

The Trail Of Tears

Junior Division

Research Paper

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The Trail Of Tears was a very horrible act from our history. As Native Americans were forced from their lands they were forced on to a trail of tears and death. People would perish from starvation, disease, and dehydration. People would also pass on from smallpox and colds that they could not treat. This was a trail of sadness that had led to at least 1000 deaths from 5 different tribes that were forced on the trail.

Throughout time, people have wanted what Native Americans had to the point where they were relocated repeatedly, and even killed for those wants. Compromises were non-existent; one-sided executive orders by the majority always overrode the rights of them as a minority. This process still exists today.

On May 28th, 1830 President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. This act granted land West of the Mississippi in exchange for Native American lands in the border. The five civilized tribes (Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Muscogee and Seminole.) These tribes

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made homes in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida. But when this act was made a law they were forced to move. Some left peacefully but most refused. The Creek tribe leader was imprisoned in 1837 while 15,000 Creeks were forced westward.

The Seminole's managed to present a serious threat against the U.S. with a war against them. But then they were forced westward in 1857. With 7,000 men the U. S army went to remove the Cherokees. They shipped some of them on barges to Louisiana and then they started to walk. With the The 5 tribes had to move to oklahoma and other lands west. On the trail they were pushed around by the soldiers. In the summer when the indians were hungry the soldier would kill a buffalo or a deer. But during the winter it would be to cold and this made the Native americans starve which lead to death.

And they could only drink from fresh water which also led to dehydration. They had to walk for over 1000 miles to get to there new home. They had no food which they would store during the winter. Or any medicine

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which would heal the sickness. Without the medicine they died. They had to walk with very little rest. And every so miles there would be a trail of bodies.

In the Native americans old homes they would have medicine and food stored in their home's for winter. But without them that's how a quarter of them died. But some of them were saved because of the efforts of the cherokee leader John Ross. He told them that they should split up so they could get there faster. This effort saved many lives. They barely had any rest. When they were able to rest they didn't have long.

With no to much food and miles until they found freshwater native americans died. All of the 5 tribes had to suffer from this. A lot of the children were bored on this walk. With little rest if they got injured or sick it would increase their chances of death. So they walked carefully on the twisty are turny path to the new areas reserved for them. As they walked there leaders were not present with them. They were being held by the us army. They will be free when the native american tribes get to there

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new homes. It wasn't fair for the tribe leaders they were forced to sign the papers that would officially grant the native american lands for people to settle on. They were forced to sign or they would have been killed. The Cherokee people tried to be like there white neighbors they started to farm like they did. They made scholl houses and some converted to christianity. They also bought slaves. But this was no good when gold was discovered on Cherokee land. Then the Cherokee people had no choice but to move. Soldiers were sent to round all of the tribes up for the long march to the new lands for them. Life on the trail was sad. For kids this was really rough no fun not a lot and food and trying to stay healthy. If a kid got sick there was a good chance they could die because they had no medicine. Then the elders were second because they could get tired. And they wouldn't have the energy to make it. But there were wagons to carry their things and the food they managed to bring.

It was warm and sunny during the spring and summer. Food was more easy to get because lots of plants and animals were around. They hunted buffalo and deer. This

cured the hunger they have felt on the trail. Also water was easy to find and to drink. But in the winter it was cold and

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not a lot of animals were around they trail. It was too cold to hunt and all of the streams and sources of water were frozen. This was a way Native americans died from dehydration. Families were broken by this Move to new land. Young children died from sickness and starvation. The 5 tribes had to all make long walks. As they stopped for the night they had to look for wolves. Soldier would be on watch. Sick people tried to rest but they couldn't sleep and they passed away. On the trail they sang songs that reminded them of home. There was no time for kids to play only time to walk. There was only time to rest during the night. But during the day only time to walk. When they got time to rest they focused on helping the sick and others slept. They ate during the night because there was little time to stop and eat. They could only eat and walk. The soldiers would be pointing guns at them forcing them to walk. The army were ruthless if anyone tried to attack them they were just killed or left to die. The traveling Native americans had to be careful when in the woods because there were bears and wolves. But the woods were good to because there they could hunt deer to eat. the plains were good to so they could hunt buffalo. But it was easier to find water in a forest than in a plain. The

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water had to be fresh otherwise they could get sick. And getting sick was almost certain death.

Before they had to move they were not to many intruders because it was hard to find the camps. But when gold was discovered on Cherokee land more intruders were brought into the Cherokee lands and the Native Americans were furious. There were some members of the tribe that went behind the tribes wishes and signed papers that granted the tribes lands to the government. The tribes were furious but it was too late. The goal of this act for the United states government in the 1800's were only focusing on getting more people coming to the united states to settle here. But the problem was the Native Americans. So they had to move them with power and force.

As the years went on this happened repeatedly to the same and different groups of Native Americans the people that were here before us. The land the Native Americans claimed before us. The people who were here

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before us. A larger group of individuals over power a small group of individuals. The Smaller group doesn't always win so the larger group usually wins.

As they were closing into their new homes there was a trail of bodies. All of those who lives were ended on this long cold and sad trail of tears for the native american tribes.

All of the tribes had to walk through at least 2 states. Lots of kids died on the trail from sickness like small pox and common colds. Without food or water kids died of starvation and dehydration. Any Native Americans that were close to death were left behind. When they made it to there new home they had to rebuild. They began to rebuild their homes. They were just pushed out of there old homes and just got dropped off in oklahoma without anything to build with. after the leaders of the tribes were released from prison. Eventually they made the reserved for them. About a quarter from every tribe died on the long walk here. But of those that survived the culture is still with us from the native americans

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descendants. There are still some that still go by the native american way of life. Some Native Americans don't use 20 dollar bills because Andrew Jackson is on it.

Throughout time, people have wanted what Native Americans had to the point where they were relocated repeatedly, and even killed for those wants. Compromises were non-existent; one-sided executive orders by the majority always overrode the rights of them as a minority. This process still exists today.

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