

Trail of Tears



The Cherokee, Muscogee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole tribes were marched at gunpoint across hundreds of miles to reservations.

The Indian Removal Act was passed by Congress in 1830. It began with the removal of the Choctaw in 1831 and ended with the removal of the Cherokee in 1838.

General Scott and his soldiers rounded up the Cherokee people into large prison camps called stockades. They were not allowed to gather up their possessions before being put into the camps.



During the summer, some groups were forced to start marching to Oklahoma. The remainder of the people were held in camps until the Fall. In the Fall, the rest of the Cherokee headed out to Oklahoma. The journey lasted into the winter months making it very difficult and dangerous. At least 4,000 Cherokee died on the Trail of Tears.

