

# Chapter 5

## A Clash of Cultures

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

impressment, Missouri Compromise, migrate, cede, subsistence, assimilation, syllabary, Indian Removal Act, allotment, lottery

#### PEOPLE

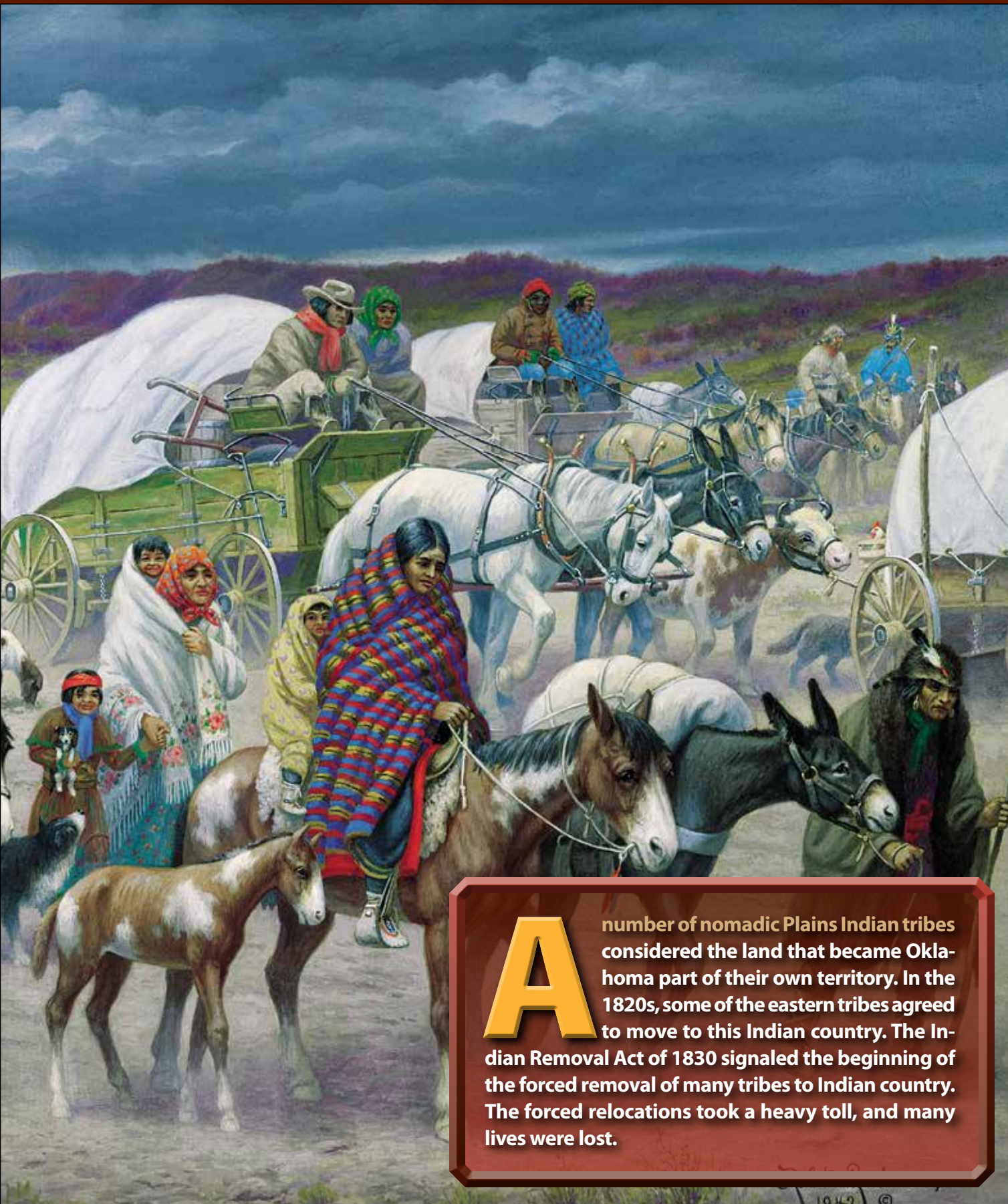
Wichita, Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Kichai, Shawnee, Osage, Quapaw, Cherokee, Andrew Jackson, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, Sequoyah, Seneca, Kickapoo, Euchee, Cayuga, Montfort Stokes

#### PLACES

Missouri Territory, Arkansas Territory, Salina, Fort Smith, Fort Gibson, Fort Towson, Cherokee Outlet



*The Trail of Tears* by Robert Lindneux hangs in the Woolaroc Museum.



**A** number of nomadic Plains Indian tribes considered the land that became Oklahoma part of their own territory. In the 1820s, some of the eastern tribes agreed to move to this Indian country. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 signaled the beginning of the forced removal of many tribes to Indian country. The forced relocations took a heavy toll, and many lives were lost.



# Signs of the Times

## GAMES

By 1820, the violent game of “ballown” was played at the College of New Jersey (later known as Princeton University).

About the same time, students at Dartmouth College were playing a kicking game that was later called Old Division Football.

## EDUCATION

The first woman’s college opened in New York in 1821. The first public high school was established in Boston in 1821. In 1836, the first McGuffey reader was introduced as an elementary reading book.

## NEWS

In 1820, the whaling ship *Essex* was rammed and sunk by a whale in the Pacific Ocean. Eight survivors were found 94 days later. Herman Melville, a sailor aboard the whaling ship *Acushnet*, was greatly influenced by the story and wrote *Moby Dick* in 1851.

## TRANSPORTATION

The *Tom Thumb*, America’s first steam-driven locomotive, began service on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1832, the Erie Canal was completed.

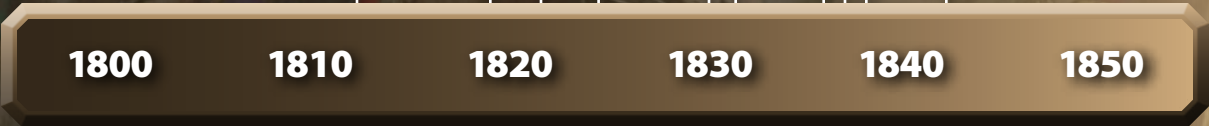
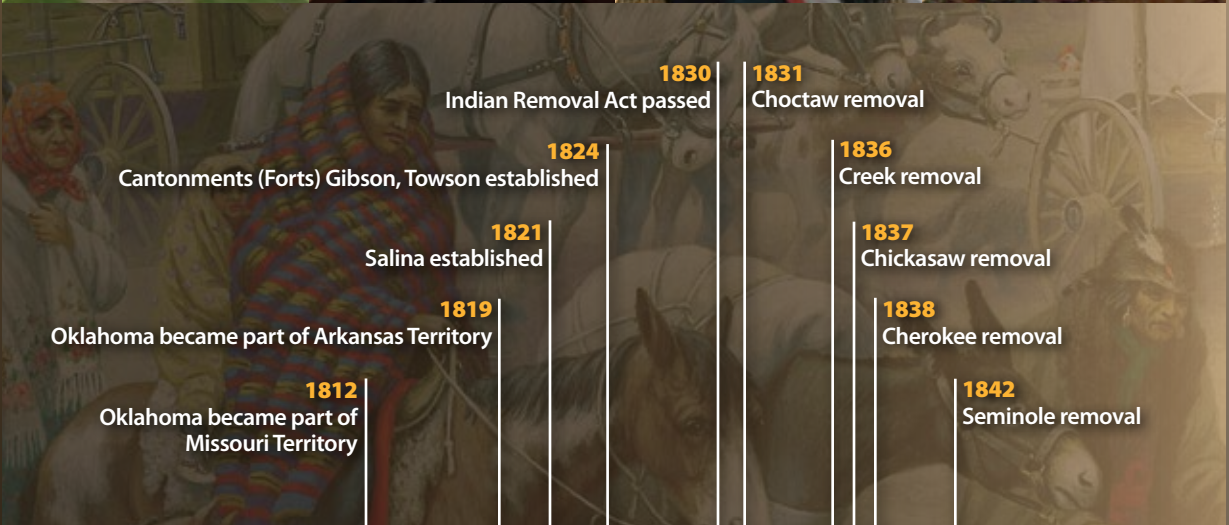
## INVENTIONS

In 1829, Frenchman Louis Braille developed Braille printing. American Cyrus H. McCormick invented the first commercially successful reaper in 1831.

## LITERATURE

Noah Webster published *American Dictionary of the English Language* in 1828. Edgar Allan Poe became known for his poetry and short stories.

