

WORCESTER V. GEORGIA AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY CHART (TEACHER COPY)

Actions taken to <u>protect</u> tribal sovereignty	Actions taken to <u>take away</u> tribal sovereignty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Cherokee, with the help of Samuel Worcester, challenged the U.S. government’s attempts to remove the Cherokee to Indian Territory by establishing newspapers, creating a constitution, and challenging the state of Georgia in the U.S. court system. The goal was for the Cherokee people to maintain sovereignty, or control over their own land and their right to make decisions for themselves.</i> • <i>The judicial branch supported the tribal sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation in the ruling in “Worcester v. Georgia”. The Supreme Court said that the Cherokee were their own “distinct, independent political” community that had the right to their land and the right to govern their own people. The ruling further stated that the State of Georgia had no right to extend its authority over the Cherokee Nation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>White settlers illegally pushed into Cherokee land. Neither Georgia’s state government nor the national government stopped this from happening, even though it threatened Cherokee sovereignty because Americans were invading the tribe’s territory. The gold discovered in Georgia only intensified this problem.</i> • <i>Georgia’s law regulating who could or could not enter Cherokee land took away tribal sovereignty because this law allowed Georgia to make decisions that the Cherokee should have been making for themselves. Georgia also passed this law to keep people like Samuel Worcester from helping the Cherokee organize to fight to protect their sovereignty.</i> • <i>President Jackson took away tribal sovereignty from the Cherokee by refusing to carry out his Constitutional duty to enforce the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of “Worcester v. Georgia.” His disregard for the court’s decision allowed the State of Georgia to continue to invade Cherokee land and pressure the federal government to force the Cherokee off their land. The Cherokee were eventually forced off their land by the U.S. government.</i>