

Paths and Promises

Trace the effects of westward expansion on Native American communities.

SS.5.A.6.6 "Explain how westward expansion affected Native Americans."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each effect that westward expansion had on Native Americans. Circle the action or policy that caused each effect, then draw a line from each cause to an effect.

Westward Expansion and Native Peoples

- ① During the 1800s, many U.S. settlers moved west to farm, mine, and build towns. The federal government made treaties with Native nations, but officials and settlers often ignored those agreements. As newcomers claimed land and resources, Native peoples lost access to hunting grounds, water, and places where they gathered food. These changes threatened communities that depended on those places.
- ② In the Southeast, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 led the U.S. government to force many Native Americans from their homelands to Indian Territory, land west of the Mississippi River. The Cherokee removal became known as the Trail of Tears. Thousands of Cherokee died from disease, hunger, and harsh travel conditions. Removal separated people from homes, farms, and sacred places.
- ③ Later, the government confined many Native nations to reservations, which were smaller areas set aside for them. Reservation life limited movement and made it harder to follow traditional hunting patterns. Government agents sometimes withheld promised food or supplies. Native peoples responded in different ways, including negotiating, resisting, and working to protect their families, cultures, and land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did settlers claiming land and resources affect Native communities?

2 What were two hardships Cherokee people faced during the Trail of Tears?

3 How did life on reservations affect traditional hunting patterns?

4 Explain one effect of removal and one effect of reservation life on Native Americans.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining how westward expansion affected Native Americans. Include one change to land or daily life and one government action, and explain how each affected a community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each effect that westward expansion had on Native Americans. Circle the action or policy that caused each effect, then draw a line from each cause to an effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did settlers claiming land and resources affect Native communities?	Native communities lost access to hunting grounds, water, and places where they gathered food.
2	What were two hardships Cherokee people faced during the Trail of Tears?	They faced disease, hunger, and harsh travel conditions. Thousands died.
3	How did life on reservations affect traditional hunting patterns?	Reservations limited movement, making it harder to follow traditional hunting patterns.
4	Explain one effect of removal and one effect of reservation life on Native Americans.	Removal forced people from their homelands and separated them from homes, farms, and sacred places. Reservation life limited movement and made traditional hunting harder.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westward expansion took Native Americans away from land they used for hunting and gathering food. When settlers claimed these places, communities had fewer resources. The U.S. government also forced many people from their homelands to Indian Territory. This removal brought suffering and separated people from farms and sacred places.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect westward expansion or government policy to a specific effect described in the passage. For the open response, look for both a land or daily-life change and a government action with clear effects.