## Figure 5 Timeline: 1800–1850



# Section 1

## Treaties

### Something Extra!

Francis Scott Key wrote the words to “The Star-Spangled Banner” as he witnessed the Battle of Fort McHenry during the British assault on Baltimore during the War of 1812. Congress officially adopted the song as our national anthem in 1931.

### As you read, look for

- Oklahoma’s position as a U.S. territory,
- U.S. participation in the War of 1812,
- the tribes that migrated to Oklahoma in the late 1700s and early 1800s,
- early forts established in the area,
- vocabulary terms **impressment**, **Missouri Compromise**, **migrate**, **cede**, and **subsistence**.

**President Jefferson wanted to tie the Indian nations to the United States** with treaties, partly to help assure the security of the new country. The treaties were intended to gain land and trade and to keep the Indian tribes as allies of the United States rather than of any European country. Jefferson believed the lands belonged to the Indians, but he hoped to use treaties to speed up the process of obtaining those lands for white



**President Jefferson** hoped to turn the Indians away from their traditional way of life.



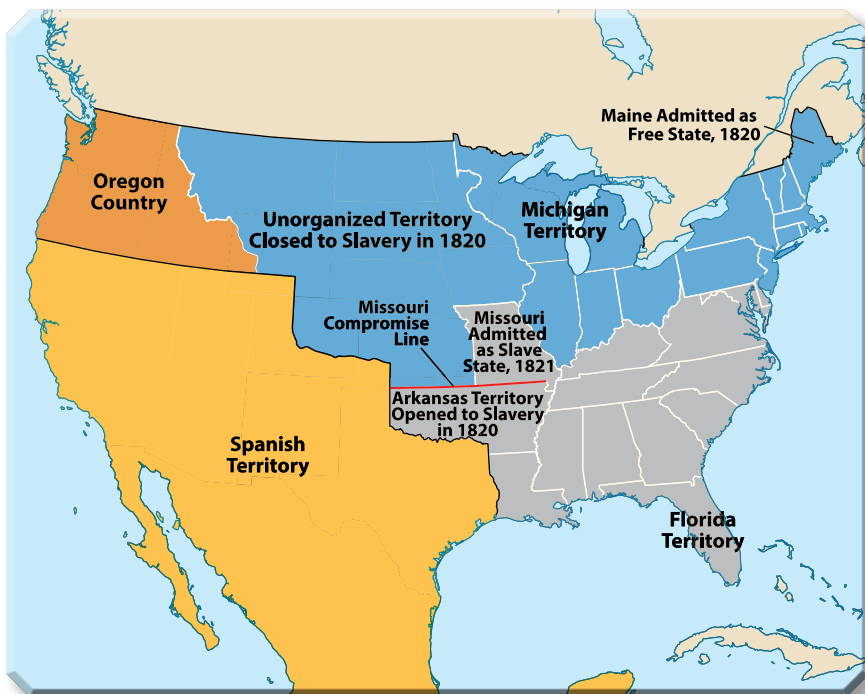
settlement. He also hoped to use treaties to slowly encourage Indians to adopt the European way of life, shifting from hunting to farming.

Europeans argued that the natives of America were inferior, but Jefferson replied, "I believe the Indian then to be in body and mind equal to the whiteman." He felt that changing the Indians' environment would make them accept, and become like, the white man's "American." The vast territory the United States gained in the Louisiana Purchase kept European countries from colonizing in the area. That western land could be traded to the Indians for their eastern lands, which were in high demand by settlers. No one could foresee that white settlement would soon reach from coast to coast.

## New States

The territory claimed by the United States was steadily being carved up to form states. According to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, a territory had to have at least 60,000 residents before it could seek statehood. In 1812, the Territory of Orleans became the state of Louisiana. The Territory of Louisiana, which included Oklahoma, was renamed the Missouri Territory.

**General Andrew Jackson (with sword raised) won the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, the final battle of the War of 1812. Later, as president, he pushed to remove all the Native Americans in the Southeast to the lands west of the Mississippi River.**



That year also saw the beginning of the War of 1812 in which the United States hoped to gain respect, stop British colonizing efforts in the United States, and halt the British practice of **impressment** (forcing U.S. sailors to serve in the British navy). The British won most of the battles of the war and burned the U.S. Capitol and the White House in Washington, D.C., in 1814. Not knowing that the war had already ended, however, Major General Andrew Jackson soundly defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. The Treaty of Ghent officially ended

the war and restored and clarified U.S. boundaries. The war also proved the Americans' strength and character.

With clear boundaries, the westward push continued. Even more white settlers poured into the region west of the Mississippi River. In 1819, Oklahoma became part of Arkansas Territory. When Missouri and Maine both sought statehood in 1817, tensions rose over the balance of free and slave states. Statesman Henry Clay resolved the issue with the **Missouri Compromise** of 1820, which admitted Missouri as a state that allowed slavery and Maine as a state in which slavery was not permitted. The Missouri Compromise also prohibited slavery north of Missouri's (and the Oklahoma Panhandle's) southern border at 36° 30' north latitude.

The solution to the slavery issue proved to be temporary. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 essentially abolished the 1820 compromise. In the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress had no power to bar slavery in any of the new territories. The slavery debate would erupt into the Civil War four years later, creating new havoc in Oklahoma.

### Early Migrations

For years, many Indian tribes had found the land of Oklahoma ideal for hunting and trading, in spite of some calling it "desertlike." Tribes sometimes moved from one area to another to find better food sources or to escape enemy tribes. An average territory or roaming area for many Plains Indians was 500-800 miles. Early on, Oklahoma was included in the roaming area of several tribes.

The Wichita tribe had relocated from the northern part of Oklahoma to the southern Red River valley partly to escape their hated enemy, the

## Map 20 Missouri Compromise

**Map Skill:** Where were all the free states located?



**James Monroe** was an American statesman, lawyer, diplomat, and Founding Father who served as the fifth president of the United States from 1817 to 1825.

Osage. The Wichita, known as reliable and hospitable to their friends, grew corn, pumpkins, beans, and tobacco. They traded mats made from dried pumpkin strands and surplus crops to the Comanche for horses, mules, and buffalo robes. They were also known to raid enemy camps, taking horses and captives.

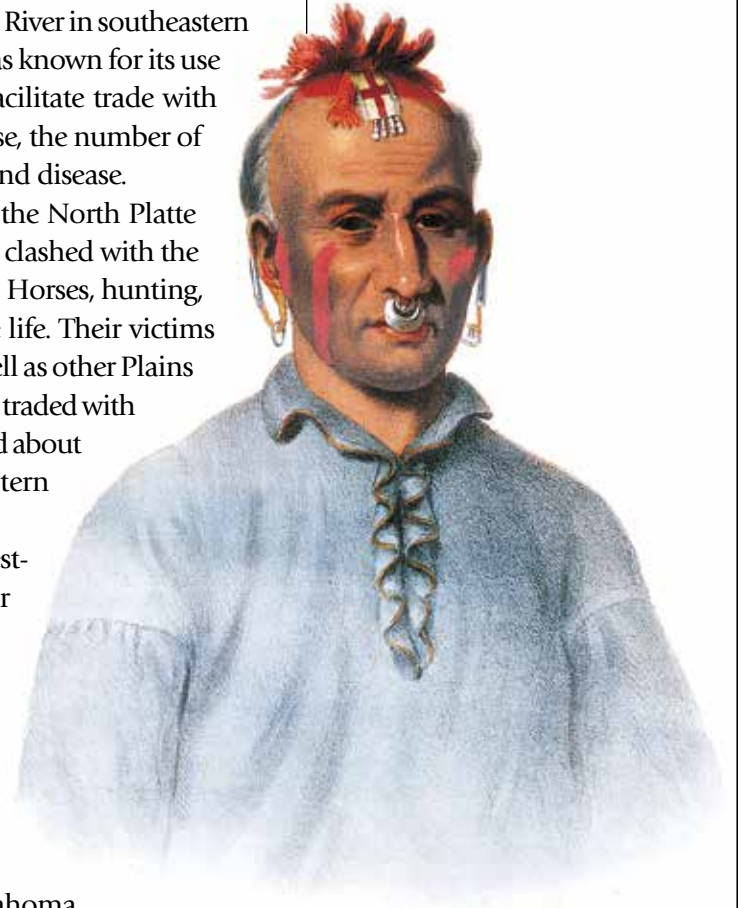
Some Caddo were also living along the Red River in southeastern Oklahoma. The sociable, industrious tribe was known for its use of sign language, which was developed to facilitate trade with other tribes. Soon after the Louisiana Purchase, the number of Caddo people decreased greatly due to war and disease.

