

Trail Of Tears

The Trail of Tears is a path that over 16,000 Native Americans walked after the Indian Removal Act was passed in 1830. European settlers had always wanted to own Native American land, but when Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1829, he began to pass laws that forced Native Americans living east of the Mississippi to move west of the Mississippi so that he could use their land. Several of the Native American tribes resisted the take-over of their ancestral lands, but were forcibly removed by local and state militias. This removal is called the "Trail of Tears" because over 4,000 people died of starvation, disease, injury, and exhaustion during the journey, which crossed nine different states over several thousand miles of land and water. When they arrived in the area the government designated Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River, several of the tribes reorganized and continued to advocate for their human rights.



Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.

Many of the *opponents* of the Indian Removal Act were also slave owners. Do you think they were *entitled* to speak about the unfair treatment of Native Americans when they took part in the unfair practice of slavery? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Resisted - Prevented something from happening through action or argument.

Ancestral - Belonging to or inherited from someone's family.

Militia - A military force.

Designated - Officially assigned.

Advocate - To argue for a cause.

Entitled - Has the right to do something.

Opponents - People who disagree with a point of view.