

Paths of Removal

Analyze how westward expansion affected Indigenous communities.

USI.8.d “analyzing the impact of westward expansion on Indigenous people including, but not limited to the Indian Removal Act (1830), the Trail of Tears, and the Seminole Wars;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions taken by the U.S. government or settlers. Circle words or phrases that show effects on Indigenous people.

Land, Removal, and Resistance

- ① In the early 1800s, many settlers and the U.S. government wanted land in the Southeast for farms and towns. Several Indigenous nations already lived there, including the Cherokee, Muscogee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. It allowed the president to make treaties that exchanged Indigenous homelands east of the Mississippi River for land farther west.
- ② Removal caused deep harm. Under pressure from federal officials and state governments, many Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Cherokee people were forced to leave. In 1838 and 1839, U.S. troops removed many Cherokee people from their homes. They traveled west in harsh conditions with too little food, shelter, and medical care. Thousands died on this journey, remembered as the Trail of Tears.
- ③ Not every Indigenous group left without resistance. In Florida, the Seminole fought U.S. forces in a series of conflicts called the Seminole Wars. The fighting was connected to efforts to remove the Seminole from their land. Although the United States took more Seminole land and sent many people west, some Seminole people remained in Florida. Westward expansion brought settlers land, but it disrupted Indigenous homes, governments, and communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Indian Removal Act help the U.S. government and settlers gain land in the Southeast?

2 What conditions made the Trail of Tears harmful, and what was one result of those conditions?

3 How did the Seminole respond to removal efforts, and what happened to many Seminole people?

4 How were the Trail of Tears and the Seminole Wars different examples of the impact of westward expansion on Indigenous people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining one overall impact of westward expansion on Indigenous people. Use one detail from the Trail of Tears and one detail from the Seminole Wars as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions taken by the U.S. government or settlers. Circle words or phrases that show effects on Indigenous people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Indian Removal Act help the U.S. government and settlers gain land in the Southeast?	It allowed the president to make treaties that exchanged Indigenous homelands east of the Mississippi River for land farther west.
2	What conditions made the Trail of Tears harmful, and what was one result of those conditions?	People traveled in harsh conditions with too little food, shelter, and medical care. Thousands died.
3	How did the Seminole respond to removal efforts, and what happened to many Seminole people?	The Seminole fought U.S. forces in the Seminole Wars. The United States took more Seminole land and sent many Seminole people west.
4	How were the Trail of Tears and the Seminole Wars different examples of the impact of westward expansion on Indigenous people?	The Trail of Tears was a forced Cherokee removal in which thousands died during the journey. The Seminole Wars were resistance to removal, though many Seminole still lost land and were sent west.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westward expansion harmed Indigenous communities because the United States took control of land where they lived. Cherokee people were forced west in dangerous conditions, and thousands died. The Seminole resisted removal, yet many lost land and were sent west.

Accept equivalent descriptions of forced removal, dangerous travel conditions, death, resistance, land loss, and disruption of communities. For the open response, look for a clear impact claim and accurate evidence from both required events.