

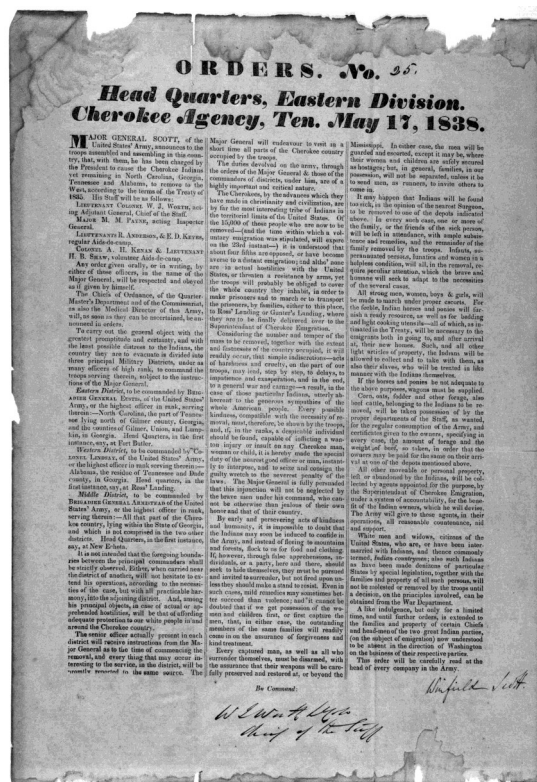
Primary Source Set & Links Guide:
The Trail of Tears

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After years of leading brutal Indian campaigns as an Army General across the South, Andrew Jackson assisted in the process of negotiating hundreds of thousands of acres of land from Native Americans for white settlers, often times using forceful and unethical tactics. During the 1830s Jackson continued the process of removing Native Americans from their land as President of the United States through legislation and sometimes violence.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 gave the President authority to negotiate treaties of removal with Native Americans, in which their land within existing state borders was exchanged for tracts of land west of the Mississippi River. Jackson received ample support from most white southern settlers due to their desire to use the fertile land for agricultural production. While some Native Americans adopted a more violent approach to resisting removal, others, such as the Cherokee, utilized a series of nonviolent measures to resist removal when a faction of their tribe signed the fraudulent Treaty of New Echota. Petitions, boycotts, noncooperation, and legal arguments were all part of the Cherokee resistance campaign against removal.

The Removal Act stated that no one would be forced off of their land and Native Americans would be able to carry on their cultural practices and government without settler interference once in the western territories. However, the United States did not uphold those promises. Tribes were often violently forced from their land and marched towards the West under terrible conditions. This journey became known as the Trail of Tears. While thousands died because of removal, many more survived and persevered carrying on their culture and traditions.



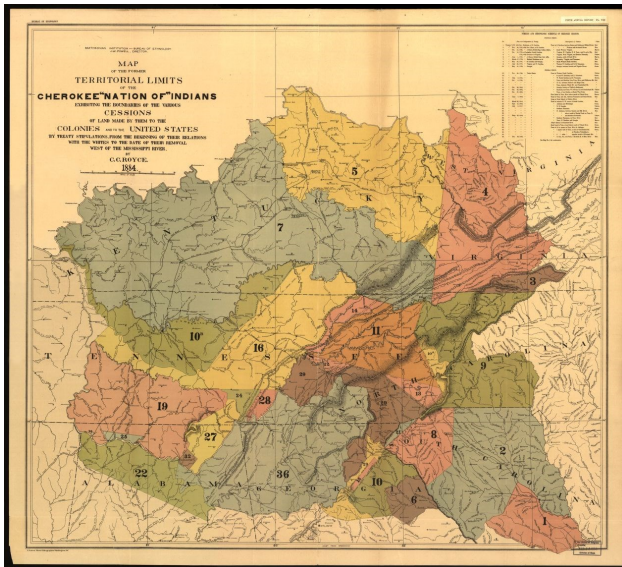
[Orders No. \[25\] Head Quarters, Eastern Division Cherokee Agency, Ten. May 17, 1838 \[1838\]](#)

