Was the Cherokee Removal fair?


Supporting Questions

1. What was the position of the government and military officials towards the Removal of the Cherokee?
2. What was the message of groups which opposed the Removal of the Cherokee?
3. What factors not mentioned in President Jackson’s Address to Congress may have been causes of the Cherokee Removal?
4. What were the consequences of the Cherokee Removal Act fifty years later?
## Was the Cherokee Removal fair?

**Inquiry Standard**
Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations into a reasoned argument about the past. (D2.His.16.9—12)

**Staging the Compelling Question**

### Supporting Question 1
What was the position of the government and military officials towards the Removal of the Cherokee?

#### Formative Performance Task
Analyze the following primary sources using the SCIM-C analysis tool.

#### Featured Sources
- Source B: President Jackson’s Second Annual Address to Congress: December 7, 1830

### Supporting Question 2
What was the message of groups which opposed the Removal of the Cherokee?

#### Formative Performance Task
Analyze the following primary sources using the SCIM-C analysis tool.

#### Featured Sources
- Source A: Circular of the New-York Committee in aid of the Cherokee Nation
- Source B: Memoir of the Cherokee Nation

### Supporting Question 3
What factors not mentioned in President Jackson’s Address to Congress may have been causes of the Cherokee Removal?

#### Formative Performance Task
Analyze the following primary sources using the SCIM-C analysis tool.

#### Featured Sources
- Source A: A map of the second section of that part of Georgia now known as the Cherokee Territory in which are delineated all the districts & lots which by an act of the General Assembly were designated the Gold Districts and taken from actual survey
- Source B: Georgia Land Lottery

### Supporting Question 4
What were the consequences of the Cherokee Removal Act fifty years later?

#### Formative Performance Task
Analyze the following primary source using the SCIM-C analysis tool.

#### Featured Sources
Source A: Historical caricature of the Cherokee Nation

## ARGUMENT
Create a graphic organizer categorizing the various arguments for and against the Cherokee Removal from their lands in the state of Georgia.

## EXTENSION
Form a group of four or more of your fellow students and prepare to defend a specific point of view in a mock Congressional debate on the Indian Removal Act. Your “team” should not only make an argument from the point of view of people of the time but should also attempt to anticipate other groups arguments and prepare to counter them.

## UNDERSTAND ASSESS ACTION
Create a document that identifies, explains, and defends the rights of a minority group whose rights are being denied in order to serve the needs of the majority today. (You can write a letter to a government official, a letter to the editor, create a poster, or write a poem or song or use any medium which will convey your message.)
Supporting Question 1

Featured Source A

orders No. 25 head quarters, eastern division Cherokee agency, Ten. May 17, 1838. [n. p. 1838].

[Image] retrieved from the library of congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.1740400a/.
It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important tribes have accepted the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress, and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes also to seek the same obvious advantages.

The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north and Louisiana on the south to the settlement of the whites it will incalculably strengthen the southwestern frontier and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasions without remote aid. It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

The present policy of the Government is but a continuation of the same progressive change by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the Eastern States were annihilated or have melted away to make room for the whites. The waves of population and civilization are rolling to the westward, and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the South and West by a fair exchange, and, at the expense of the United States, to send them to land where their existence may be prolonged and perhaps made perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children by thousands yearly leave the land of their birth to seek new homes in distant regions. Does Humanity weep at these painful separations from everything, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become entwined? Far from it. It is rather a source of joy that our country affords scope where our young population may range from everything, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become entwined. It is rather a source of joy that our country affords scope where our young population may range unconstrained in body or in mind, developing the power and facilities of man in their highest perfection. These remove hundreds and almost thousands of miles at their own expense, purchase the lands they occupy, and support themselves at their new homes from the moment of their arrival. Can it be cruel in this Government when, by events which it can not control, the Indian is made discontented in his ancient home to purchase his lands, to give him a new and extensive territory, to pay the expense of his removal, and support him a year in his new abode? How many thousands of our own people would gladly embrace the opportunity of removing to the West on such conditions! If the offers made to the Indians were extended to them, they would be hailed with gratitude and joy.

And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more afflicting to him to leave the graves of his fathers than it is to our brothers and children? Rightly considered, the policy of the General Government toward the red man is not only liberal, but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

Source:
A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875
https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&..
Circular of the New-York Committee in aid of the Cherokee Nation.

Sir,—We address you, and through you the friends of justice and humanity, in that part of the country where you reside. We are deeply impressed with the conviction, that great wrongs have been committed against the Cherokee nation, and that still greater are threatened. The fate of the United States has been solemnly pledged to these defenceless persons, in many treaties, which have been ratified by all the forms of the Constitution. President Washington and his four immediate successors, uniting with the Senate in the ratification. The other House of Congress has sanctioned these treaties, by passing laws to carry their provisions into effect, and their validity has been recognized in various ways, by every department of the National Government, and also of the State of Georgia.

In utter disregard of these facts, and in violation of these solemn sanctions, the Legislature of Georgia has, within the last four years, passed laws whose direct and only object was the acquisition of the Cherokee lands. In the pursuit of this object, while the public rights of the Cherokee nation have been trampled on, the feelings, the persons, and the property of individuals, have been cruelly outraged.

