

I. North American History

THE UNITED STATES WITH DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE UNION



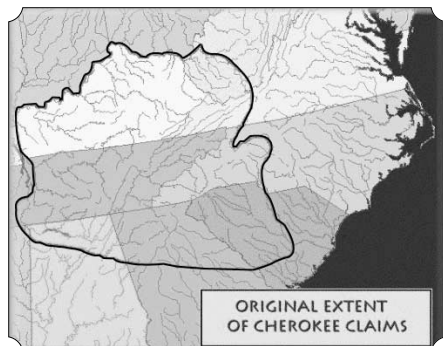
Note: For the original 13 states the order in which they ratified the Constitution is given.

1.1

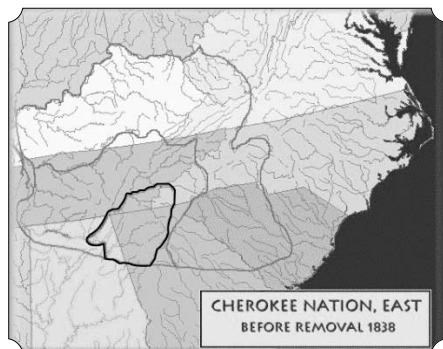
The 17th Century: The Cherokees, Native Americans

❶ In modern American society, Native American is a more socially acceptable word than Indian.

When Europeans started to arrive in North America, they met the native peoples. Once called “Indians,” these peoples are more accurately called “Native Americans^❶.” They were there long before the first Europeans arrived, and fought to keep their land as the Europeans invaded. Eventually, European-Americans won the war against Native Americans, took their land, and destroyed much of Native American culture.



Original Cherokee Lands



Eastern Cherokee Lands 1838

Still, Native Americans and parts of their culture survive. One of the most famous groups of Native Americans is found in North Carolina^❷. These are the Eastern Cherokees. They live in the Smoky Mountains. Another branch of the Cherokee nation lives in the western United States.

One of the first Europeans to meet the Cherokees was the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, in 1540. When Britain's colonies in America fought the British for independence between 1776 and 1781, the Cherokees supported the British but did not actually join the war against the colonies.

In the early 19th century, European-Americans respected the Cherokees. The Cherokees were known as the Cherokee Nation and had their own system of government. Marriage between whites and Cherokees was common. Then gold was discovered on Cherokee land, and European-Americans decided to drive away^❸ the Cherokees and take their gold and territory. Many Cherokees were removed by force from their land and relocated to the west.

❷ See U.S. map on page 7.

❸ To *drive away* means to chase away or force someone to leave an area.

About one in every four Cherokees died during this removal. Not all the Cherokees moved to the west then. Some went instead to North Carolina and Tennessee. Thus, the two branches of the Cherokee people – eastern and western – originated.

Many Americans today have Cherokee ancestry. Humorist Will Rogers was a famous American with Cherokee ancestors. Also, many places in the United States are named after the Cherokee people. The most famous Cherokee is Sequoyah, who invented the Cherokee alphabet⁴. Despite centuries of **aggression** from Europeans and European-Americans, the Cherokees have kept their identity as a Native American people.

❶ Prior to 1821, the Cherokee, like most Native Americans, had no system of writing.

🔊 Cherokee [tʃɛrəki:]

🔊 Hernando de Soto
[hə:Rnɪndou də sɒtəʊ]

🔊 Sequoyah [sɪkwɔɪə]

📖 WORDS FOR HISTORY

- ✓ ancestry
- ✓ branch
- ✓ Cherokee
- ✓ colony
- ✓ culture
- ✓ explorer
- ✓ identity
- ✓ independence
- ✓ invade
- ✓ nation
- ✓ Native American
- ✓ originate
- ✓ relocate
- ✓ removal
- ✓ territory

Questions

- 01** Where is the original home of the Cherokees?
- 02** When did the Cherokees first meet Europeans?
- 03** Why did the relationship between the Cherokees and the European-Americans worsen in the 19th century?
- 04** Why are there two Cherokee nations (Eastern and Western)?
- 05** Look at the word **aggression** in the passage. What do you think **aggression** means in this context?