[Click Here](#) for lesson plan on Cherokee Removal & Order No. 25

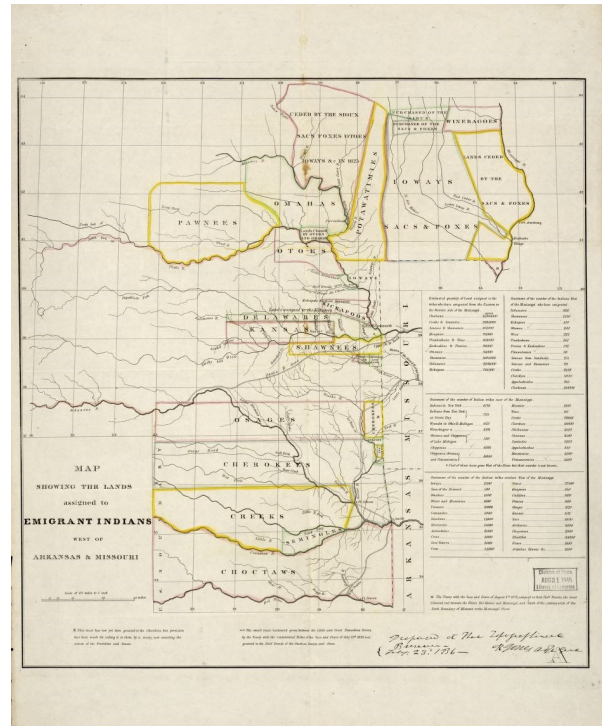
SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

The following primary sources and images showcase the significance and impact of Andrew Jackson's presidency and the Trail of Tears on Native Americans. Start off by allowing students to explore the maps on page two to gain insight into Native American culture and an understanding of the large scale displacement. Many of the text are legal documents and can use language difficult for some students to comprehend. Break the texts down or divide students into groups. Students in higher grades can use the [primary source analysis tool](#) to analyze and critically think about various documents.

MAPS OF CHEROKEE NATIONS AND INDIAN REMOVAL



[Map of the former territorial limits of the Cherokee "Nation of" Indians ; Map showing the territory originally assigned Cherokee "Nation of" Indians \[1884\]](#)



[Map showing the lands assigned to emigrant Indians west of Arkansas and Missouri. \[1836\]](#)

[National Historic Trail Official Map \[2012\]](#)

This map, provided by the National Park Service, showcases detailed routes along the Trail of Tears.

[Click Here](#) to explore the interactive map of the Trail of Tears.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- [TPS-MTSU lesson plan: "Trail of Tears"](#)
- [TPS-MTSU March 2011 Newsletter: Native American History and Culture](#)
- [National Park Service lesson plan: "The Trail of Tears and the Forced Relocation of the Cherokee Nation"](#)
- [Indian Pioneer History Collection: Family stories from the Trail of Tears](#)
- [Digital Library of Georgia: Cherokee primary sources](#)
- [Sequoyah National Research Center: "Trail of Tears through Arkansas"](#)
- [Southeastern Native American Documents](#)
- [Andrew Jackson's message to Congress 'On Indian Removal'](#)
- [Primary Source Set: Assimilation through Education](#)



[Aboriginal map of Tennessee \[1886\]](#)

[illegible]

For more information on the Battle of Horseshoe Bend [click here](#).

A full-length portrait of a man in a dark suit and bow tie, standing in a room. He is leaning on a table covered with a patterned cloth, which holds various items including books and a quill. A large, ornate chair is visible behind him. The background features a window with a view of a landscape.

Related Links:

- [Office of the Historian: Indian Removal Act of 1830](#)
- [Andrew Jackson: Resource Guide](#)
- [Timeline of Andrew Jackson's Presidency](#)
- [The War of 1812 and Indian Wars](#)
- [Primary Documents in American History: Indian Removal Act](#)

[illegible]

Washington City, 5th March, 1831
Dear Sir: To do right is the first duty
of a representative of the people in the
Congress of the United States ...
[Signed] C. Johnson [1831]

[Click Here](#) for full transcription

Indian Removal Act of 1830 in [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875](#) [1830]

To the public. The following document, in the form of a letter to Mr. James Jackson, has been presented to him, and he has refused to answer [accusing General Jackson and others of fraudulent land deals] Nashville Banner and Nashville Whig. [1828]

[Click Here](#) for the full transcription

[illegible]

THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT AND EMIGRATION

More on Trail of Tears and Emigration

- [Journal of B.B. Canon— Indian Removal 1837](#)
- [Journal of Edward Deas-Indian Removal 1837](#)
- [Speeches regarding the passing of the Indian Removal Act 1830](#)
- [Chief Little John and the Trail of Tears web page](#)

91 APPENDIX.—To Gates & Boston's Register. 92

On Removal of Indians.
[Extracts.]

The Executive of the State of Georgia, in pursuance of the act of the General Assembly, passed on the 28th day of May, 1832, relative to the removal of the Indians from the State, has the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities, and that the same will be published in the Register of the 1st day of June, 1832.

The general object of the regulations will be, to facilitate the removal of the Indians from the State, and to provide for the support of the same, until they are removed to the place of their destination. The regulations are designed to be as liberal as possible, and to be as consistent with the interests of the State as possible.

