

Events that led to the removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia Timeline Activity

Students work individually or in small groups to read a summary of the Creek and Cherokee Indians and events that led to the removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia. Students will use the summary to construct a “background card” about the Creeks and Cherokees then construct a timeline of the events that led to the removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia.

Background Cards Part I:

- Students should read the summary provided by the teacher about the Creeks and Cherokees [copied from the Teacher Notes] then use the information to complete the Background Cards for each group. Also, the students should label the location of the Creeks and Cherokees on the background card maps.
- The teacher should allow students to share their information about the Creeks and Cherokees and review the important facts with the class.

Background Cards Part II:

- Students should read the summary provided by the teacher about the Creeks and Cherokees then use the information to complete a timeline of the events that led to the removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia. The teacher can opt to have students cut out the timeline events to tape/glue on the timeline or copy the events into the correct place on the timeline. *Note – if the students are going to tape/glue the events on the timeline, the teacher should ensure that students have the events in the correct order before the students are allowed to use the tape/glue. Additionally, teachers may opt to have students use the summary to create their own timeline. However, if this option is used, students should be required to include the people and events listed in the standard. Moreover, the teacher should allow students to use the completed timeline below to check their answers.

The Creeks and Cherokees

One of the most tragic events in Georgia's history was the removal of the Creek and Cherokee tribes from the state, culminating with the Trail of Tears, where over 4000 Cherokee died on a forced march from Georgia to Oklahoma.

The Creek Nation was actually a confederation of several southeastern tribes. The Creeks were the most populous tribe in the state and held the largest amount of land. In the colonial period of Georgia, the Creek Nation became a major trading partner with the colony. Many white Georgians intermarried with the Creek and became members of the tribe. Due to these economic and social ties, Georgians initially hoped that the Creek would become members of the plantation economy. While some did, many chose to continue their traditional life style. Their interactions with runaway slaves also led many Creek to oppose the institution of slavery.

Earlier in Georgia's history, the Creek chose to side with the English during the Revolution; thus, causing an antagonistic relationship with many Georgians. Once the deer trade ended, due to a decrease in animal's population, many White Georgians coveted Creek land and pushed state and federal leaders for their removal. Due to this pressure, there were several major Creek land cessions after the Revolution including the Treaty of New York in 1790, which stipulated that the Creeks ceded most of land east of the Ocmulgee river to the United States.

In 1813, a civil war broke out between the Creek Indians. This war called the Red Stick War, was named after the faction of Creeks who wanted to fight the White settlers who were encroaching on their land (those that did not want to fight were called White Sticks). The war ended in a Creek defeat by future President Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, in present day Alabama. Following this war, the Creek lost 22 million acres of land. In 1825, under the Treaty of Indian Springs, a Creek Chief named William McIntosh signed away the remainder of Creek land in Georgia after taking a bribe from an Indian agent. McIntosh was later killed by the Creek Indians for his actions.

The Cherokee lived in the mountains of North Georgia long before Spanish exploration. After the English settled South Carolina and Georgia, they became an important trading partner with England. While the Creek traded with both the French and the English, the Cherokee were exclusively loyal to the English; this loyalty caused much conflict between themselves and the Creek. During the Revolution, the Cherokee continued to support the British and fought the Americans even after the war officially ended. The hostilities continued until 1793.

