supreme Court ruling in 1832. What happened afterward that shows the limits of that victory?	**Federal officials did not protect Cherokee land from continued pressure. The Senate ratified a treaty opposed by thousands of Cherokee people, and soldiers forced Cherokee people west in 1838.**
4	Besides deaths during the journey, what were two effects of removal on Native communities?	**Removal separated people from familiar places and disrupted communities, economies, and governments. Accept any two of these effects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Indian Removal Act allowed the United States to seek treaties exchanging eastern Native lands for western lands, but pressure often shaped those agreements. Cherokee people challenged removal in court and signed petitions. Many Seminoles resisted by fighting U.S. troops. Neither approach prevented the removal of many people, though some Seminoles remained in Florida. The forced Cherokee journey west killed thousands through disease, hunger, and exposure. Removal also separated families from their homelands and disrupted Native governments. These nations faced related threats, but their resistance and experiences were not identical.

Accept accurate paraphrases grounded in the passage. For the museum label, look for a clear contrast between the act's stated method and coercion, two distinct forms of opposition, two effects, and a distinction between nations' experiences.