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 15, 1832.

REPORT OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, ON THE PETITION OF THE CHIEF LITTLE JOHN, AND OTHERS, FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

The Senate of the United States, on the 15th day of February, 1832, received and read the petition of the Chief Little John, and others, for the removal of the Indians from the State of Georgia. The Senate, on the 15th day of February, 1832, resolved, that the petition be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

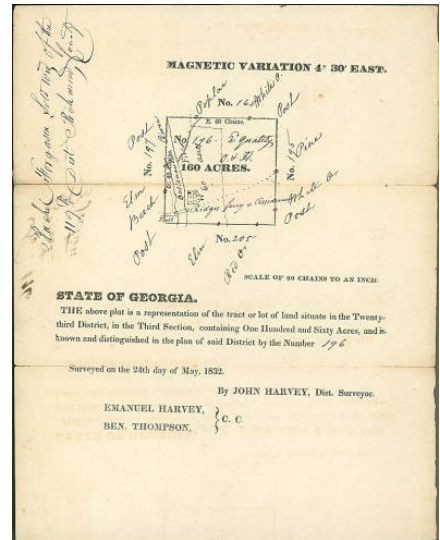
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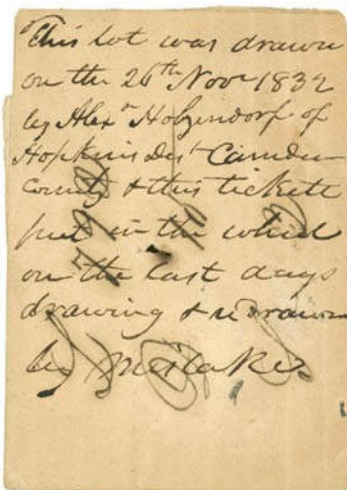
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[Cherokee County plat and land grant issued to Rachel Forgason \[1836\]](#)

On Removal of Indians in [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875](#)[1830]



[Land Lottery Tickets, 1832](#)

[Cherokee Gold Lottery \[1832\]](#)



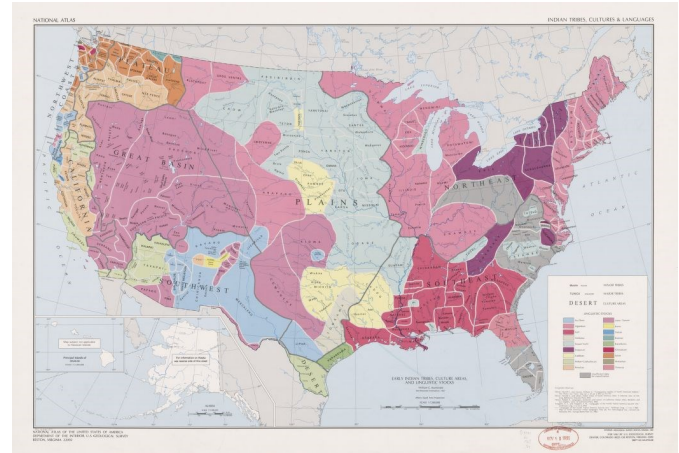
[John Ross, a Cherokee chief / drawn, printed & coloured at the Lithographic & Print Colouring Establishment, 94 Walnut St \[1801-1856?\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE AND RESISTANCE



[P.P. Pitchlynn, Speaker of the National Council of the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw delegate to the government of the United States \[1804-1805?\]](#)

For more on Native American Resistance to the Removal Act [click here](#).



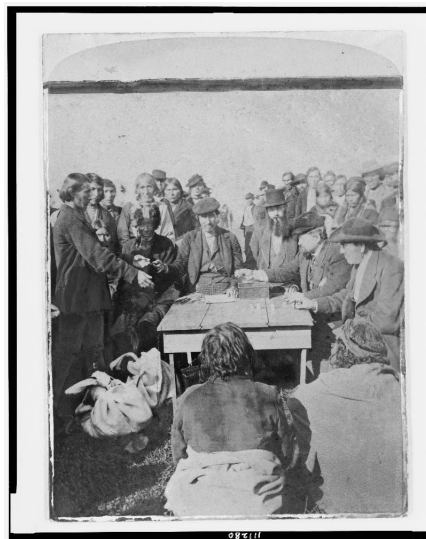
[National atlas. Indian tribes, cultures & languages : \[United States\] \[1991\]](#)

Related Links:

- [Native Americans: Resources for Students](#)
- [The Indians at the time of contact](#) (essay)
- [Music and Native American Heritage Month](#)
- [Native American Culture Today](#)
- [America's Story: Trail of Tears Pow Wow](#)
- [Celebrating Native American Heritage: Whispering Giants](#)
- [Immigration & the destruction of Native American cultures](#)
- [Changing Images of Native Americans](#)
- ["The Cherokee Phoenix" \(Search within database\)](#)
- [Laws of the Cherokee Nation](#)