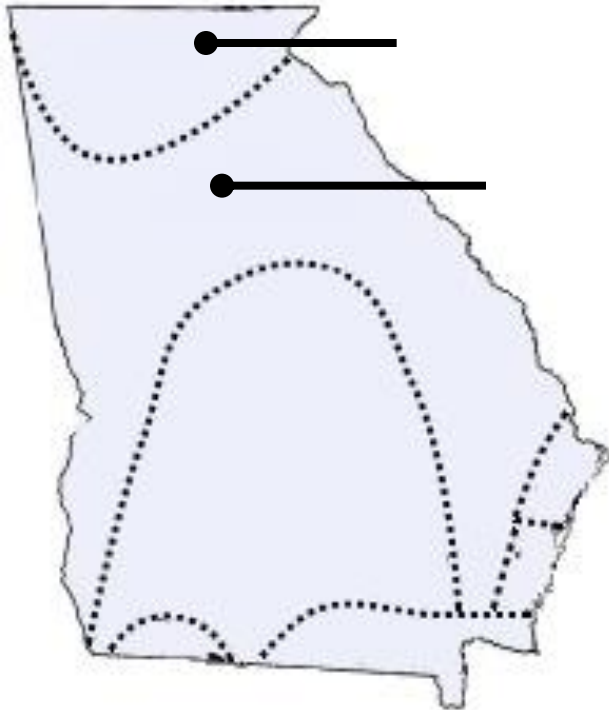
Once peace was established, the Cherokee made several treaties with the United States government, including one that led to the Federal Road being built through their land. During this time period, the Cherokee began to believe that their best hope for maintaining their land would be to transform their society to resemble that of the United States. In the 1820s, the Cherokee developed a written language, a written constitution, and a newspaper. They invited Monrovia missionaries to set up schools and adopted an agricultural system that included the use of slavery. However, none of these changes stopped the whites in Georgia from demanding their removal. Once gold was discovered in 1828, the push for Cherokee removal west of the Mississippi River became greater.

In 1832, the Cherokee won the Supreme Court case Worcester v. Georgia. This decision should have protected the tribe from removal as it maintained that the Cherokee were an independent nation and were not subject to Georgia law. However, in 1835, a small group of Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota without permission from the Cherokee government. Upon receiving it, Andrew Jackson signed the treaty and Congress approved it. In 1838, most of the Cherokee were forcefully removed from the state and suffered on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma.

Creeks

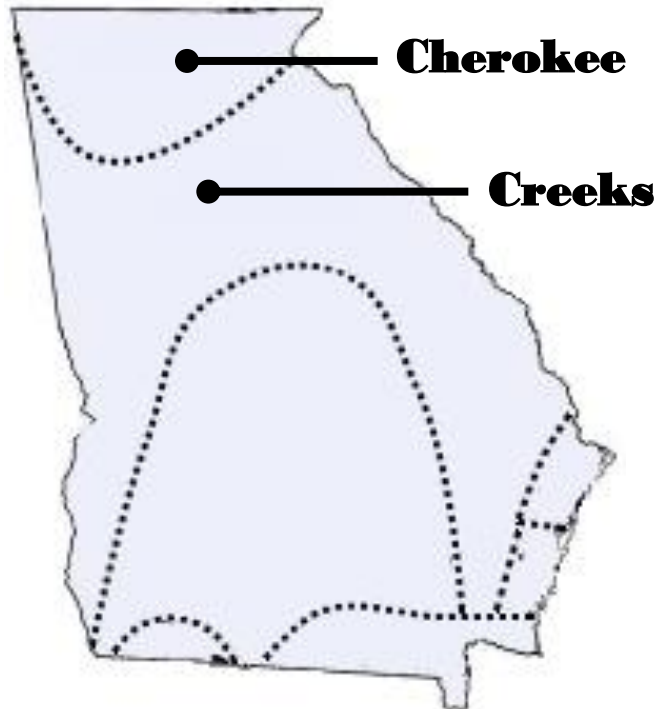
Native American Tribes in Georgia

Cherokees



Creeks

- Part of the Creek Nation (confederation of several southeastern tribes)
- Creeks were the most populous tribes in the state and held the largest amount of land
- In the colonial period, the Creek Nation became a major trading partner with the colony
- Many white Georgians intermarried with the Creek and became members of the tribe
- Due to economic and social ties, Georgians initially hoped that the Creeks would become members of the plantation economy. Some did, but most chose to continue their tribal lifestyle
- Many Creeks opposed slavery because of their interactions with runaway slaves
- An antagonistic relationship existed between the Creeks and many Georgians because the Creeks chose to side with the English during the American Revolution

