

# The Trail of Tears

Why were the Cherokee Natives removed from Georgia? What is the impact of Cherokee removal on Georgia?

Target audience – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Georgia History Teachers

Time required – 15 minutes

<b>Activity</b>	Analyze how the role of key people and events led to the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia.
<b>Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies</b>	<b>SS8H4 Explain significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840.</b> e. Analyze how key people (John Ross, John Marshall, and Andrew Jackson) and events (Dahlonega Gold Rush and Worcester v. Georgia) led to the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia known as the Trail of Tears.
<b>Map &amp; Globe Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use map key/legend to acquire information from historical, physical, political resource, product and economic maps.</li><li>• Draw conclusions and make generalizations based on information from maps.</li><li>• Compare maps of the same place at different points in time and from different perspectives to determine changes, identify trends, and generalize about human activity.</li></ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will be able to explain significant factors that affected the development of Georgia as part of the growth of the United States between 1789 and 1840.</li><li>• Students will be able to analyze the geographic and social changes in Georgia as a result of Cherokee removal.</li></ul>

Map URL <https://arcg.is/1y4ui4>

## ASK

**Who were the two most powerful nations with colonies east of the Mississippi River?**

**Open Legend**

? Where is Georgia located in the United States? Click on each state for the name to appear. [*Southeast US*]

**Click on the layer, Cherokee Nation Border**

? Where is the Cherokee Nation located? [*Northwest Georgia*]

? Why would the Cherokee Nation territories be disputed? What patterns do you notice? [*disputed territories are within Georgia's western boundaries*]

## AQUIRE

**Where did the Dahlonega Gold Rush occur?**

**Explain to students "Gold was discovered on Cherokee lands near Dahlonega, GA in 1829. Prospectors rushed there ignoring Cherokee territorial rights."**

**Click on the layer, Gold Mining Regions.**

? Where did the majority of mining occur? [*Northwest Georgia, within Cherokee sacred land.*]

**How did the Gold Rush impact Cherokee Natives?**

**Click on the layer, Missions. Review with students that "In the late 1780s U.S. officials began to urge the Cherokees to abandon hunting and their traditional ways of life and to instead learn how to live, worship, and farm like Christian Americans. This encourage many Cherokee natives to "civilize" themselves by developing their own syllabary, written constitution, establishing a Republican government and court system."**

? What could be said about the relationship between the location of the religious missions in Georgia and pressures to cede their territory to Georgians? [The locations of the missions are within Cherokee lands. This could show the efforts put forth by the Cherokee to assimilate to their European neighbors.]

**Open and read the map note shaped as a judge's gavel.**

? What was the name of the Treaty that legalized the forced removal of Cherokee natives?

[Treaty of New Echota]

**Click on layers, Territories 1763 and Georgia 1763**

- ? How did the Treaty of New Echota impact Georgia's boundaries? [Cherokees began to be removed.]
- ? What are the two main routes used to forcibly remove Cherokee natives from Georgia? [Water and Land Routes.]

## EXPLORE

### What was the purpose of the Treaty of New Echota?

□ Turn on the layer Trail of Tears Timeline.

□ Open and Read the Map Note (Judge's Gavel) located within Cherokee Territory.

? What was the significance of the Treaty? How does this legislation compare to the Supreme Court's decision in Worcester v. Georgia? [This treaty was the legal backing for the Trail of Tears. The treaty is controversial in that it was held in contempt because Major Ridge, Cherokee Chief, claimed to be representing the entire Cherokee Nation in signing the act, but, only a small percent of Cherokees agreed with the treaty. This treaty went against the later Supreme Court's decision in Worcester v. Georgia, the court case that determined Cherokees had the right to sovereignty on their sacred lands.]

□ Open and Read the Map Note (Camping Tent).

? The forced removal was a gradual process. Therefore, how did Georgia soldiers begin the process of removal? [During the early stages of Cherokee Removal, soldiers rounded up the Native Americans and held them in makeshift camps until it was time to start the long trek west.]

□ Click on the green shaded area of the Trail of Tears Timeline.

? Why were some Cherokee Natives not immediately removed? What was the hinderance? [The Trail of Tears was many times not a flat and easy route. Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and other natural features made the journey long, slow, and treacherous. The hinderance was the Appalachian Mountains creating a natural physical barrier for any travel West.]

### What was the impact of the forced removal on Cherokee natives?

□ Explore each map note of the Trail of Tears Timeline layer.

? How were Cherokee natives treated during the removal? [Very harsh, weather and traveling conditions proved to be fatal for many.]

? How did some groups within the Cherokee tribe deal with the removal? [300 Cherokee natives in Bellefonte, AL escaped the forced removal, ultimately resisting the removal.]

? There were countless causes of death on the trail. List three causes of death one could encounter on the Trail of Tears? [Measles, whooping cough, starvation]

## ANALYZE

### Why were the Cherokees removed?

□ Watch video on the Trail of Tears. [https://www.gpb.org/georgiastories/stories/trail\\_of\\_tears](https://www.gpb.org/georgiastories/stories/trail_of_tears)

? Identify alternative actions the United States government could have taken with the Cherokees instead of the forced removal.? [Answers will vary.]

? Compare and contrast the removal of Native Americans from Georgia with the forced emigration of Africans to the New World in the Atlantic Slave Trade, or the forced movement of European Jews to internment camps during World War II? [Answers will vary.]

□ Turn on Full Trail of Tears sections layer and Present Day Native American Reservations layer.

? Trace the full Trail of Tears sections and compare the relationship between those trails to modern day settlements of Cherokee natives.

## ACT

### **How did the forced removal of Cherokee natives impact Westward Expansion of Georgia from 1789 to 1840?**

- ? How do the events leading to the Trail of Tears dictate Georgia's attitudes towards the Westward Expansion of the state? [The removal of the Cherokees was a product of the demand for arable land during the rampant growth of cotton agriculture in the Southeast, the discovery of gold ("Dahlonge Gold Rush") on Cherokee land, and the racial prejudice, ignited further by the politics of Andrew Jackson, that many white southerners harbored toward American Indians.]