

ANSWERS—REMOVAL & RELOCATION OF THE CREEKS

Guiding Questions	Notes	Source of Information
<p>Prior to Removal: Where were the Creeks’ ancestral homes? What was their lifestyle there?</p>	<p><i>Most Creeks lived in either Alabama or Georgia, but some were scattered in Florida and South Carolina.</i></p> <p><i>The Creeks lived in small towns. Each town had a council house, ball playground, and were either peace (white) towns or war (red) towns. One man acted as the leader or “meko,” and a Council of Elders was appointed. Over time, many towns merged. The lifestyle was deerskin trading, but eventually changed to farming.</i></p>	<p><i>Muscogee Creek Nation website Oklahoma Historical Society New World Encyclopedia</i></p>
<p>Removal and Relocation: How and when were Creeks removed from their homeland? What was it like on the Trail of Tear to Oklahoma territory? Where were Creeks eventually relocated in Oklahoma?</p>	<p><i>Through a series of treaties, the Creeks were removed to Indian territory approximately from 1827 with the last 20,000 leaving in 1837.</i></p> <p><i>Many Creeks died on the Trail of Tears. The last group was herded into concentration camps and given one blanket per family. For years, their bleached bones could be seen on the trail. Creeks were relocated in central Indian territory.</i></p>	<p><i>Muscogee Creek Nation website Explore Southern History Oklahoma historical society</i></p>
<p>Response: How did the Creeks and their leaders respond to removal and relocation?</p>	<p><i>In his second inaugural address, Jackson said that moving Native Americans to Indian territory could be away from settlers and their decay to be free to pursue their own ways of life. This would allow states to expand in power and wealth.</i></p> <p><i>The Treaty of Indian Springs (1825) was an illegal treaty by William McIntosh that ceded lands to federal government. Creeks tried to get the land back, but it was never given back.</i></p>	<p><i>Jackson’s Second Inaugural Address Encyclopedia of Alabama</i></p>
<p>Additional Facts: Add any interesting or surprising facts found during your research.</p>	<p><i>Answers will vary. “Creeks” were actually a merging of many tribes in southeastern states that lived along creeks (small waterways). The Creeks were slave owners, and when they were removed to Indian Territory, they also took their slaves. Creeks fought early battles against the federal government to keep their land, but were defeated.</i></p>	<p><i>Oklahoma Historical Society</i></p>