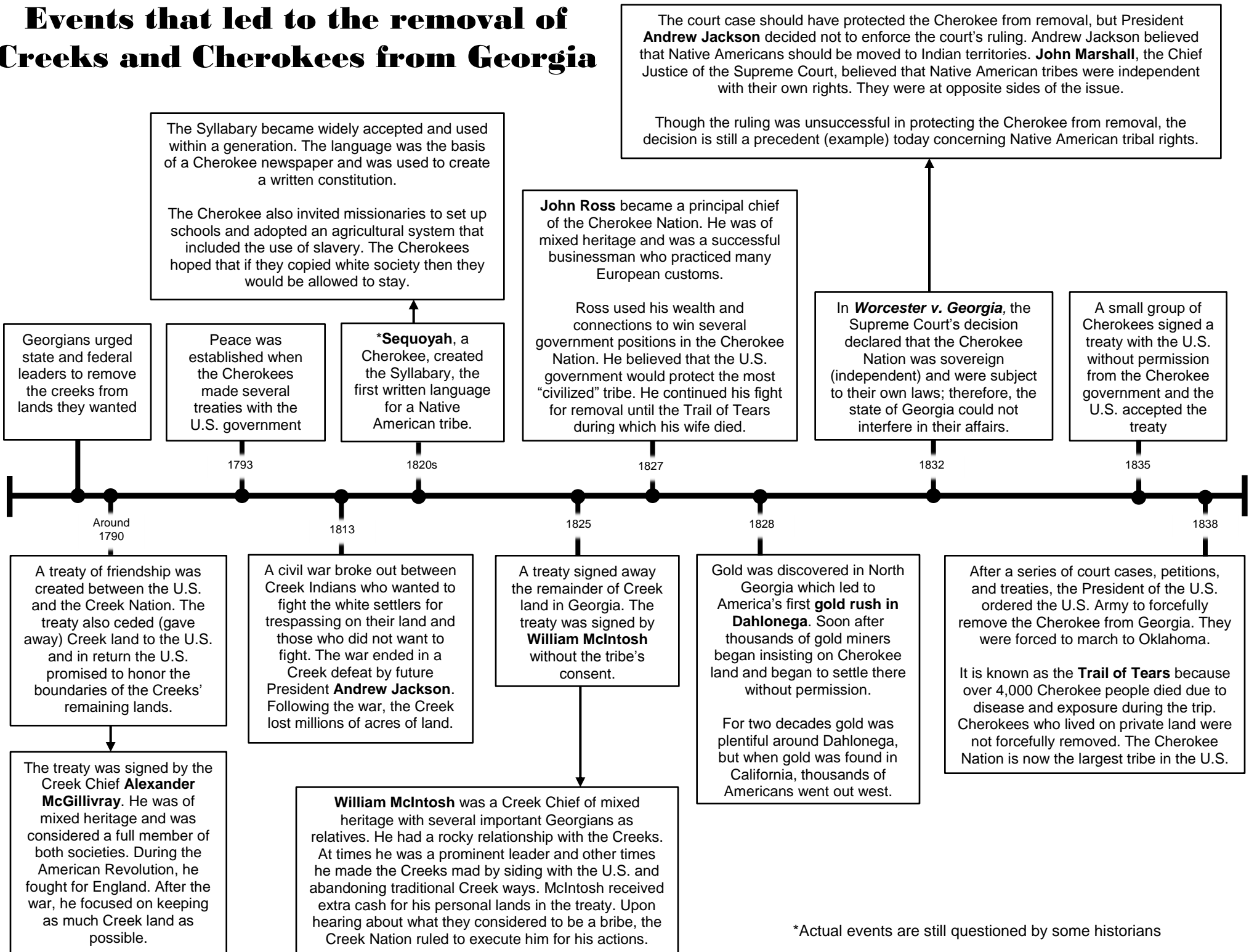


Native American Tribes in Georgia

Cherokees

- The Cherokee lived in the mountains of North Georgia long before Spanish exploration
- After English settlement, the Cherokee became an important trading partner with England
- Cherokee loyalty to England caused much conflict between themselves and the Creeks
- During the Revolution, the Cherokee continued to support the British and fought the Americans even after the war officially ended

