

## ANSWERS—THE CHEROKEE NATION AND SUPREME COURT CASES

Guiding Questions	Notes	Source of Information
<p><b>Cherokee Response to Removal:</b> How did the Cherokee tribe protect itself to prevent removal from their homelands?</p>	<p><i>Any of these answers are acceptable. Cherokees sold small amounts of land to settlers in the hope of keeping larger tracts of land. Tribes stopped selling land to the federal government. The tribe adopted white settler customs of farming, creating towns, etc. in the hope that the US government would see them as “civilized.” Cherokees developed their own constitution, language, alphabet, and government to try to remain a sovereign nation or be seen as “civilized.” The Cherokees also appealed to the courts to keep their land.</i></p>	<p>PBS: Indian Removal</p>
<p><b>Cherokee Nation Vs. Georgia (1831)</b> What was the outcome of the Supreme Court case in Cherokee Nation vs. the state of Georgia?</p>	<p><i>The Cherokee Nation wanted to stop Georgia from enacting laws that impacted Cherokee people or sought to take away their lands by the state. The Cherokees believed themselves to be an independent nation with its own constitution and government. The Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokees were not an independent or foreign nation but that the tribe actually depended on the federal government for protection and support. Therefore, Georgia could make laws that Cherokees must follow.</i></p>	<p>Digital History: Cherokee Nation v. Georgia</p>
<p><b>Worcester Vs. Georgia (1832)</b> What was the outcome of the Supreme Court case in Worcester vs. the state of Georgia?</p>	<p><i>The Supreme Court reversed its ruling from the earlier Supreme Court decision and said that Georgia could not enforce laws against the Cherokee people on their land or other people like Worcester, a missionary, who was living on Cherokee land. Only the federal government, because of their earlier treaties, could enforce laws that affected the Cherokees or others, like Worcester, living on Cherokee land.</i></p>	<p>Digital History: Worcester V. Georgia Oyez website Worcester V. Georgia</p>
<p><b>Additional Facts:</b> Add any interesting or surprising facts found during your research.</p>	<p><i>Answers will vary. It was interesting in that in one year the Supreme Court gave two different opinions on which laws Cherokee tribes had to follow-- the state or the federal government. Jackson ignored the courts and removed tribes or negotiated treaties for removal even before the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Some tribes fought the government, some negotiated treaties, and a small handful of tribal members went voluntarily to Indian Territory. Many tribes tried to adopt the ways of white settlers to avoid removal from their homes.</i></p>	<p>PBS: Indian Removal Digital History websites</p>