

1785 First treaty between Cherokee and the United States, establishes peaceful relations.

Cherokee Indian Removal Timeline

1796 George Washington initiated “civilization” program among the Cherokee.

1802 Georgia ceded some to its western land to the United States; the U.S. govt. in exchange promised to purchase for Georgia all of the remaining Indian lands remaining within the state. However, the Federal Govt. could only by land through treaty.

1808-1810 First major Cherokee migration to lands west of the Mississippi.

1820s Cherokee become the most “civilized” of the five “Civilized Tribes” (Creeks, Chickasaw, Seminole, Choctaw and Cherokee)

❖ The Cherokee had a newspaper many had converted to Christianity; they adopted a Constitution; they had farms and owned slaves.

1828 Andrew Jackson elected President and declares support for removal.

1828 Georgia extended its power over the Cherokee Nation and nullified (makes illegal) Cherokee law.

1832 Cherokee won their case in Worcester v. Georgia. U.S. Supreme Court upheld Cherokee sovereignty in Georgia. Andrew Jackson ignored the ruling.

1836 Treaty of New Echota signed; provided for removal of Cherokees to land west of the Mississippi.

- ❖ Chief John Ross led 15,00 in protesting the treaty.
- ❖ Only 2,000 Cherokee agreed to move voluntarily

1838 U.S. govt. sent in 7,000 troops, who forced the Cherokees out at bayonet point. 4,000 Cherokee died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands.

1839. Execution of Major Ridge, John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot for their role in the Treaty of New Echota.