Events that led to the removal of Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia



A small group of Cherokees signed a treaty with the U.S. without permission from the Cherokee government and the U.S. accepted the treaty

Georgians urged state and federal leaders to remove the creeks from lands they wanted

A treaty signed away the remainder of Creek land in Georgia. The treaty was signed by **William McIntosh** without the tribe's consent.

The treaty was signed by the Creek Chief **Alexander McGillivray**. He was of mixed heritage and was considered a full member of both societies. During the American Revolution, he fought for England. After the war, he focused on keeping as much Creek land as possible.

Gold was discovered in North Georgia which led to America's first **gold rush in Dahlonega**. Soon after thousands of gold miners began insisting on Cherokee land and began to settle there without permission.

For two decades gold was plentiful around Dahlonega, but when gold was found in California, thousands of Americans went out west.

Peace was established when the Cherokees made several treaties with the U.S. government

A treaty of friendship was created between the U.S. and the Creek Nation. The treaty also ceded (gave away) Creek land to the U.S. and in return the U.S. promised to honor the boundaries of the Creeks' remaining lands.

In **Worcester v. Georgia**, the Supreme Court's decision declared that the Cherokee Nation was sovereign (independent) and were subject to their own laws; therefore, the state of Georgia could not interfere in their affairs.

A civil war broke out between Creek Indians who wanted to fight the white settlers for trespassing on their land and those who did not want to fight. The war ended in a Creek defeat by future President **Andrew Jackson**. Following the war, the Creek lost millions of acres of land.

***Sequoyah**, a Cherokee, created the Syllabary, the first written language for a Native American tribe.

The Syllabary became widely accepted and used within a generation. The language was the basis of a Cherokee newspaper and was used to create a written constitution.

The Cherokee also invited missionaries to set up schools and adopted an agricultural system that included the use of slavery. The Cherokees hoped that if they copied white society then they would be allowed to stay.

John Ross became a principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. He was of mixed heritage and was a successful businessman who practiced many European customs.

Ross used his wealth and connections to win several government positions in the Cherokee Nation. He believed that the U.S. government would protect the most "civilized" tribe. He continued his fight for removal until the Trail of Tears during which his wife died.

After a series of court cases, petitions, and treaties, the President of the U.S. ordered the U.S. Army to forcefully remove the Cherokee from Georgia. They were forced to march to Oklahoma.

