Defending Tribal Lands

How Tribal Nations resisted removal

8.C.8.3.D "Describe the resistance of Tribal Nations to removal policies and encroachment onto Tribal lands, including legal challenges and political advocacy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions aimed at persuading officials or the public, circle the court ruling, and put a star beside a sentence showing that resistance did not always stop removal.

More Than One Way to Resist

1 In the 1820s, Georgia officials pushed to control Cherokee land, where gold was discovered in 1828. The Cherokee Nation had its own government and laws, yet Georgia claimed power over its territory. Cherokee leaders refused to treat their homeland as empty land waiting to be taken. They printed arguments in the Cherokee Phoenix, a newspaper that reached readers inside and outside the Nation. Principal Chief John Ross and other leaders also sent petitions to Congress, asking federal lawmakers to honor treaties that protected Cherokee land.

2 Legal action offered another way to resist. In Worcester v. Georgia (1832), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory. The case began when Georgia arrested missionaries for living there without a state permit. Cherokee leaders pointed to the ruling to defend their Nation's right to govern its lands, but Georgia did not follow it. In 1835, a small group signed the Treaty of New Echota without authorization from the Cherokee government. Ross and thousands of Cherokee people protested, but the United States enforced removal in 1838.

3 Farther south, Seminole communities in Florida faced pressure to leave their homes for lands west of the Mississippi River. After the 1832 Treaty of Payne's Landing, many Seminoles disputed whether their leaders had agreed to permanent removal. Seminole leaders argued with U.S. officials against being forced west, and some communities fought soldiers during the Second Seminole War, which began in 1835. Their resistance made removal costly and prolonged, though many Seminoles were forced west. Some remained in Florida, where their descendants continue to live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Cherokee leaders use the Cherokee Phoenix and petitions to resist Georgia's claim to their land?

2. How did the ruling in Worcester v. Georgia support the Cherokee Nation's resistance?

3. Why did Ross and thousands of Cherokee people protest the Treaty of New Echota?

4. How did Seminole communities resist removal, and what happened despite that resistance?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing Cherokee and Seminole resistance. Include a legal challenge, an effort to persuade officials or the public, and an action taken by Seminole communities. Explain why resistance did not always prevent removal.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.C.8.3.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions aimed at persuading officials or the public, circle the court ruling, and put a star beside a sentence showing that resistance did not always stop removal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Cherokee leaders use the Cherokee Phoenix and petitions to resist Georgia's claim to their land?	**They printed arguments for readers inside and outside the Nation and petitioned Congress to honor treaties protecting Cherokee land.**
2	How did the ruling in Worcester v. Georgia support the Cherokee Nation's resistance?	**The Court ruled that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory, supporting the Nation's right to govern its lands.**
3	Why did Ross and thousands of Cherokee people protest the Treaty of New Echota?	**A small group had signed the treaty without authorization from the Cherokee government.**
4	How did Seminole communities resist removal, and what happened despite that resistance?	**Seminole leaders argued against forced removal, and some communities fought U.S. soldiers. Many Seminoles were still forced west, though some remained in Florida.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Cherokee Nation defended its land through the Worcester v. Georgia court case. Its leaders also published arguments and petitioned Congress to honor treaties. Seminole leaders argued against removal, while some communities fought U.S. soldiers. Georgia did not follow the court ruling, and despite resistance, the United States forced many Cherokee and Seminole people from their homes.

Accept other accurate comparisons grounded in the passage. Students should distinguish a court ruling from its enforcement and should not suggest that every Seminole person was removed from Florida.