Promises Under Pressure

Treaty promises, state demands, and Cherokee removal

8.C.8.3.A "Explain the federal government's inconsistent adherence to treaties with Tribal Nations and the political pressures from states seeking control over Tribal lands."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the federal promise and the later federal actions that conflicted with it. Circle Georgia's actions and demands so you can trace how state pressure shaped the outcome.

Cherokee Land and Federal Promises

1. In 1791, the United States signed the Treaty of Holston with the Cherokee Nation. The treaty set boundaries and promised that the United States would protect Cherokee land not ceded in the agreement. But Georgia wanted control of land within its borders, where many Cherokee people lived. After gold was discovered in north Georgia in 1828, settlers pressed state leaders for access. Georgia extended its laws over Cherokee territory and later held a land lottery that offered Cherokee land to settlers, even though Cherokee families still lived there.

2. The Cherokee Nation challenged Georgia's actions in court. In Worcester v. Georgia (1832), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory. This decision supported the Cherokee Nation's right to govern itself, but federal officials did not stop Georgia from pressing its claims. Georgia leaders and land seekers continued to demand access. The federal government had promised protection in a treaty, yet a state seeking land put pressure on federal leaders to allow removal instead of defending Cherokee rights.

3. In 1835, a small group of Cherokee people signed the Treaty of New Echota without the approval of the Cherokee Nation's elected leaders. Principal Chief John Ross and many other Cherokee people opposed it. The federal government treated the treaty as valid after the Senate ratified it in 1836. It required the Cherokee to give up their eastern lands in exchange for land in the West and other payments. In 1838, federal soldiers forced thousands west. Many died on the journey, remembered as the Trail of Tears.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Georgia's land lottery conflict with the federal promise in the Treaty of Holston?

2. Why did the Supreme Court's ruling not end Georgia's pressure for Cherokee land?

3. Why was the Treaty of New Echota disputed, and how did federal leaders use it?

4. How did the forced removal in 1838 show that the federal government had not kept its earlier treaty promise?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note to a newspaper editor in 1838 explaining why Cherokee leaders might call the federal government's treaty actions inconsistent. Include one example of Georgia's pressure, two different federal treaty actions, and one effect on Cherokee people. Use your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Promises Under Pressure

GRADE 8 · 8.C.8.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the federal promise and the later federal actions that conflicted with it. Circle Georgia's actions and demands so you can trace how state pressure shaped the outcome. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Georgia's land lottery conflict with the federal promise in the Treaty of Holston?	**The United States had promised to protect Cherokee land not ceded in the treaty, but Georgia offered Cherokee land to settlers while Cherokee families still lived there.**
2	Why did the Supreme Court's ruling not end Georgia's pressure for Cherokee land?	**Although the Court ruled that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory, federal officials did not stop Georgia from pressing its claims.**
3	Why was the Treaty of New Echota disputed, and how did federal leaders use it?	**A small group signed it without the approval of the Cherokee Nation's elected leaders, and many Cherokee people opposed it. Federal leaders treated it as valid after Senate ratification and used it to require the Cherokee to give up their eastern lands.**
4	How did the forced removal in 1838 show that the federal government had not kept its earlier treaty promise?	**Instead of protecting Cherokee land as promised in the Treaty of Holston, the federal government sent soldiers to force Cherokee people west.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Georgia officials and land seekers pressed for Cherokee territory, especially after gold was found. The United States had promised in the Treaty of Holston to protect Cherokee land. Later, federal leaders accepted the disputed Treaty of New Echota as grounds for taking that land. Now soldiers are driving Cherokee families west, showing how state demands outweighed the earlier promise.

Accept responses that distinguish Georgia's pressure from federal decisions and explain the conflict between the earlier protection promise and later removal. Students may cite the failure to stop Georgia or the acceptance of the disputed treaty as a later federal action.