In the 1700s, the Comanche tribe was in the North Platte River area of what is now Wyoming, but they clashed with the Sioux and moved south to the Central Plains. Horses, hunting, and warfare were a major part of Comanche life. Their victims included Spanish and American settlers, as well as other Plains tribes. Some of the northern Comanche bands traded with Thomas James at a stockade post he established about 1822 near the Canadian River in northwestern Oklahoma.

Members of the Kiowa tribe were in the western Montana region in the early 1700s. Later they allied with the Crow tribe when they moved out of the mountains. They eventually drifted to the Central Plains, where they fought the Comanche. In the late 1700s, the Kiowa and Comanche tribes became allies, but the Kiowa were enemies of the Caddo, Tonkawa, and others. In 1833, Osage warriors attacked a Kiowa camp in southwestern Oklahoma killing some 150 Kiowa in what is now called the Cutthroat Gap Massacre. Another tribe, the Kiowa-Apache, took refuge with the Kiowa as they moved south along the base of the Rocky Mountains, but they were also known to roam the Great Plains.

The Kichai were in Texas and Louisiana in the 1700s; by the 1800s, they had moved into western Oklahoma. Several bands were living with the Wichita in 1837. Some of the Shawnee **migrated** (moved from one place to another) into Oklahoma in the early 1800s, and the southwestern bands became known as Absentee Shawnee. They settled along the Canadian River. Some bands of Delaware were in Indian Territory as early as 1812, when they were at war with the Osage.

The Osage tribal territory in the 1700s was between the Missouri River and the Arkansas River, which included northeastern Oklahoma. The large Osage band was often at war with other tribes. Hunting parties of eastern tribes that ventured into Oklahoma often found themselves in skirmishes with the Osage. The Chouteau brothers, long-time French traders, persuaded an Osage band to relocate their village



**Shawnee chief Kish-Kal-Wah led a delegation of Shawnee to Washington, D.C., in 1825 where he was received at the White House.**





to northeastern Oklahoma in order to continue the Chouteaus' trading business. In fact, the oldest permanent white settlement in Oklahoma—Salina—was established in 1821 as a trading post by Joseph Revoir and the Chouteaus.

Quapaw Indians were in eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas. Their language was similar to the Osage, but the Quapaw was a smaller and more peaceful tribe. In a treaty signed in 1818, the Quapaw **ceded** (turned over) most of its territory to the United States, retaining only a small tract in Arkansas. In 1824, the tribe, devastated by disease, moved to join the Caddo along the Red River. When that effort failed, the Quapaw again moved in 1833 to a small area near the Seneca tribe in northeastern Oklahoma. A later survey found that some had built their homes on Seneca land, which resulted in many Quapaw leaving the area, not to return until after the Civil War.

In the late 1700s, a hostile band of Cherokee had moved to the Arkansas Territory from along the Tennessee River. These Western Cherokee were often at war with the Osage, which the federal government believed would stop other eastern

**Above:** Osage chief Le Soldat du Chene. This portrait was made in Philadelphia on a visit with Colonel Chouteau in the early 1800s. The Osage were driven from their land in Indian territory by the Western Cherokee, relocating to Kansas Territory.

## Something Extra!

The town of Claremore is named after Clermont, an Osage chief.



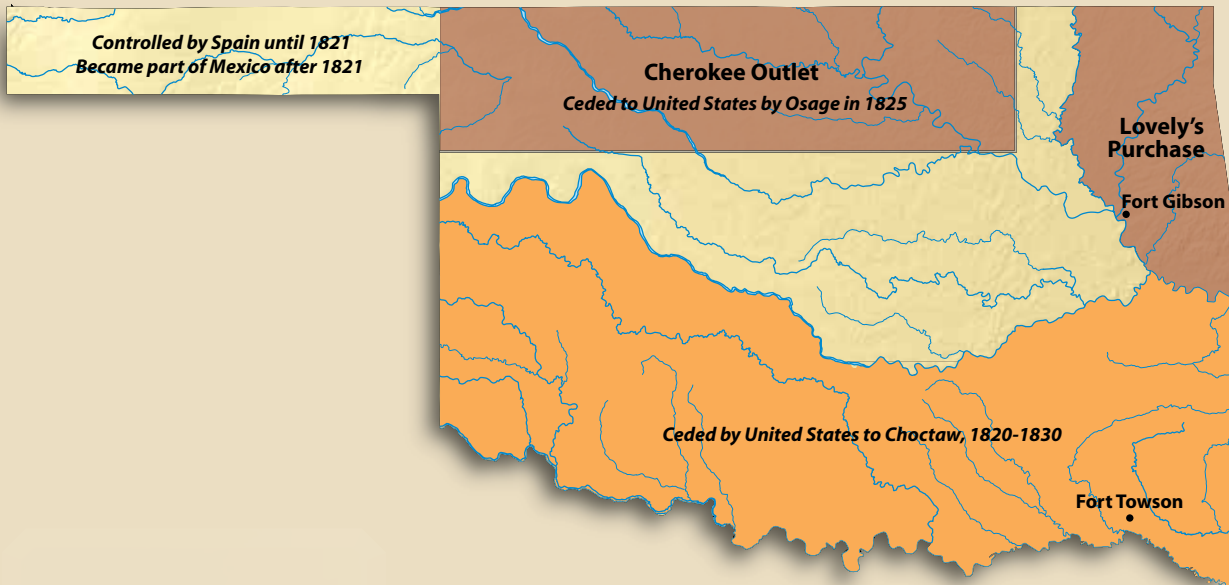
tribes from relocating. To stop the Indian wars, the United States encouraged the Osage to cede most of their Arkansas and Missouri land in 1808. The 1816 Lovely's Purchase Treaty (Major William Lovely was the government agent to the Cherokee) traded hunting land for the Cherokee for cash and gifts for the Osage. Unsatisfied, the Western Cherokee, along with warriors from other tribes, attacked the Osage at Clermont's village near present-day Claremore. In 1817, the U.S. secretary of war ordered the establishment of Fort Smith in Arkansas Territory in an unsuccessful effort to halt the violence.

## Early Forts

Another post west of Fort Smith was needed to protect both the Indian and the white people in the area. In 1824, Colonel Matthew Arbuckle established the first federal fort in Indian Territory on the Grand (Neosho) River. Originally known as Cantonment (temporary accommodations) Gibson, it was renamed Fort Gibson in 1832. The additional military presence



**Left:** This reconstruction of Fort Gibson shows the original 1824 log fort. **Top:** Fort Gibson served as a supply depot at the end of the Trail of Tears. **Above:** An officer's quarters at Fort Gibson.



## Map 21 Early Indian Territory

**Map Skill:** What part of present-day Oklahoma was not part of the United States?

## Something Extra!

The Western Cherokee were sometimes called Old Settlers or Arkansas Cherokee.

resulted in another treaty in 1825 in which the Osage ceded their land in Oklahoma and relocated to Kansas Indian Territory. Years later, in 1870, the Osage sold their Kansas lands and purchased a new reservation in Indian Territory, where the remainder of the Osage tribe moved. This land, in what is now Osage County, proved to be a windfall (an unexpected gain) when oil discovered there made the Osage among the wealthiest people in the world.

As soon as Colonel Arbuckle had work underway on Cantonment Gibson, he led other troops to a site near the confluence (joining) of the Red and Kiamichi rivers to set up Cantonment Towson. The fort was a border post between the United States and Mexico. From this post on the edge of the frontier, soldiers regulated trade between Indians and whites and helped keep peace in the region. The post was renamed Fort Towson in 1832 and served to protect the relocated Choctaw.

Federal funds were appropriated in the 1820s to build a road from Fort Smith to Cantonment Towson, then on to Fort Jesup in Louisiana. In 1834, soldiers opened a military road from Fort Towson to the mouth of the Washita River in Choctaw country. These primitive roads were cleared of brush and trees with spades and axes and by using horses to pull heavy log drags. If a stream couldn't be forded, a simple timber plank bridge for supply wagons was built. The army added more permanent bridges in the 1850s.

With the new military posts west of Fort Smith, Congress changed the western boundary of Arkansas Territory to align with Cantonments Gibson and Towson. The Arkansas territorial legislature soon organized the area as Lovely and Miller counties. The area west of Arkansas and Missouri and east of the Mexican border was called "Indian Country." After 1830, the area became known as the Indian Territory.