The Cherokees are discerning and determined to appeal to all competent tribunals for the redress of these wrongs: to the Supreme Court of the United States, as seems shall arise proper for its examination; to Congress, by memorials from themselves and their friends, urging the execution of laws and treaties; and finally, to public opinion, presenting to this highest of human tribunals, the unanswerable story of Indian rights and Indian sufferings.

We transmit a copy of the memorial to be sent from this city, and respectfully ask you to co-operate with us in our efforts, to secure to the Cherokees the accomplishment of these objects. We would particularly suggest to you the expediency of calling on friends, and on the subject. Even when two or three only are gathered together in the name of justice, a blessing will attend their deeds.

Let such meetings petition Congress—let them make contributions to enable this injured people to defray the expenses of their delegation at Washington—if demanding their rights, and of supporting the newspaper (the Cherokee Phoenix) which tells the tale of the outrages they are daily suffering. Above all, let the friends of justice, and the lovers of the real honor of our country, do all in their power, individually and collectively, to diffuse correct information and worthy sentiments on this important subject.

Let the virtuous and the high-minded speak out their feelings; let them lend the aid of their zeal and their influence in this holy cause. With each act, we shall indulge the confident hope, that the right will ultimately and gloriously triumph.

New York, February 10, 1832.

ELEAZAR LORD,
JOSEPH BLUNT,

On behalf of a Committee, appointed at a Public Meeting held in this city, Feb. 1832.

N. C. PATTERSON,
W. EMERSON,

W. EMERSON.

N. B. Petitory contributions may be transmitted to ELEAZAR LORD, Treasurer, at No. 20 Wall-street, New-York, or to either of the above named Committee, and will be devoted to the objects mentioned, according to the last discretion of the Committee.

Memorial letters are statements of fact directed to a legislature as the basis of a petition or accompanying a petition. This memorial letter, written in December of 1829 to the United States Congress, was printed in January, 1830 in the Cherokee Phoenix, the first American Indian newspaper. It was then reprinted in the March 13, 1830 issue of Niles Weekly Register, a periodical published in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Memorial of the Cherokee Nation, 1830:**

"We are aware that some persons suppose it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the Mississippi. We think otherwise. Our people universally think otherwise. Thinking that it would be fatal to their interests, they have almost to a man sent their memorial to Congress, deprecating the necessity of a removal. . . . It is incredible that Georgia should ever have enacted the oppressive laws to which reference is here made, unless she had supposed that something extremely terrific in its character was necessary in order to make the Cherokees willing to remove. We are not willing to remove; and if we could be brought to this extremity, it would be not by argument, nor because our judgment was satisfied, not because our condition will be improved; but only because we cannot endure to be deprived of our national and individual rights and subjected to a process of intolerable oppression. We wish to remain on the land of our fathers. We have a perfect and original right to remain without interruption or molestation. The treaties with us, and laws of the United States made in pursuance of treaties, guaranty our residence and our privileges, and secure us against intruders. Our only request is, that these treaties may be fulfilled, and these laws executed. But if we are compelled to leave our country, we see nothing but ruin before us. The country west of the Arkansas territory is unknown to us. From what we can learn of it, we have no prepossessions in its favor. All the inviting parts of it, as we believe, are preoccupied by various Indian nations, to which it has been assigned. They would regard us as intruders. . . . The far greater part of that region is, beyond all controversy, badly supplied with wood and water; and no Indian tribe can live as agriculturists without these articles. All our neighbors . . . would speak a language totally different from ours, and practice different customs. The original possessors of that region are now wandering savages lurking for prey in the neighborhood. . . . Were the country to which we are urged much better than it is represented to be, . . . still it is not the land of our birth, nor of our affections. It contains neither the scenes of our childhood, nor the graves of our fathers. . . . We have been called a poor, ignorant, and degraded people. We certainly are not rich; nor have we ever boasted of our knowledge, or our moral or intellectual elevation. But there is not a man within our limits so ignorant as not to know that he has a right to live on the land of his fathers, in the possession of his immemorial privileges, and that this right has been acknowledged by the United States; nor is there a man so degraded as not to feel a keen sense of injury, on being deprived of his right and driven into exile. . . . ". Reprinted from "Memorial of the Cherokee Nation," in Nile’s Weekly Register, 1830.

**Source:**
A map of the second section of that part of Georgia now known as the Cherokee Territory in which are delineated all the districts & lots which by an act of the General Assembly were designated the Gold Districts and taken from actual survey.

Green, O. & Cowles, D. &. C. (1830) A map of the second section of that part of Georgia now known as the Cherokee Territory in which are delineated all the districts & lots which by an act of the General Assembly were designated the Gold Districts and taken from actual survey. [U.S.: Cowles, Daggett & Co., 183-?] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/82690523/.
## Summative Performance Task

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## Taking Informed Action

Create a document that identifies, explains, and defends the rights of a minority group whose rights are being denied in order to serve the needs of the majority today. (You can write a letter to a government official, a letter to the editor, create a poster, or write a poem or song or use any medium which will convey your message.)