

Click on the link to listen as you read the final chapter of The American West.

The Indian Wars

The Indian Wars began in the 1800s. Thousands of pioneers went to the West. They took the Indians' land. The Indians were angry. They did not want to lose their land.

The Wars of the Midwest

In 1811 the Shawnee Indians of the Indiana Territory attacked the settlers and the U.S. Army.

These Indian Wars continued until 1832. The Black Hawk War was the last Indian war in the Midwest. The Indians lost this war and their land.

The Wars of the Southeast

In the 1830s Osceola was the chief of the Seminole Indians of Florida. He said, "We will fight until the last drop of Seminole blood!" The Seminole Indians did not want to leave their land. They fought for many years. In 1837 Chief Osceola was captured. Most of the Seminoles were killed.

The Cherokee Indians were a strong and important tribe. They had big plantations and farms. The settlers wanted their land. In 1839 the U.S. Government told the Cherokees to leave their homes. They went to an Indian reservation in Oklahoma. Many Indians died during the long journey. The journey was called the Trail of Tears.

The Wars of the Great Plains

In the 1850s many pioneers crossed the Great Plains. Many of them settled there. The Sioux and Cheyenne Indians fought against these settlers.

The Sioux and Cheyenne Indians were courageous warriors. The Sioux Chiefs were Crazy Horse, Red Cloud and Sitting Bull. They told their warriors, "Fight to kill, or you will lose your lands!"

The Sioux and Cheyenne Indians attacked U.S. Army forts and settlers. The fighting was terrible. It continued for many years.

The U.S. Government told the Indians to go to an Indian reservation. Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull did not want to go. There were a lot of brutal battles. Many people were killed.

The Apache and Comanche Indians also fought against the U.S. Army and the settlers for many years.

The Apaches were great warriors. They loved their land and their freedom. They didn't want to lose them. They preferred to fight and die. Geronimo and Cochise were famous Apache chiefs. Their courage was legendary. Everyone was afraid of Geronimo and Cochise. The Indian Wars ended in 1890.

Which Native American was the chief of which tribe. Draw a line to match.

Geronimo Seminole

Answer the following questions.

1. When did the Indian Wars begin? _____
2. Where did the Shawnee Indians live? _____
3. Where did the Seminole Indians live? _____
4. What Indian tribe had plantations? _____
5. Which Indian tribe were great warriors? _____
6. What did the U.S. government want the Indians to do?

7. How many years did the Indian Wars last?

8. Why was everyone afraid of Geronimo and Cochise?

9. Why did the Indian Wars start?

Watch the following clip of Geronimo on YouTube.