## Cherokee Outlet

White settlers and hunters continued to press into Western Cherokee land in Arkansas. In 1828, the Western Cherokee agreed to exchange their Arkansas land for land in Indian Territory. This 1828 treaty, as well as an 1825 treaty with the Choctaw tribe, moved the eastern boundary of Indian Territory to “a line beginning on the Arkansas (River), one hundred paces east of Fort Smith and running thence due south to the Red River.” The boundary north of the Fort Smith site was surveyed in a “direct line to the South West corner of Missouri.” The new Cherokee lands included 7 million acres in northeastern Oklahoma and a “perpetual [lasting forever] outlet west,” which extended their land west in an approximately 60-mile wide strip to the border of the U.S. territory (now Oklahoma’s western border). This strip of land became known as the “Cherokee Outlet.”

In addition to the land trade, the 1828 treaty included \$50,000 for the inconvenience of moving; \$2,000 a year for three years for live-stock compensation; \$2,000 a year for ten years for education; \$1,000 for a printing press and type; \$500 to George Guess (Sequoyah) for the “great benefits he has conferred on the Cherokee people”; and other compensation. The treaty also laid the groundwork for relocating the Eastern Cherokee to Indian Territory, offering each family a good rifle, blankets, a kettle, five pounds of tobacco, land compensation, cost of migration, and subsistence for a year. (**Subsistence** is the minimum resources, as in food and shelter, needed to support life.) Only a few Eastern Cherokee took the offer and relocated west.



**The foundations of the original buildings at Fort Smith have been excavated. In the distance is the Arkansas River and Oklahoma on the far bank.**

### It's Your Turn

1. What issue did the Missouri Compromise temporarily settle?
2. Why did tribes migrate to Oklahoma in the early 1800s?
3. Where was the first federal fort built in Indian Territory?



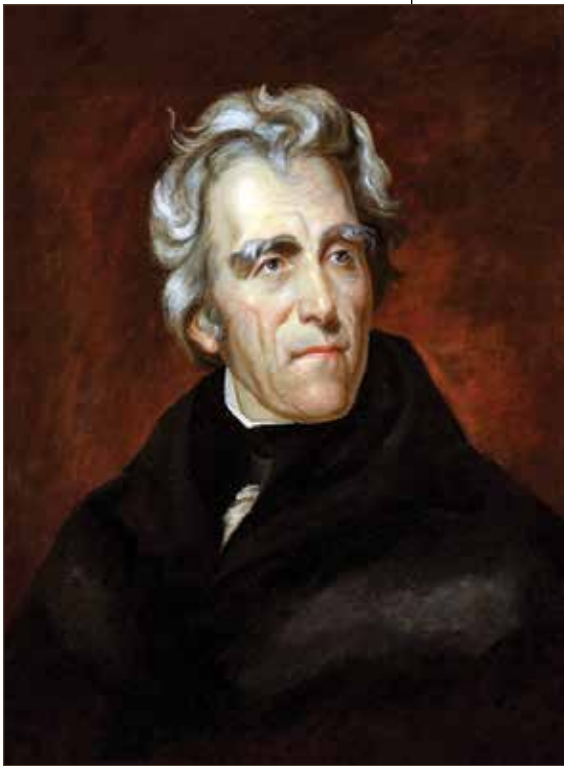
**The Seal of the Cherokee Nation.**

## Section 2

# Trails of Tears

### As you read, look for

- the federal government's policy toward the Indian tribes,
- early treaties with the Five Tribes,
- the removal of the Five Tribes and other tribes to Indian Territory,
- vocabulary terms **assimilation**, **syllabary**, **Indian Removal Act**, **allotment**, and **lottery**.



**Andrew Jackson** was elected president of the United States in 1828.

### Government policies toward the First Americans

had conflicted since President Jefferson's term. One policy favored **assimilation** (the process of one group becoming part of another) with Euro-Americans, while the other called for relocation. In 1817, President James Monroe declared that the nation's security depended on quick settlement along the southern coast, which meant moving the Indians westward.

### Removal

Andrew Jackson's skills as a soldier and frontiersman went beyond the War of 1812. He led military campaigns against the Creek Indians in Georgia in 1814 and against the Seminole in Florida in 1818 for harboring fugitive slaves. By 1824, Jackson had negotiated nine treaties that added large parcels of land to the southeastern states. In one of these—the 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand—the Choctaw gave up their fertile southeastern lands for a large area in southern Oklahoma, southwestern Arkansas, and part of New Mexico (which was actually claimed by Mexico). Like

Monroe, Jackson believed that a speedy removal of Indians from the southeastern states was best for both the Indians and the white settlers. During his two terms as president from 1829 to 1837, he did just that. Jackson's urgency to relocate Indians out of the way of the white settlers overlooked the fact that some tribes had adopted a "civilized" lifestyle.

In 1834, "Indian Territory" was defined as that part of the western United States that was not part of any state or territory. This included all of present-day Oklahoma and Kansas and southern Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The southern part of this area came to be home to the largest tribes, while numerous smaller midwestern and Plains tribes were moved to the northern part.

## The Five Tribes

The five major tribes in the southeastern United States were the Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Seminole. The Cherokee and the Creek lived in parts of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The Chickasaw and the Choctaw were primarily in Mississippi, and the Seminole were in Florida, which became a U.S. territory in 1821.

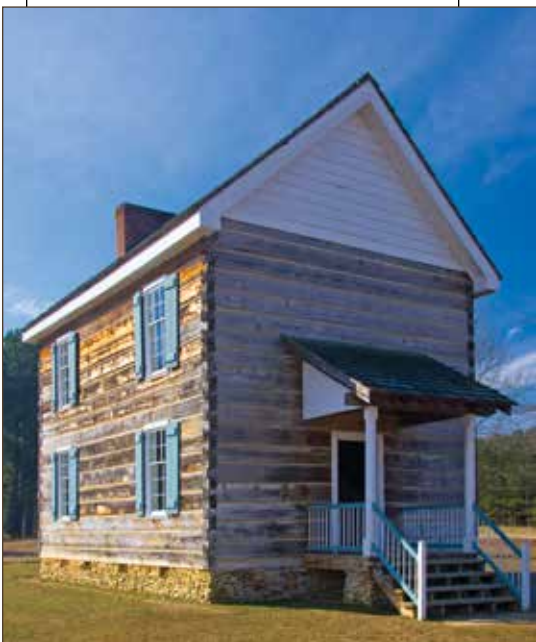
The U.S. government's plan of "educating" Indians so they would conform (be similar) to the ways of the white settlers had been underway for several years. Missionaries, primarily Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist, had worked among the tribes for some time to educate and Christianize them. A number of racial intermarriages had also taken place over the years between Indians and Europeans, combining their cultures. Some of the southeastern tribes adopted the new lifestyle in order to preserve their tribe rather than because they felt the new culture was better than theirs. Because of their willingness to accept the new "civilized" ways, these tribes came to be called the Five Civilized Tribes. While many members of the tribes adopted the new "civilization," it was seldom embraced (adopted) by everyone. Many traditional Indians continued with life as it had always been, and some strongly resisted the changes.

The lifestyle of many in the Five Tribes changed from nomadic hunting and subsistence farming to raising livestock and operating large farms. Some with larger plantations bought black slaves and built large mansions. Tribal government became more centralized, and some tribes opened their own stores and trading posts.

Some tribes accepted the missionaries and their work more than others. Teaching the Indian students to read and write in English was a totally different concept (idea) from their traditional oral form of communication, and it proved to be difficult. Sequoyah's invention of



**Cherokee Chief James Vann built this brick house near Chatsworth, Georgia, in 1805. It was called the "Showplace of the Cherokee Nation."**



**Buildings at New Echota** have been reconstructed on its original site, with the *Cherokee Phoenix* office (top, on the left), Cherokee Supreme Court (top, on the right), and Council House (above).

a written Cherokee **syllabary** (or alphabet) greatly assisted the teachers and his tribe. Sequoyah, part Cherokee, was intrigued by what he called “talking leaves,” or the white man’s ability to communicate on paper. He spent several years developing a system that used a group of letters to represent whole syllables. By 1828, the first Cherokee newspaper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*, was published. Using the syllabary, Samuel Worcester translated the Bible into Cherokee.

The Cherokee developed a written constitution modeled after the U.S. Constitution and established a capital at New Echota, Georgia. The capital included a council house, supreme court building, a building for a printing press, and a public square. The Choctaw and Chickasaw also adopted written constitutions, as did the Creek and Seminole after they relocated to Indian Territory.

