

Voices of Removal

Compare how groups experienced and judged Indian removal.

SS.8.A.4.3 "Examine the experiences and perspectives of significant individuals and groups during this era of American History."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show the Cherokee perspective, circle two details that show the perspective of removal supporters, and place a star beside one detail that shows an effect of removal.

The Cherokee and Indian Removal

- ① In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized the president to negotiate treaties exchanging Native land east of the Mississippi River for land in the West. President Andrew Jackson supported removal. He argued that it would open land for white settlement and reduce conflict between state governments and Native nations. Many white settlers and Georgia officials wanted access to fertile land, especially after gold was found on Cherokee land in 1828. To them, removal promised farms, wealth, and stronger state control.
- ② The Cherokee Nation saw the issue differently. Many Cherokee people had built farms, towns, schools, and a written constitution in their homeland. Principal Chief John Ross argued that treaties protected Cherokee territory and that the nation should remain. In 1832, the Supreme Court ruled in *Worcester v. Georgia* that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory. The ruling supported the Cherokee position, but Georgia ignored it, and President Jackson did not use federal power to enforce it.
- ③ After Jackson left office, President Martin Van Buren ordered federal troops to begin removal in 1838. Soldiers gathered Cherokee families into camps, often with little time to prepare. About 16,000 people were forced west on routes later called the Trail of Tears. Hunger, disease, cold, and poor supplies caused suffering, and about 4,000 Cherokee died. Some Americans criticized the removal as unjust. Others continued to view western migration as necessary for expansion, showing how the same policy produced sharply different experiences and judgments.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did John Ross and many Cherokee people believe gave the Cherokee Nation a right to remain in its homeland?

2 How did the goals of Georgia officials and white settlers differ from the goals of John Ross and many Cherokee people?

3 How might the Supreme Court ruling have affected the Cherokee perspective, and why did it not protect them from removal?

4 Use two details from the passage to explain how removal created different experiences for Cherokee people and for its supporters.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence statement from the viewpoint of a Cherokee teenager in 1838. Include two accurate details from the passage and explain why a Georgia official might view removal differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show the Cherokee perspective, circle two details that show the perspective of removal supporters, and place a star beside one detail that shows an effect of removal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did John Ross and many Cherokee people believe gave the Cherokee Nation a right to remain in its homeland?	They believed treaties protected Cherokee territory. Ross also argued that the Cherokee Nation should remain on its land.
2	How did the goals of Georgia officials and white settlers differ from the goals of John Ross and many Cherokee people?	Georgia officials and white settlers wanted fertile land, wealth, and stronger state control. Ross and many Cherokee wanted to keep their protected homeland and remain as a nation.
3	How might the Supreme Court ruling have affected the Cherokee perspective, and why did it not protect them from removal?	The ruling supported the Cherokee claim that Georgia had no authority in Cherokee territory. It did not protect them because Georgia ignored the ruling and Jackson did not enforce it.
4	Use two details from the passage to explain how removal created different experiences for Cherokee people and for its supporters.	Cherokee people were gathered into camps, forced west, and suffered from hunger, disease, cold, and poor supplies. Supporters expected removal to provide fertile land, farms, wealth, and stronger state control.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As a Cherokee teenager, I would fear being taken from the homeland where my family had farms and schools. Soldiers gathered families into camps with little time to prepare. The forced journey west brought hunger, disease, cold, and poor supplies, and many Cherokee died. A Georgia official might view removal differently because it opened fertile land for white settlement and gave Georgia more control.

Accept responses that accurately distinguish the Cherokee experience from the goals or judgments of removal supporters. For the open task, look for four sentences, at least two passage-based details, and a clear comparison of perspectives.