

# What was the Trail of Tears?

Gray's Social Studies  
AMI Day 4

For hundreds of years the Cherokee Indians lived in the beautiful mountains of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. But then the United States was formed and began to grow. White settlers came. They saw the rich Cherokee farms. They also knew that gold had been found on the Cherokees' land. In 1830, the Cherokee nation was ordered to move west. Poor land had been set aside for them in the Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma.



Most of the Indians refused to move. "This is our home," they said. "We were here long before the white man came. This land is sacred to us. The spirits of our fathers rest here."

The Cherokees didn't fight back with bows and arrows. They fought in the courts and in the Congress. After eight long years, they won their case in the United States Supreme Court. President Andrew Jackson, however, would not enforce the law. The Cherokees' battle was lost.

In the winter of 1838, the U.S. Army drove some 14,000 Cherokee people from their homes. The 800-mile journey west lasted for six months. Most of the Cherokees traveled on foot. Death marched with them along the trail. Hunger, cold, and sickness snatched their lives. At each stop, dozens of men, women, and children were buried. About 4,000 Cherokees died in all. And this death march came to be known as the Trail of Tears.

Mark the circle (○) beside the right answer.

- The article does not tell about the Cherokee nation's \_\_\_\_\_.  
 farms                       long march                       schools
- Which word in paragraph 1 means told to do something?  
 lived                       formed                       ordered                       set
- Which paragraph tells why the Cherokees did not want to move?  
 1                       2                       3                       4
- A fact is something known to be true. An opinion is something thought to be true.  
Mark Fact or Opinion for each sentence below.  
Some settlers wanted Cherokee land.                       Fact                       Opinion  
Many Cherokees died on their march west.                       Fact                       Opinion  
The Cherokees should have fought with guns, not words.                       Fact                       Opinion
- TRIP is to JOURNEY as fight is to \_\_\_\_\_. Think how the first two words go together.  
Then mark the word that goes with fight in the same way.  
 court                       buried                       refused                       battle
- Lost can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.  
 not won                       unable to find the way