The changes made by the tribes only seemed to make white settlers jealous and resentful, and whites continued to demand more and more of the Indians’ land. The Creek and Seminole fought to protect their territory, but they were defeated. The Cherokee attempted to use the U.S. legal system to protect their land. Georgia, however, refused to recognize their sovereign (independent) status and the U.S. Supreme Court sided with Georgia. In a later ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*, the Court sided with the Cherokee, but President Jackson refused to enforce the decision.

# Oklahoma Profiles

## Sequoyah

**Sequoyah (se-quo-ya) was born between 1760 and 1765** in Tennessee, about eight miles from Echota, the capital of the old Cherokee Nation. His mother was Wu-te-he of the Red Paint Clan and a daughter of a Cherokee chief. His father's identity is unknown, although it's thought he was half Cherokee. Sources vary greatly on the identity of Sequoyah's father. In an August 13, 1828, *Cherokee Phoenix* article (during Sequoyah's lifetime), it was stated that Sequoyah's paternal grandfather was a white man. The Treaty of 1828 noted Sequoyah's English name as George Guess. Sequoyah married Sally Waters, a Cherokee of the Bird Clan, in 1815.

Sequoyah worked as a trader, then later as a blacksmith and silversmith. Many Indians thought the white man's way of communicating with marks on paper was witchcraft, but Sequoyah understood that the marks stood for words. For several years, he thought of ways the Cherokee could communicate with a written language. His first effort to have a symbol for each word didn't work. He then picked out eighty-five individual sounds that made up most Cherokee words. His young daughter, A-Yo-Ka, and brother-in-law learned the system quickly.

Sequoyah and his daughter were charged with witchcraft, but in a trial they proved that they could communicate by writing the symbols and making words. The warriors who had served as the trial jury soon learned the system, which quickly spread throughout the Cherokee Nation. Missionary Samuel Worcester translated many writings using the Cherokee syllabary.

In 1829, Sequoyah moved to Indian Territory along with 2,500 other Cherokee. He built a log cabin near



**For his work, the Cherokee awarded Sequoyah a medal that he wore as long as he lived. This portrait of him hangs in the State Capitol.**

present-day Sallisaw. He died in 1845, having single-handedly accomplished an unequalled feat.

Texan Sam Houston said of Sequoyah, "Your invention of the alphabet is worth more to your people than two bags full of gold in the hands of every Cherokee."





**Swiss artist Karl Bodmer painted this picture of a Choctaw man in the 1840s, not long after the Choctaw removal.**

## Indian Removal Act

In 1830, Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act**. Pushed by President Jackson, the bill caused an uproar in Congress. U.S. Representative Edward Everett from Massachusetts argued,

*Ten or fifteen thousand families, to be rooted up, and carried a . . . thousand miles into the wilderness! There is not such a thing in the annals of mankind. . . . To remove them against their will, by thousands, to a distant and different country, where they must lead a new life, and form other habits, and encounter the perils and hardships of a wilderness. . . . They are not barbarians; they are essentially civilized people. . . . They are planters and farmers, they are tradespeople and mechanics, they have cornfields and orchards, looms and workshops, schools and churches and orderly institutions!*

But President Jackson told a Georgia congressman, “Build a fire under them. When it gets hot enough, they’ll move.”

The intent of the bill was to negotiate treaties with Indian tribes by which tribes would exchange the land they were then living on for other land west of the Mississippi River. Those who wished to remain where they were would become citizens of that state. The relocation was supposed to be peaceful and voluntary, and for the few who resettled quickly it was. The War Department attempted to protect the Indians who stayed in their homes, but white settlers didn’t give up their pursuit of Indian land.

The far-reaching legislation affected not only the Five Tribes in the Southeast, but also many tribes in the North and those who already called the Indian Territory home. For the next several decades, the U.S. government struggled to diplomatically remove the Five Tribes from the Southeast.

## Choctaw Removal

The Choctaw tribe was first encouraged to relocate to Indian Territory after the 1820 Treaty of Doak’s Stand, which included an exchange of lands; funds for education, police, and moving; and a government agent. An agency was established at what is now known as Skullyville (*skully* is Choctaw for “money”) in Le Flore County, but only a few scattered bands of Choctaw came to the area. Those who did move found white settlers on some of their land. The 1825 Choctaw Boundary Treaty helped rid the area of the settlers and established the eastern boundary of what was to become Oklahoma.

Life for the Choctaw in Mississippi was becoming unbearable. State laws overwhelmingly favored whites, and the federal government would not overrule the state. Reluctantly, Choctaw leaders saw removal as the only way to survive. Choctaw chiefs Greenwood LeFlore, Moshulatubbe, and Nitakechi met with Secretary of War John Eaton and General John Coffee at the Dancing Rabbit Creek council ground,

# A Celebration of Cultures

## Stickball

**The oldest field sport in America is stickball or *a-ne-jo-di*.** Stickball resembles modern-day lacrosse. The game has been played for centuries, but a Jesuit priest made the earliest reference to stickball in 1729. The rough game wasn't played merely for sport; it was also a peaceful way to settle intertribal differences for southeastern Woodland Indians.

Sticks for the game were made from hickory, and the small ball was made of deer hair and hide. Goal posts with a wooden fish on top were about 25 feet tall. The length between the goal posts varied from a

few hundred feet to a few miles. Points were scored for hitting the fish target or pole. The game could involve any number of players, from 20 to 300!

In early days, ballplayers would dance before the game. Today, stickball is often a part of the activities at ceremonial Stomp Grounds, and it is also played as a recreational sport between community or intertribal teams.

**George Catlin** made this painting of a Choctaw stickball game.





**Choctaw Chief Pushmataha fought on the side of Andrew Jackson in the First Creek War. He died in Washington, D.C, in 1824 while attempting to obtain compensation for land granted to the Choctaw by the Treaty of Doak's Stand on which whites had already settled.**

which was surrounded by camps of some 6,000 Choctaw. In the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the Choctaw Nation ceded all its lands east of the Mississippi River and agreed to move to Indian Territory within three years. The United States agreed to pay the tribe education and relocation funds, as well as to provide plows, axes, hoes, blankets, spinning wheels, looms, rifles, bullet molds, and ammunition. Choctaw who stayed in Mississippi were allotted a set amount of land, and they were subject to the laws of the state.

George Gaines, supervisor of the Choctaw removal, set a timetable of moving a third of the people each year from 1831 to 1833. On November 1, 1831, the people gathered along the Mississippi River at Memphis, Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. Some three hundred Choctaw took the offer from the newly created Bureau of Indian Affairs of \$10 in gold, a new rifle and ammunition, food, and a guide for all who walked to the Choctaw Nation in the West. Roads became impassable after heavy rains, and Gaines arranged for steamboats to take the Choctaw up the rivers.

The boats were delayed, and the delay meant rations (food) became scarce.

With 2,000 Choctaw onboard, the boats left Memphis and traveled 60 miles on the Arkansas River. Then the Army received new orders for the boats. The scantily clad Choctaw were unloaded in a blizzard at Arkansas Post, which didn't have enough food to feed everyone. When the steamboats became stranded in ice, wagons were used to move the Choctaw to Little Rock. A Choctaw was quoted as saying that the removal to that point had been a "trail of tears and death," a quote used many more times over the next few years.

The 3,000 Choctaw who left from Vicksburg also encountered serious food shortages, and many died from diseases. Of the 6,000 Choctaw (including an earlier group) who left Mississippi, about 4,000 survived the brutal trip.

Towns were soon established at Skullyville and on the Mountain Fork River at Eagle (later Eagle-town). Other Choctaw settled in various areas in the West Nation.

The 1832 removal was equally hard on the Choctaw, and a cholera epidemic took many lives.

## Something Extra!

**Each Indian tribe was assigned a government agent, who lived with the tribe. Agents were to help "civilize" Indians with agriculture programs, missionaries, and tribal governments.**

## Something Extra!

The English gave the native people living along the Ocheese Creek in Georgia the name "Creek." The name applied to all groups in the confederacy, which is actually called the Muscogee Nation.

Better planning and weather made for an easier migration in 1833. By January 1, 1834, some 7,500-8,000 Choctaw were living in the new western lands.

