

# **The Trail of Tears 1838**

---

# Trail of Tears, Robert Lindneux 1942

---



- 
- Painting made in 1942 of an event that happened in 1838
  - Cherokee were forced to march 800 miles to Indian Territory (Oklahoma)
  - 4,000 died along the way

# Map of the Trail of Tears



# The Indian Question

---

- Two basic ideas among whites on how to deal with the Indian “problem:” Civilization or Removal
- Civilization=Indians would become farmers; would convert to Christianity; own individual farms instead of sharing; would learn to read and write English.
- Removal=civilization was never going to succeed and the only thing to do was to find some place in the West to settle them.

- 
- President Washington pushed for civilization, thinking that could solve the Indian Problem by civilizing the tribes and assimilating them into states.
  - By the 1820s, race became an issue and it started to become clear that whites would never accept The Native Americans as equals, or respect their land rights

- 
- Five “Civilized” Tribes in the Southeastern U.S.; Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, Choctaw and Cherokee.
  - Cherokee were the most “civilized” in that they had a newspaper, many had converted to Christianity, adopted a Constitution; they had farms and even owned slaves.
  - By 1810, many Native Americans began to migrate west voluntarily, but most refused.

# Jackson and Indian Removal

---

- Jackson is elected in 1828 and favored Indian Removal
- Congress passes the Indian Removal Act in 1830
- Jackson supports Georgia's decision to take over Cherokee land
- 1831, the Cherokee brought their case to the Supreme Court and won. Jackson ignores the ruling.

- 
- 1833 a small group of Cherokee agree to sign a removal document the Treaty of New Echota, these were **NOT** the recognized leaders of the Cherokee Nation
  - Led by Chief John Ross over 15,000 Cherokee signed a petition in protest.
  - 1836 Congress ignores their protest and ratifies the treaty.

- 
- The Cherokee were given two years to migrate voluntarily
  - By 1838 only 2,000 had moved; 16,000 remained on their land.
  - The U.S. government sent 7,000 troops, to force the Cherokee out at bayonet point.