Treaty Tradeoffs

Read the Creek Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 through multiple perspectives.

OKH.C.3 "Evaluate the major political and economic events that transformed the land and its people in the post-Civil War era to statehood. Examine the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction Treaties on American Indian peoples, territories..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two treaty terms that changed rights or control of land. Circle the people or governments affected by each term so you can compare its effects.

War, Treaty, and Change

1 During the Civil War, leaders within the Creek Nation disagreed about whether to support the Union or the Confederacy. Opothleyahola led thousands of Union supporters, including Creek families and people from other Nations, north toward Kansas. Confederate forces attacked them along the way. Their winter flight became known as the Trail of Blood on Ice. Many died from fighting, cold, or hunger. These events reveal more than a battle between two armies: political divisions within and among Tribal Nations put families at risk. War also disrupted farms and weakened the ability of Tribal governments to protect their people.

2 After the war, the United States demanded new treaties from the Five Tribes, even though their wartime choices had differed. The Creek Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 required the Nation to cede its western lands to the United States and abolish slavery. Under the treaty's residence and return rules, eligible people of African descent, including formerly enslaved Creek residents and their descendants, were to be incorporated as Creek citizens with equal rights in land and national funds. Enrollment disputes later affected whether those rights were recognized. The treaty also authorized railroad routes. These terms limited Creek control over territory and citizenship.

3 The Creek Nation was not alone: other 1866 treaties also imposed land cessions and changes in relations with the federal government, though their citizenship provisions differed. The United States used ceded land to relocate other Tribal Nations into Indian Territory and later backed railroads and settlement. Some Americans called these changes progress because they expected trade and farms to expand. Tribal governments faced reduced control over their homelands, while Freedpeople sought recognition of rights promised by treaty. Comparing these viewpoints matters: the same treaty could offer rights to one group while restricting the sovereignty of the Nation required to carry it out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did disagreement over the Civil War affect people traveling with Opothleyahola?

2. How did the Creek treaty's citizenship terms affect eligible people of African descent, and why might enrollment disputes matter?

3. Why might Americans seeking trade and settlement and Creek leaders have viewed the land cession differently?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to assume that every 1866 treaty had the same effect on citizenship?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence label for a museum exhibit evaluating the claim that the Creek treaty brought only "progress." Include one effect of wartime division, one right promised by the treaty, and one loss of Creek control.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two treaty terms that changed rights or control of land. Circle the people or governments affected by each term so you can compare its effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did disagreement over the Civil War affect people traveling with Opothleyahola?	**Opothleyahola led Union supporters north, where Confederate attacks and winter conditions put families at risk; many died.**
2	How did the Creek treaty's citizenship terms affect eligible people of African descent, and why might enrollment disputes matter?	**The treaty promised eligible people of African descent, including formerly enslaved Creek residents and their descendants, Creek citizenship with equal rights in land and national funds. Enrollment disputes affected recognition of those rights.**
3	Why might Americans seeking trade and settlement and Creek leaders have viewed the land cession differently?	**Americans seeking trade and settlement could see access to land and railroad routes as progress. Creek leaders faced a loss of control over their territory.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to assume that every 1866 treaty had the same effect on citizenship?	**The passage states that the treaties' citizenship provisions differed, even though other treaties also imposed land cessions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Calling the Creek treaty only "progress" leaves out the costs of war and federal demands. Wartime division had already exposed families traveling with Opothleyahola to attacks and deadly winter conditions. The treaty promised eligible people of African descent, including formerly enslaved Creek residents and their descendants, citizenship and equal rights in land and national funds. It also required the Creek Nation to cede western lands, reducing its control over its territory.

Accept responses that distinguish promised citizenship rights from the Creek Nation's loss of control. Do not accept claims that every person of African descent automatically qualified under the treaty or that all 1866 treaties had identical citizenship terms.