Removal of Creeks

The government negotiated with the Creek chief William McIntosh to cede the remaining Creek land to Georgia. McIntosh signed the Treaty of Indian Springs in 1825. The Creek tribe was enraged. A war party murdered McIntosh and other leaders who signed the treaty. This led to the removal of the Creeks from their home lands in Georgia by 1827.

Removal of Cherokee

The Cherokee tribe lived in the Northwest corner of Georgia. Their capital city was New Echota and created an independent government. In 1791, the U.S. Government signed a treaty giving the Cherokee rights to this independent nation and have its own government. In 1828, Georgia lawmakers reversed the agreement and said state laws were in effect to the Cherokee tribe. Gold was discovered on Cherokee territory during this time. The Dahlonega Gold Rush was on and put pressure on the Cherokee to give up their land. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act which ordered all Indians to leave their homes and move west. The Cherokee tribe went to court with the help of John Ross. He argued their case in the Supreme Court. In 1832, Chief Justice John Marshall ruled in favor of the Cherokee in Worcester v. Georgia. His ruling was that the Georgia laws were not valid in Cherokee lands. President Andrew Jackson ignored the ruling and ordered that the Indians be removed.

Trail of Tears

In 1838, the government sent troops to forcefully remove the Cherokee. Cherokee families were dragged from their homes. The Cherokee were forced to march 700-800 miles across the Southeast. More than 4,000 died from the harsh weather, diseases, and lack of food during the six-month journey. The Cherokee call it the “trail where they cried”.