Promises and Removal

Trace decisions and consequences in Indian Territory

OKH.C.2.2 "Analyze the consequences of American Indian removals to present-day Oklahoma. Explain the motivations which prompted the passage and terms of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and describe efforts of Tribal resistance..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reason for removal and one term of the 1830 law. Circle two forms of Cherokee resistance, then number an immediate consequence 1 and an intertribal consequence 2.

From Exchange to Forced Removal

1. White settlers and Georgia leaders wanted southeastern Tribal lands for cotton farming and, in Cherokee territory, gold. President Andrew Jackson backed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which authorized the president to negotiate exchanges of eastern Tribal lands for lands west of the Mississippi and provide help with moving. The law described exchange as a treaty process, not permission to seize people. Yet state pressure and unequal bargaining made refusal difficult, while federal officials pursued removal despite Tribal objections.

2. Cherokee leaders pursued different responses. Principal Chief John Ross organized petitions against removal. Elias Boudinot supported the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, signed by a minority faction, believing relocation might protect Cherokee lives and government. In Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831), the Supreme Court declined to block Georgia. In Worcester v. Georgia (1832), it ruled Georgia law had no force in Cherokee territory. These cases belonged to the Marshall Trilogy. Missionary Samuel Worcester defended Cherokee sovereignty by challenging Georgia's licensing law, but the ruling did not stop removal.

3. Federal officials used the disputed treaty to order Cherokee removal. In 1838, soldiers rounded up thousands; many traveled west under guard, facing hunger, illness, and death. Other southeastern Tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek), Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole, also faced removal by different routes and at different times. The federal government designated lands west of the Mississippi, including present-day Oklahoma, as Indian Territory. Relocation disrupted communities and brought newcomers onto lands used by peoples such as the Osage, creating land disputes as well as opportunities for trade and diplomacy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the goals of settlers and Georgia leaders shape the 1830 law's approach to land?

2. Why did Ross and Boudinot take different positions on the Treaty of New Echota?

3. What did the Worcester ruling say about Georgia law, and what limit did its outcome reveal?

4. How did forced removal affect both Cherokee people and relationships in Indian Territory?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 60 to 85 word museum label explaining how a law presented as a negotiated exchange led to forced removal and changed relationships in Indian Territory. Include one Cherokee resistance strategy and one effect on peoples already living there.

ANSWER KEY

Promises and Removal

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason for removal and one term of the 1830 law. Circle two forms of Cherokee resistance, then number an immediate consequence 1 and an intertribal consequence 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the goals of settlers and Georgia leaders shape the 1830 law's approach to land?	**They wanted land for cotton farming and gold. The law authorized negotiated exchanges of eastern Tribal lands for lands west of the Mississippi.**
2	Why did Ross and Boudinot take different positions on the Treaty of New Echota?	**Ross opposed removal and organized petitions. Boudinot supported the treaty because he believed relocation might protect Cherokee lives and government.**
3	What did the Worcester ruling say about Georgia law, and what limit did its outcome reveal?	**The Court ruled that Georgia law had no force in Cherokee territory, but the ruling did not stop federal removal.**
4	How did forced removal affect both Cherokee people and relationships in Indian Territory?	**Many Cherokee people faced hunger, illness, and death while traveling west under guard. Relocation brought newcomers onto lands used by peoples such as the Osage, leading to land disputes as well as trade and diplomacy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Indian Removal Act offered exchanges of eastern Tribal lands for western lands, but pressure made refusal difficult. Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross organized petitions against removal, and many Cherokee people rejected a treaty signed by a minority faction. Federal officials still ordered their removal, and soldiers rounded up thousands in 1838. In Indian Territory, relocated peoples arrived on lands used by groups such as the Osage. This created land disputes, though the groups also found opportunities for trade and diplomacy.

Accept explanations that connect land demand, unequal bargaining, Cherokee resistance, and removal's consequences. Students may describe either conflict or cooperation with peoples already living in Indian Territory, but their label must include an effect on those peoples.