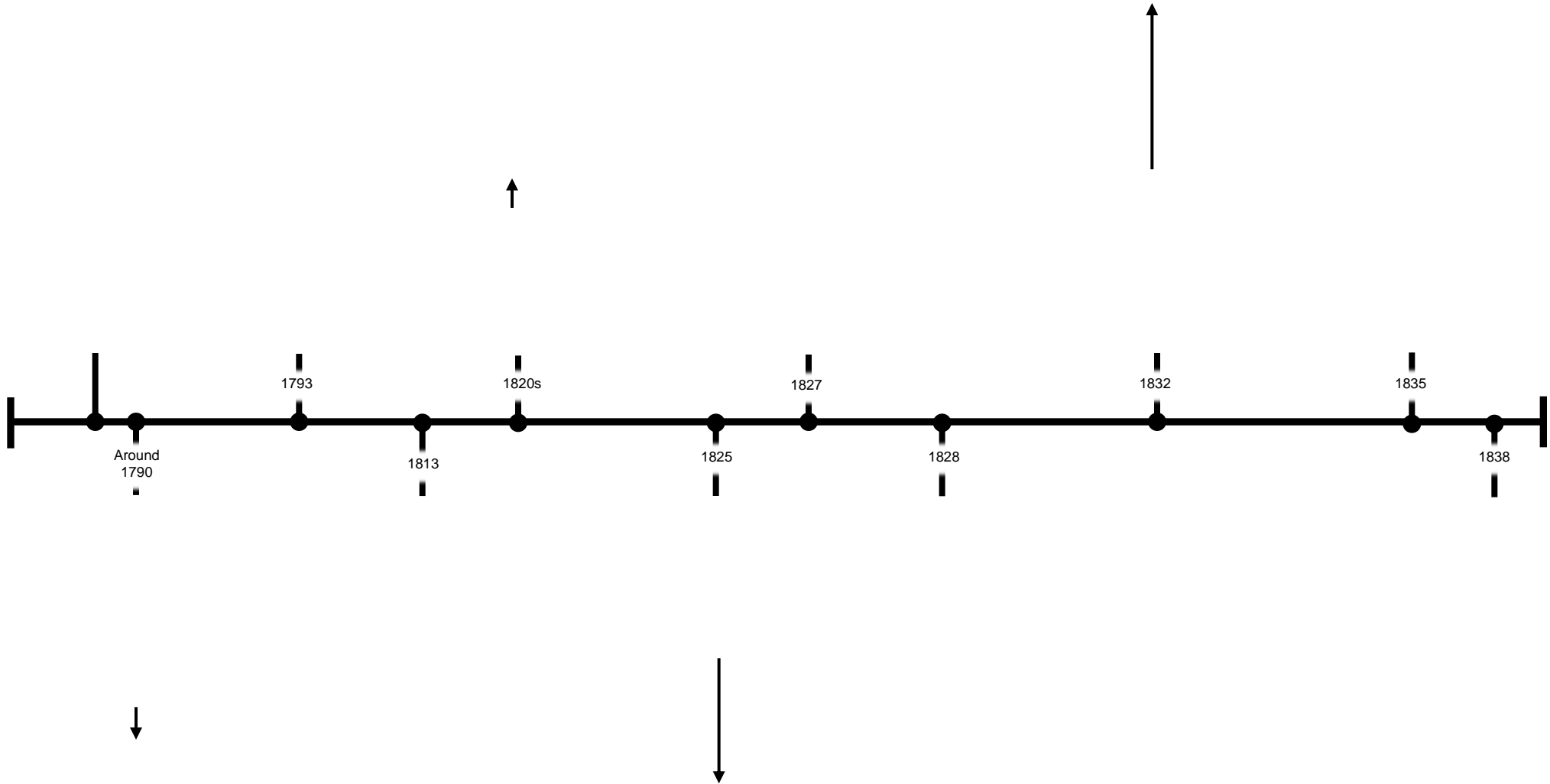
It is known as the **Trail of Tears** because over 4,000 Cherokee people died due to disease and exposure during the trip. Cherokees who lived on private land were not forcefully removed. The Cherokee Nation is now the largest tribe in the U.S.

William McIntosh was a Creek Chief of mixed heritage with several important Georgians as relatives. He had a rocky relationship with the Creeks. At times he was a prominent leader and other times he made the Creeks mad by siding with the U.S. and abandoning traditional Creek ways. McIntosh received extra cash for his personal lands in the treaty. Upon hearing about what they considered to be a bribe, the Creek Nation ruled to execute him for his actions.

The court case should have protected the Cherokee from removal, but President **Andrew Jackson** decided not to enforce the court's ruling. Andrew Jackson believed that Native Americans should be moved to Indian territories. **John Marshall**, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, believed that Native American tribes were independent with their own rights. They were at opposite sides of the issue.

Though the ruling was unsuccessful in protecting the Cherokee from removal, the decision is still a precedent (example) today concerning Native American tribal rights.

Events that led to the removal of Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia



Name _____ Date _____ Period ____

*Actual events are still questioned by some historians