

Trail of Tears by the Numbers Worksheet



Directions: Read each fact and then answer the questions by clicking on the box in front of the correct answer.



In 1883 and 1839, as part of Andrew Jackson's Native Indian removal policy (Indian Removal Act of 1830), the Cherokee nation was forced to give up its land east of the Mississippi River and to migrate to an area in present-day Oklahoma. The series of relocations, where the migrants endured hunger, disease and exhaustion, was called the "Trail of Tears." This devastating journey cost the lives of about 4,000 Cherokees.

1. What year was the Indian Removal Act initiated?
☐ 1890 ☐ 1830 ☐ 2020
2. About how many Cherokees died during their move west?
☐ 2,000 ☐ 8,000 ☐ 4,000



The Cherokee Indians became the fifth major tribe to experience forced relocation to the Indian territory, following the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole tribes. The Cherokee nation moved from its ancestral homeland in parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama to land set aside for them in what is now known as the state of Oklahoma.

3. The Cherokee Indians were the ____ major tribe to be forced to relocate
☐ 5th ☐ 1st ☐ 10th



More than 15,000 Cherokee Indians were removed by the U.S. army. They were held in concentration-like camps through the summer and then forced to travel over 1,000 miles on foot to Indian territory under very hard conditions.

4. How many Cherokee Indians were removed by the U.S. Army?
☐ 5,000 ☐ 2,000 ☐ 15,000
5. They were forced to travel on foot how many miles?
☐ 1,000 ☐ 100 ☐ 10,000



The result of the U.S. government's removal policy devastated American Indian culture. The Native Americans had been a strong and vibrant part of North American history, but what the government did to these people is difficult to understand and accept. The forced removal of Native Indians remains a black mark on American history and reminds those who desire freedom that all people deserve a life of liberty regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.