[Se-Quo-Yah / R.T. ; drawn, printed & coloured at I.T. Bowen's Lithographic Establishment, No. 94 Walnut St. \[1838\]](#)



[Cherokee payments\(?\). Several men seated around table counting coins; large group of Native Americans stand in background \[Between 1870 & 1900\]](#)

CITATIONS: *Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date. The access date for each of these entries is July 5th 2017.*

Cherokee agency, contributor. "Orders No. [25] Head Quarters, Eastern Division Cherokee Agency, Ten. May 17, 1838" manuscript. May 17, 1838. From the Library of Congress, *Printed Ephemera Collection*. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.1740400a>

Royce, C.C., creator. "Map of the former territorial limits of the Cherokee "Nation of" Indians ; Map showing the territory originally assigned Cherokee "Nation of" Indians" map. 1884. From the Library of Congress, *Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C* <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3861e.np000156>

United States Topographical Bureau, contributor. " Map showing the lands assigned to emigrant Indians west of Arkansas and Missouri" map. 1836. From the Library of Congress, *Geography and Map Division*. <https://lccn.loc.gov/99446197>

National Park Service, creator & publisher. " National Historic Trail official Map" map. 2012. From the National Park Service, 2012 pamphlet. <https://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

Goodspeed Publishing Company, publisher. "Aboriginal Map of Tennessee" map. 1886. From the Library of Congress, *Geography and Map Division Washington D.C.* <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006626014>

McEwen , Robert Houston, publisher. "Sketch map of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend of Tallapoosa River, 27th March 1814" manuscript maps. March 27, 1814. From the Library of Congress, *Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.* <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3971s.ct003678>

Ritchie, Alexander Hay, engraver. & Carter, Dennis Malone, artist. "Andrew Jackson" print. 1860. From the Library of Congress, *Prints and Photographs Division*. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/pga.02501/>

Boston: Little, Brown, publisher. "Indian Removal Act of 1836 in Laws, etc. (Public statutes at large of the United States of America)" manuscript. 1830. From the Library of Congress, *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875*. <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=004/llsl004.db&recNum=459>

Benton, Jesse, contributor. "To the public. The following document, in the form of a letter to Mr. James Jackson, has been presented to him, and he has refused to answer [accusing General Jackson and others of fraudulent land deals] Nashville Banner and Nashville Whig" print. 1828. From the Library of Congress, *Broadsides, leaflets, and pamphlets from America and Europe* . <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.17401700/>

Johnson, C. contributor. "Washington City, 5th March, 1831 Dear Sir: To do right is the first duty of a representative of the people in the Congress of the United States ... [Signed] C. Johnson" print. 1831. From the Library of Congress, *Broadsides, leaflets, and pamphlets from America and Europe*. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.17402900>

"Cherokee County plat and land grant issued to Rachel Forgason" document. January 19, 1836. From the Georgia Archives, *Ad Hoc Collection*. <http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/adhoc/id/33>

"On Removal of Indians in A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation" print. February 22, 1830. From the Library of Congress, *U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates*. <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=009/llrd009.db&recNum=551>

"Land Lottery Tickets, 1832 Cherokee Gold Lottery" document. 1832. From the Georgia Archives, *Land Lottery Administrative Records*. <http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/adhoc/id/2792>

Bowen, John T., lithographer. "John Ross, a Cherokee chief / drawn, printed & coloured at the Lithographic & Print Colouring Establishment, 94 Walnut St." colored lithograph. 1836. From the Library of Congress, *Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/pga.07513/>

Fenderich, Charle, lithographer. "P.P. Pitchlynn, Speaker of the National Council of the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw delegate to the government of the United States" lithograph. 1842. From the Library of Congress, *Prints and Photographs Division Washington D.C* <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003656273/>

Sturtevant, William C., contributor. "National atlas. Indian tribes, cultures & languages : [United States]" map. 1991. From the Library of Congress, *Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.* <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3701e.ct003648v>

Bowen, John T., lithographer & Greenough, Fredrick W., publisher. "Se-Quo-Yah / R.T. ; drawn, printed & coloured at I.T. Bowen's Lithographic Establishment, No. 94 Walnut St." lithograph. 1838. From the Library of Congress, *Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/pga.07569/>

"Cherokee payments(?). Several men seated around table counting coins; large group of Native Americans stand in background" photographic print. Between 1870 and 1900. From the Library of Congress, *Prints and Photographs Division Washington D.C.* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c11280/>