

Study Guide



Chapter 11, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 341–345

CONFLICTS OVER LAND

KEY TERMS

- relocate** To move from one place to another (page 342)
- guerrilla tactics** Surprise attacks followed by a quick retreat (page 344)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

To move to another region of the United States, what would you miss most about where you live? How would you feel about moving?

In the last section, you read about two bitter presidential elections. This section focuses on the many Native American peoples driven from their homelands during the 1830s.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the problems between the Native Americans and the government after white settlers moved into the Southeast.

Relocating Southeastern Native American Peoples

Native American Group Who Resisted Peacefully

1.

Native American Groups Who Resisted With Force

1.

2.

3.

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READ TO LEARN

- **Moving Native Americans** (pages 341–344)

Many settlers wanted to live on fertile farmland in the Southeast. Five Native American groups had already established farming communities with successful economies in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. Settlers wanted the government to force them to move, or **relocate**, to lands west of the Mississippi, which were not good for farming. President Jackson supported the settlers. Under the terms of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Native Americans were paid to move west. Most Native American groups felt they had no choice but to accept payment and move. The Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma was set aside for Native American groups from the Southeast in 1834.

The Cherokee Nation sued the state of Georgia for refusing to abide by the terms of treaties made in the 1790s. The case went to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled that only the federal government had authority over issues involving the Cherokee. Georgia was told not to interfere. President Jackson ignored the Supreme Court’s decision. He supported Georgia when they tried to make the Cherokee relocate. A few Cherokee were tricked into signing a treaty with the federal government in 1835. In it they agreed to give up their lands. The majority of the Cherokee had never agreed to the treaty. They refused to abide by it. They tried to resolve the problem, but the government and the people did not listen.

In 1938 President Jackson sent an army of 7,000 troops, under the command of General Winfield Scott, to relocate the Cherokee. They threatened to use force if necessary. The Cherokee knew that fighting was useless. Defeated, they began the long march west to the Indian Territory. They carried their belongings on their backs. Thousands died along the way. The weather was cold and harsh. Many Cherokee were barefoot. Their journey is known in history as the “Trail of Tears.”

1. How were the Cherokee treated by the state of Georgia?

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- **Native American Resistance** (pages 344–345)

Some Native American groups decided to fight back. The Sauk and Fox people, led by Black Hawk, tried to recapture land in Illinois. They had given it away in a treaty. State and federal forces chased the Sauk and Fox to the Mississippi River where they were killed trying to escape to present-day Iowa.

The Seminole people of Florida, led by Chief Osceola, chose to go to war instead of signing a treaty. From 1834 until 1845, they were helped by escaped enslaved African Americans. Together they attacked white settlements using *guerrilla tactics*. They made surprise attacks and quickly retreated. The government finally gave up after more than 1,500 American soldiers were killed. Many Seminole died as well. The Seminole were the only Native Americans to successfully resist the relocation.

2. How did the Seminole people resist removal from their lands?
