Far From Home

Read about Cherokee removal, change, and cultural survival.

3.C.3.1.D "Describe the experiences of forced removals and relocation of American Indians to Indian Territory, explaining significant changes to American Indian cultures and ways of life."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two hardships Cherokee people faced during removal. Circle two ways life changed in Indian Territory, and number one way Cherokee people kept their culture.

The Cherokee Journey West

1. For generations, Cherokee families lived in towns in the Southeast. They grew crops, spoke their language, and met with neighbors. The Cherokee Nation had its own government. In the 1830s, the United States government pushed American Indian nations to leave their homelands so settlers could take the land. Many Cherokee people did not want to leave. Their homes, farms, and important places were there.

2. In 1838, soldiers forced many Cherokee families from their homes. People were held in crowded camps before traveling west toward Indian Territory, in what is now Oklahoma. Some traveled on foot, while others rode in wagons or boats. Food was often scarce. Cold and sickness made the trip harder, and many people died. This forced journey is remembered as the Trail of Tears.

3. In Indian Territory, Cherokee families had to build new homes and plant new fields. They could not simply go back to the places where their families had lived for generations. Some families had lost loved ones during the journey. Even with these losses, Cherokee people kept speaking their language and sharing stories. They rebuilt communities, schools, and a government in their new home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did being forced from their homeland change life for Cherokee families?

2. Describe two hardships Cherokee people faced before or during the journey west.

3. How did daily life change for Cherokee families after they reached Indian Territory?

4. What did Cherokee people continue to do after removal, and why does that matter to their culture?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a museum label with a title and three sentences about a Cherokee family's move. Describe a hardship on the journey, a change in daily life in Indian Territory, and a way Cherokee culture continued, using your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Far From Home

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two hardships Cherokee people faced during removal. Circle two ways life changed in Indian Territory, and number one way Cherokee people kept their culture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did being forced from their homeland change life for Cherokee families?	**They had to leave their homes, farms, neighbors, and important places.**
2	Describe two hardships Cherokee people faced before or during the journey west.	**They were held in crowded camps, and food was often scarce. Accept cold, sickness, or deaths as other hardships.**
3	How did daily life change for Cherokee families after they reached Indian Territory?	**They had to build new homes and plant new fields instead of returning to their old homes and farms.**
4	What did Cherokee people continue to do after removal, and why does that matter to their culture?	**They continued speaking their language and sharing stories, which helped keep Cherokee culture alive.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Journey and a New Home

A Cherokee family might have traveled west with too little food and become sick. In Indian Territory, they had to make a new home and plant fields instead of living on their old land. They could still share stories and speak their language.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for all three required details and a clear distinction between what changed and what continued.