### Creek Removal

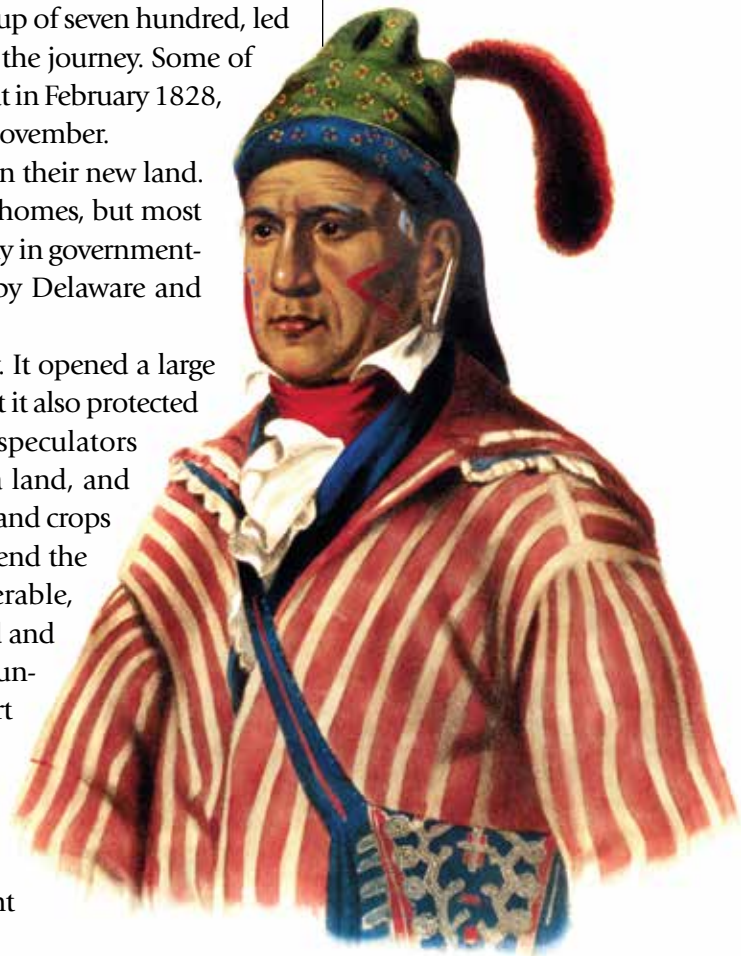
The Muscogee (Creek) was a confederacy of several tribes in the Georgia-Alabama area who were referred to as the Upper Creek and the Lower Creek. Chief William McIntosh, a first cousin to Georgia Governor George Troup, ceded all Lower Creek land in the Treaty of Indian Springs in 1825. Angered by the treaty, tribal members killed McIntosh and other leaders they be-

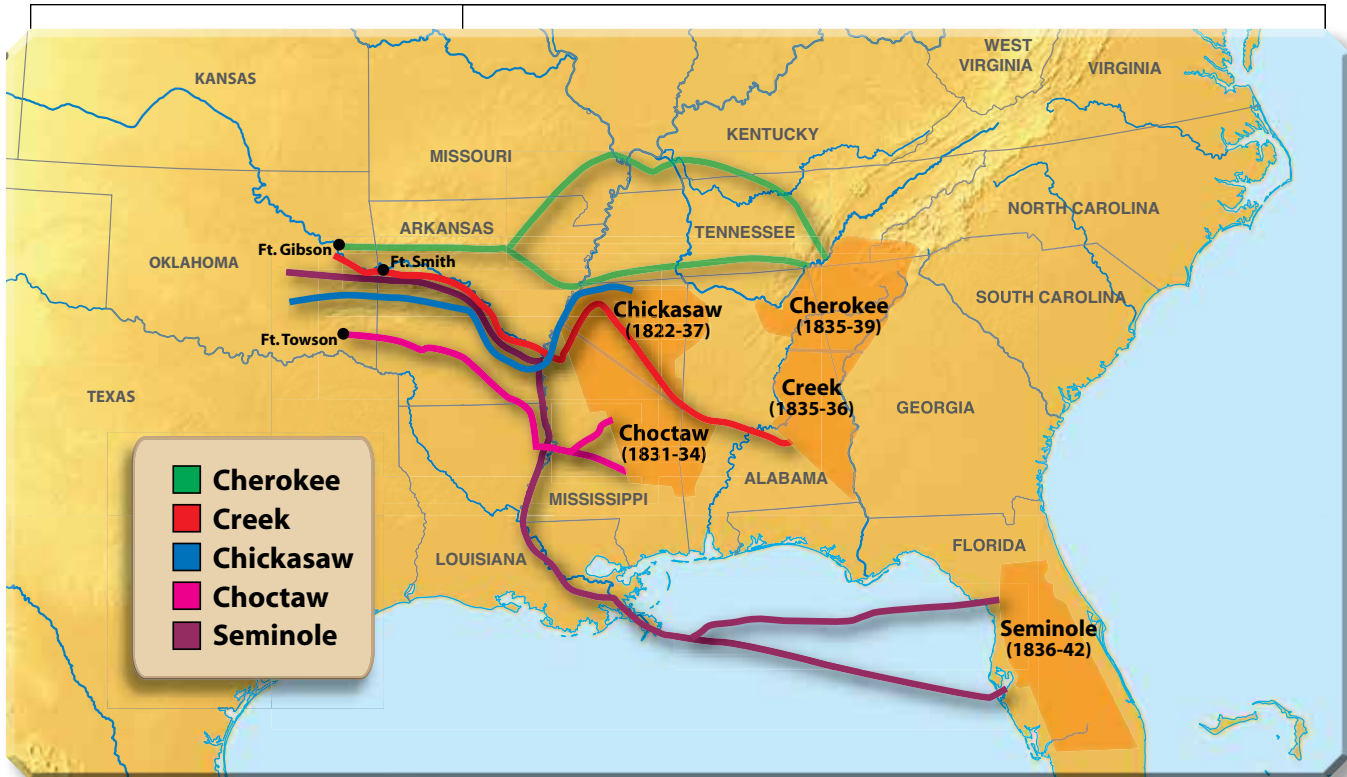
lieved had betrayed them. An 1826 treaty ceded Creek lands in Georgia for land in Indian Territory. The Creek chose an area west of the Grand River and north of the Arkansas River. A group of seven hundred, led by Chilly McIntosh, son of William, began the journey. Some of the party arrived at Fort Gibson by steamboat in February 1828, while others traveling overland arrived in November.

By 1830 some 3,000 Creek were living on their new land. A few wealthy Creek built comfortable log homes, but most suffered from hunger and disease and a delay in government-promised supplies. They also faced raids by Delaware and Osage who resented the newcomers.

In 1832, the Creek signed another treaty. It opened a large portion of their Alabama land to settlers, but it also protected their ownership of the remainder. Land speculators cheated many Creek out of their Alabama land, and the destitute Creek began stealing livestock and crops from settlers. In 1836, troops were sent to end the "Creek War." Defeated, hungry, and miserable, almost 15,000 Creek were forcibly removed and escorted overland to the Indian Territory. Hundreds died on the journey that ended at Fort Gibson in the spring of 1837. Another 3,500 died from exposure and disease soon after arriving. Though reunited with the Creek who had relocated almost a decade earlier, the two groups remained somewhat distant for several more years.

**Creek Chief Menawa** fought against Andrew Jackson in the First Creek War as the leader of the Red Sticks. He died during the removal.





## Map 22 Trails of Tears

**Map Skill:** Through which states did the Creek have to travel to reach their new land?

### Fun Fact!

When translated, the word Chickasaw means rebel or rebellion

### Chickasaw Removal

The Chickasaw of northern Mississippi were also targeted for removal. They had been successful traders for many years, and a number of white traders had married into the Chickasaw tribe. The Chickasaw, as had other tribes, were encouraged to purchase trade goods beyond their ability to pay for them, in the hope that they would have to cede their lands to clear their debt. An 1818 treaty drastically reduced their territory in Mississippi, and the state legislature overrode the Chickasaw government. The Chickasaw chiefs knew that removal was inevitable if their tribe was to survive. In the 1832 Treaty at Pontotoc Creek, the Chickasaw agreed to sell their lands east of the Mississippi River. Each family could stay on an **allotment** (a specified portion, as of land) until suitable homes in the West were found. By 1836, the Chickasaw had still not found suitable land on which to relocate. A meeting was held in 1837 between the Chickasaw and the Choctaw at Doaksville near Fort Towson. In the resulting treaty, the Chickasaw agreed to relocate to a district within the Choctaw Nation for \$530,000.

The Chickasaw removal, aided by their location and good tribal management, probably was the smoothest among the Five Tribes. Some Chickasaw traveled by wagon and others by steamboat to Fort Coffee on the Arkansas River or Fort Towson on the Red River. For the most part, the Chickasaw were able to move their personal possessions, slaves, and livestock with them. But they too faced hardships; some died from cholera, and many suffered from spoiled rations. About 5,000 Chickasaw had moved to Indian Territory by 1838.

