The Removal of Native Americans:
Chapter 10, Section 2

Differences in economic, political, and social beliefs and practices can lead to division within a nation and have lasting consequences. Many Native Americans were forced off their lands in the Southeast.
Moving Native Americans

• Main idea: As settlements spread westward, many Native Americans were forced off their lands.
• Gold was discovered in Cherokee land in 1829, leading to American trespassing…
• Cherokee had been given land in Georgia, developing a separate nation and…
  – Schools
  – Newspaper
  – Written Constitution
  – Cherokee alphabet
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Relocation

- US expanded westward, settlers wanted Native Americans (in eastern part country: GA, AL, MS, FL) to be relocated west of Mississippi River so they could have their fertile land
- Five civilized tribes (farming societies)
  - Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw
- President Jackson supported settlers demands
Indian Removal Act (1830)

Allowed the federal government to pay Native Americans to move west

– Jackson sent officials to negotiate treaties
– Congress created Indian Territory (Present day Oklahoma)
The Cherokee Nation

• Refused to give up land
  – Previous treaties (1790s) recognized Cherokees as a separate nation with their own laws

• Georgia refused to acknowledge previous deals...

• Cherokee sued state of Georgia...all the way to Supreme Court: *Worcester vs. Georgia* (1832)

• Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that...
  • Georgia had no right to interfere w/ Cherokee
  • They were protected by fed gov/constitution

• However, President Jackson...
  • Supported Georgia
  • Ignored Supreme Court ruling
  • “John Marshall made his decision…Now let him enforce it.”

• Umm..what?!?!
Trail of Tears

• 1835 fed gov. persuaded a few Cherokee to sign a treaty giving up their people’s land
  – Most refused to honor treaty
  – Wrote a letter of protest, pleading for understanding…didn’t change the minds of Jackson or white settlers

• 1838 General Winfield Scott removed Cherokee from their land, moving them west
  – Threatened force on those unwilling to leave
  – Cherokee knew fighting was helpless and would lead to their doom
  – Bad weather claimed thousands of lives
Memorial of the Cherokee Nation...

We are aware that some persons supposed it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the Mississippi. We think otherwise. Our people universally think otherwise...

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...

...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; not is there a man so degraded as not to feel a keen sense of injury, on being deprived of his right & driven to exile.
1. Should Native American groups have their own laws applying to the lands they occupy? Why or why not?
2. Why did the Cherokee feel that fighting against removal would lead to their doom?
3. What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?
Native American Resistance

• Main idea: Some groups of Native Americans attempted to resist relocation. Most were eventually taken from their lands by force.

• Black Hawk
  – Sauk Chieftain
  – Led Sauk and Fox people back to homeland (Illinois)
  – Wanted to reclaim land
  – State militia and federal troops responded with force
    • Killing hundreds
    • Chasing survivors to Iowa (present day)
    • Slaughtering most
The Seminole

- Only tribe to resist removal
- Osceola (Seminole Chief) and others refused to leave Florida
  - born 1804, Creek/African American/British/Irish/Scottish heritage
  - Revered by Seminole as warrior/leader/negotiator
  - Captured by US Army and died of throat infection; respected hero, given funeral honors
- Decided to wage war
  - Joined forces with group of escaped slaves
  - Together they attacked white settlements along coast of Florida using guerrilla tactics
• The Dade Massacre
  – 1835, Seminole ambushed soldiers under Major Frances Dade
  – Only 110 survived attack
  – Led to more troops and equipment sent for fighting
• By 1842, 1,500+ soldiers died fighting Seminole
  – Gov. gave up = Seminole could stay
  – However, many had died, others captured and forced west
• After fighting ceased…
  • Only a few scattered groups of Native Americans remained east of the Mississippi
  • Most had been relocated west
• Native Americans gave up 100 million + acres to fed gov. to receive ONLY $68 million and 32 million acres in lands west of the Mississippi
The Five Civilized Tribes

- Relocated to present-day Oklahoma - lands claimed by Plains groups
  - Osage, Comanche, Kiowa
  - They allowed the five (Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw) to live in peace...
  - Developed governments
  - Improved farms
  - Built schools
1. If you were a Seminole, would you have fought with Osceola or agreed to move to the Indian Territory? Why?
2. How was the response of the Seminoles different from that of the Cherokee when they were removed from their lands?
3. Describe how President Jackson reacted to the Supreme Court decision supporting the Cherokees’ rights?
4. How were the Seminole able to resist relocation?
5. How was Georgia’s policy toward the Cherokee different from previous federal policy?
Write a letter to President Andrew Jackson telling him why the Native Americans should or should not be allowed to stay in their homelands.

You can take the role of a Native American or a settler.

Use historical information (from the textbook) to support your letter or persuasion.

Remember, this letter would have been written almost 200 years ago. The paper would look aged, the language would be formal and “old-timey”, and the handwriting would be neat and pristine.

DUE THURSDAY 2/26