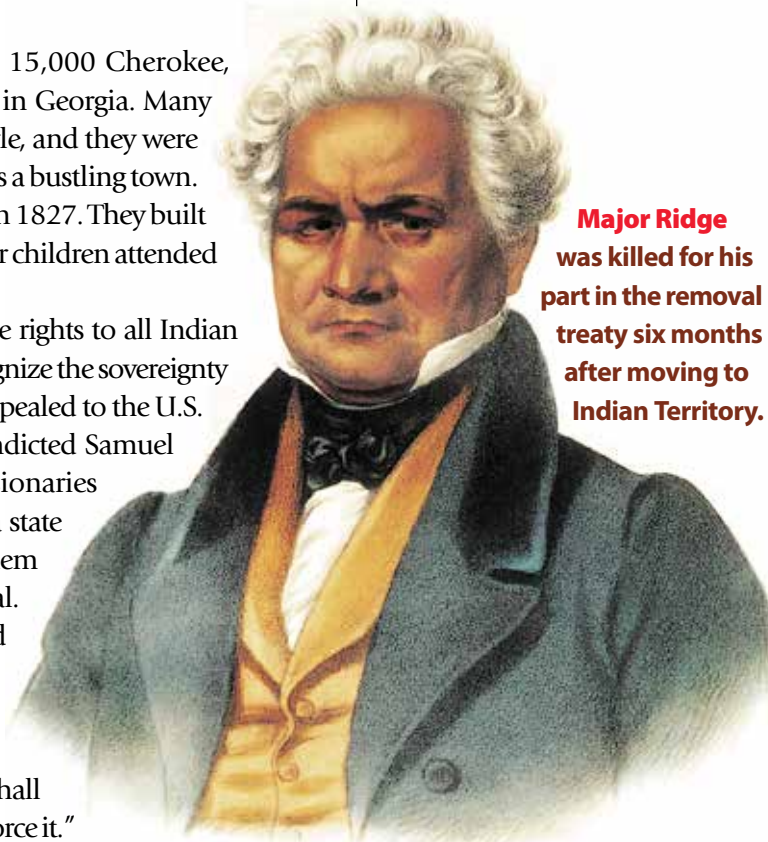
## Cherokee Removal

In the early 1830s, there were some 15,000 Cherokee, including several of mixed blood, living in Georgia. Many Cherokee had embraced the white lifestyle, and they were prospering. Their capital, New Echota, was a bustling town. They had adopted a written constitution in 1827. They built roads and established trade relations. Their children attended eastern colleges.

However, in 1828, Georgia claimed the rights to all Indian land within its borders and refused to recognize the sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but lost. Georgia also indicted Samuel Worcester, Elizur Butler, and other missionaries for working with the Cherokee without a state license, which was an attempt to stop them from helping the Cherokee resist removal. The case of *Worcester v. Georgia* was appealed to the Supreme Court in 1832, and the Georgia law was declared invalid. However, President Jackson ignored the Court's ruling, saying, "(Chief Justice) John Marshall has rendered his decision, now let him enforce it."

The discovery of gold in Georgia fueled the frenzy for land. Georgia took over the land of many Cherokee and offered it in a **lottery** (a contest whose winner is chosen by a drawing) to white settlers. The state militia destroyed the *Cherokee Phoenix* printing press. The continued harassment led one group of Cherokee, headed by Major Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and Stand Watie, to view removal as the best way to survive. Chief John Ross and a majority of Cherokee vehemently (intensely) opposed removal and said the Ridge group didn't have the power to represent the tribe. In spite of the opposition, Ridge and others signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835. The Cherokee received \$5 million for their eastern lands, and they were to relocate to the Western Cherokee land in Indian Territory within two years. Ridge and about two thousand followers soon relocated, but Ross and the others refused to recognize the treaty.

In 1838, some 7,000 U.S. troops were ordered to round up the remaining Cherokee and place them in *stockades* (enclosures made of posts and stakes). A few Cherokee escaped the surprise confinement and fled, but the thousands who didn't were forcibly removed the eight hundred miles to Indian Territory. The Cherokee Council petitioned the army to let them supervise the move of the Cherokee and their slaves, beginning in late fall. Groups of about 1,000 traveled on foot along various routes to Indian Territory, enduring bad roads, storms, blizzards, sickness, and sorrow. An estimated 4,000 Cherokee died before reaching the new land in early spring.



**Major Ridge** was killed for his part in the removal treaty six months after moving to Indian Territory.

## Something Extra!

The Cherokee had a matrilineal society. Whether a person was Cherokee depended upon the status of the mother. If the mother was Cherokee, the child was Cherokee. Mixed-bloods were children whose mothers were white and whose fathers were Cherokee.



This mural shows the family and servants of Chief John Ross leaving on the Trail of Tears.

## Something Extra!

Touted as the best bean there is, the Cherokee "Trail of Tears" pole bean was vital to the survival of the Cherokee, who took it with them when they were driven out of their homelands and onto the Trail of Tears.

In June 1839, the Western Cherokee (including Ridge) and Eastern Cherokee held separate council meetings. Feelings about the New Echota treaty were still fresh, and three days after the council, Major Ridge, John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot were assassinated. Stand Watie escaped being killed. In July, the Eastern and Western Cherokee adopted an "Act of Union" and became one body as the Cherokee Nation. They adopted a constitution in September, and it was approved in June 1840.

### Seminole Removal

The Seminole (including Seminole, Creek, and Mikisuki Indians) were the last of the Five Tribes forced into Indian Territory. They had resisted Spanish attempts to conquer them, as well as British and American efforts to take their Florida lands. Freedom-seeking slaves often found protection and refuge in the Seminole land, which greatly angered slave owners. The Seminole reacted by raiding Georgia and Alabama settlements.

From 1817 to 1818, General Andrew Jackson waged war against the tribe in the First Seminole War. One result of that war was that Spain ceded East Florida to the United States in 1819. The 1823 Treaty of Moultrie Creek provided that the tribe move to swampland in central



**Above:** Tuckosee Mathla was a chief of the Mikisuki (Seminole).  
**Below:** George Catlin painted this portrait of Seminole Chief Osceola.

Florida, but raids by both Indians and whites continued. The 1832 Treaty of Payne's Landing called for the Seminole to move to Indian Territory when "suitable" land was found or within three years. According to the terms of the Treaty of Fort Gibson, the Seminole agreed to move onto Creek land in Indian Territory.

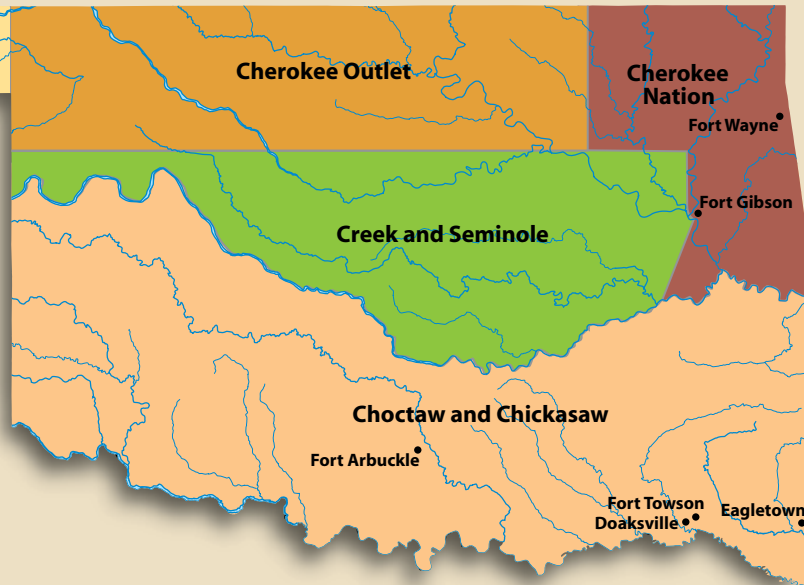
Some Seminole peacefully left Florida beginning in 1836, but a group led by Osceola fiercely resisted. From 1835 to 1842, U.S. troops fought, tracked down, and captured 3,000 Indians in the Second Seminole War; another 500 eluded capture. This war was perhaps the most expensive war waged by the government against the American Indians. The war cost more than \$20 million, and 1,500 U.S. soldiers were killed. Many others were injured.

The weak, sick, hungry, and impoverished Seminole, plus runaway slaves who fought with them, were forced onto steamboats that carried them to New Orleans and then up the Mississippi. They were then sent overland to Fort Gibson and to the Creek lands. As with the other Indian removals, many Seminole died on the long journey.





Under control of Mexico until 1836.  
Under control of Texas from 1836 to 1850  
when relinquished to the United States



## Map 23 The Five Tribes in Indian Territory

**Map Skill:** What divided  
Creek and Seminole  
land from Choctaw and  
Chickasaw land?

### Other Removals

The Seneca tribe of Sandusky agreed to an 1831 treaty and ceded their Ohio land. When they reached their new land in Indian Territory, they found that it overlapped Cherokee land. Another Seneca band mixed with Shawnee also found its new land was within the Cherokee Nation. A new treaty clarified Seneca land in northeastern Oklahoma.

A large band of Kickapoo settled in Texas, but they removed to the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory in 1839. A band established a village on Wild Horse Creek (present-day Garvin County) until 1850, when they moved to Mexico. Fort Arbuckle was established at the site of their former village in 1851.

Many other tribes or bands of tribes also relocated to Indian Territory in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Euchee of the northeastern United States came with the Creek in the 1830s. The Cayuga relocated from the shores of Cayuga Lake in New

## Something Extra!

The federal government's Indian policies in the 1800s were inhumane but they were not unique.

Other nations were also claiming frontier areas in the early nineteenth century, either removing or killing native people.

Along with the American West, other expansions were happening in the grassy plains of Russia, in Argentina, in South Africa, and the outback of Australia.

York, with one band moving in 1832 and another in 1881. The Cayuga joined remnants of other Iroquoian tribes such as the Erie, Conestoga, Oneida, Onondaga, and Mohawk in their early move to Indian Territory.

## The Stokes Commission

Soon after the Indian Removal Act was passed, it became apparent that some sort of commission was needed in Indian Territory to help Indians adjust and work out problems. In fact, the Creek who had relocated to Indian Territory requested the commission. President Jackson appointed Montfort Stokes of North Carolina to chair the Federal Indian Commission in 1832. Joining Stokes were John Schermerhorn of New York and Henry Ellsworth of Connecticut. The commission members worked closely with Colonel A. P. Chouteau, whom the Indians trusted. Although in his seventies, Stokes proved to be a tireless warrior for the Indians. Conflicting boundaries were resolved, and western and eastern tribes were harmoniously brought together. He argued against, and won, moving troops from Fort Gibson to Fort Smith. His concern for the Indians had an impact on later laws.

Rather than return to his home state, Stokes remained with the people and land that he came to cherish. He died in Indian Territory in 1842.

Traveling with the commission to Indian Territory in 1832 were the writer Washington Irving and Europeans Charles Latrobe and Count Albert-Alexandre de Pourtales. Irving described his observations in *A Tour on the Prairies* in 1835, the same year Latrobe wrote *The Rambler in North America*. Irving described the majestic trees along the rivers: "lofty trees . . . glancing rays of the sun shone through the transparent leaves . . . reminded of the effect of sunshine among the stained windows and clustering columns of a Gothic cathedral . . . the wind . . . supplies . . . the deep breathings of the organ." He also wrote of "grass so tall that the horses disappeared into it."

In a few short years, the Indian Territory's population had soared to some 70,000 people. Each group in the new land found they had to adapt to their new surroundings quickly to survive and persevere (continue in spite of difficulty). They would prove equal to the task.



**Washington Irving, the famous author of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," traveled with the Stokes Commission to write details about the new country and the Indians.**

### It's Your Turn

1. When was the Indian Removal Act passed by Congress?
2. Which southeastern tribe was the first to be moved west?
3. In what year were the Cherokee removed?
4. Who was Osceola?

# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

- President Thomas Jefferson wanted to tie the Indian nations to the United States with treaties to help assure security for the new country and to gain land and trade.
- Several states and territories were carved from the Louisiana Purchase.
- Slavery became an issue in the new settlements west of the Mississippi.
- Many tribes of the Great Plains occupied the land designated as Indian Territory.
- The federal government began pushing the southeastern Indians to move to Indian Territory onto land already occupied by the Plains tribes.
- Hostilities developed between the Osage and Western Cherokee tribes when the latter settled on land in Arkansas.
- New military posts were built to protect and control the Indians.
- In 1828, the Western Cherokee agreed to exchange their land in Arkansas for land in Indian Territory formerly occupied by the Osage.
- Andrew Jackson became the leader in the efforts to relocate the southeastern Indian tribes to the West.
- The Indian Removal Act of 1830 brought about drastic changes to the Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Seminole tribes of the Southeast.
- All the southeastern tribes suffered from disease, spoiled rations, and bad weather during the forced removals. A Choctaw chief was quoted in the *Arkansas Gazette* as saying the Choctaw removal had been “a trail of tears and death.”
- Other tribes were forced to cede their homelands to the federal government as a result of the Indian Removal Act.

## Vocabulary

For each term, write a sentence that explains its relation to American Indians, land, new states, or politics.

1. allotment
2. assassinate
3. assimilation
4. cede
5. civilized
6. cholera epidemic
7. compensation
8. intermarriage
9. lottery
10. migrate
11. Missouri Compromise
12. negotiate
13. rations
14. reservation
15. sign language
16. stockade
17. subsistence
18. syllabary

## Understanding the Facts

1. Why did President Thomas Jefferson want to make treaties with the Indians?
2. What two tribes fought for control of land in northeastern Oklahoma?
3. Name the two earliest forts built to control and protect Indians relocated to Indian Territory.
4. What did Sequoyah, inventor of the written Cherokee syllabary, call pages of writing?
5. What president is associated with the Indian Removal Act of 1830?
6. What poor conditions contributed to deaths both during and after the tribes' removal to Indian Territory?

## Developing Critical Thinking

1. Explain several reasons why the government wanted the southeastern Indians moved.
2. How did the Indians make an effort to assimilate into the white man's society?
3. Explain why Sequoyah's syllabary was so important to the Cherokee.

## Applying Your Skills

1. Research the early days of Fort Gibson. Draw a map of the fort showing the buildings and how they were used. Show also the location of nearby settlements, such as Three Forks, and their distance from the fort.
2. Locate a map of the United States that shows the Indian removal routes. Choose any one of the tribes and determine about how far the tribe had to travel. If the people were able to

travel ten miles a day, how long would their trip take?

3. Pretend that you have been notified that you are going to be moved to Nevada in one month. Write a paragraph on how this will affect your family and the life you know here in Oklahoma today.

## Exploring Technology

1. Using your favorite search engine, research *cholera* and write a description of the history of the disease and what has been done to eradicate it in most of the world.
2. Research either Sequoyah or Osceola on the Internet. Write a short biography of the person you select, explaining his contributions to his tribe.

## Building Skills

## Using Primary Sources

### Historians often work with primary sources.

**Primary sources** are documents (such as letters, diaries, and log books) written by someone who was alive at a particular time or during a particular event. Below is a portion of George Catlin's account of his travels in the West. Read this excerpt and then answer the questions that follow.

*The North American Indian in his native state is an honest, hospitable, faithful, brave, warlike, cruel, revengeful, relentless—yet honourable, contemplative, and religious being . . . and from the very many and decided voluntary acts of their hospitality and kindness, I feel bound to pronounce them, by nature, a kind and hospitable people. I have been welcomed generally in their country, and treated to the best that they could give me, without any charges made for my board; they have often escorted me through their enemies' country at some hazard to their own lives, and aided me in passing mountains and rivers with my awkward baggage; and under all of these circumstances of exposure, no Indian ever betrayed me, struck me a blow, or stole from me a shilling worth of my property . . . [yet] there is no*

*law in their land to punish a man for theft—locks and keys are not known in their country—commandments have never been divulged amongst them; nor can any human retribution fall upon the head of a thief, save the disgrace which attaches as a stigma [mark] to his character in the eyes of his people about him. And thus in these little communities, strange as it may seem, in the absence of all systems of jurisprudence, I have often beheld peace and happiness, and quiet, reigning supreme . . . I have seen rights and virtue protected and wrongs redressed; and I have seen . . . affection in the simplicity and contentedness of nature.*

Source: George Catlin, *Letters and Notes on the North American Indians*, Vol. 1 (Minneapolis, Minn.: Ross & Haines, Inc., 1841, reprinted 1965), pp. 8-9.

1. What did Catlin mean when he said
  - a. "In the absence of all systems of jurisprudence"?
  - b. "commandments have never been divulged amongst them"?
2. If you had met Catlin after his travels, what questions would you have asked him?