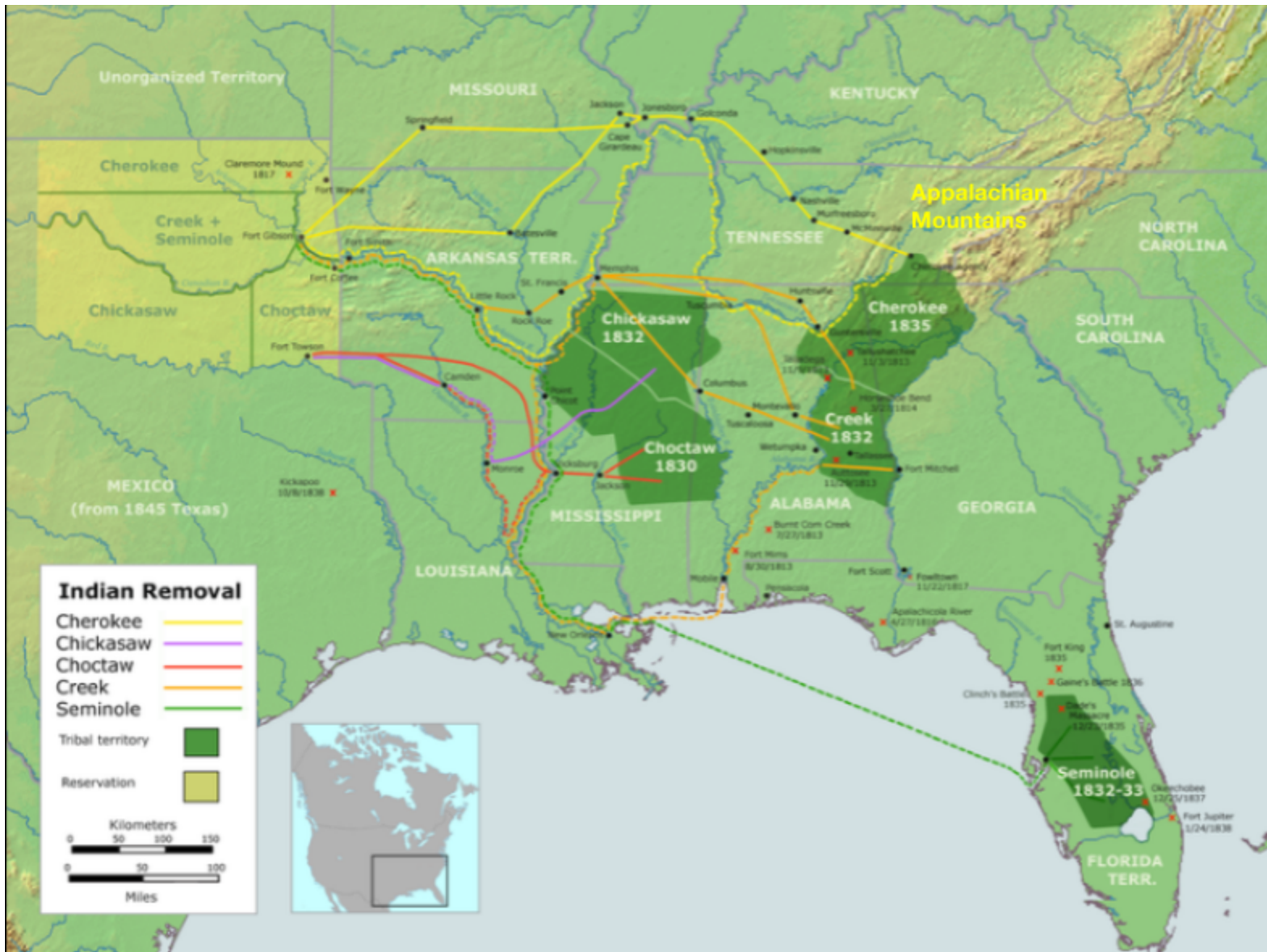


**Station 1:** Maps of the Trail of Tears





**Station 2:** Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress (1830) - December 6th 1830

1	It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years,
2	in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy consummation....The consequences
3	of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indian themselves... It will place a dense
4	and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters....By opening the whole territory between
5	Tennessee on the north and Louisiana on the south to the settlement of the whites it will incalculably strengthen the southwestern
6	frontier... It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States
7	to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites;
8	free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will
9	retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the
10	Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and
11	Christian community...What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our
12	extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or
13	industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and
14	religion?....To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and
15	proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

### **Station 3: Supreme Court Cases - Worcester v. Georgia (1832) & Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831)**

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831) Ruling:

1	A question of much more difficulty remains. Do the Cherokees constitute a foreign state in the sense of the constitution?... They are
2	not a state of the Union ...not owing allegiance to the United States...The condition of the Indians in relation to the United States is,
3	perhaps, unlike that of any other two people in existence... They acknowledge themselves, in their treaties, to be under the protection
4	of the United States; they admit, that the United States shall have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the trade with them, and
5	managing all their affairs as they think proper; and the Cherokees in particular... their relation to the United States resembles that of a
6	ward (child) to his guardian. They look to our government for protection: rely upon its kindness and its power; appeal to it for relief to
7	their wants; and address the president as their great father. They and their country are considered by foreign nations, as well as by
8	ourselves, as being so completely under the sovereignty and dominion of the United States....

Worcester v. Georgia (1832) Ruling:

1	....manifestly consider the several Indian nations as distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries, within which their
2	authority is exclusive, and having a right to all the lands within those boundaries, which is not only acknowledged, but guaranteed by
3	the United States. The Cherokee Nation, then, is a distinct community, occupying its own territory, with boundaries accurately
4	described, in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter but with the
5	permission of the Cherokees themselves or in conformity with treaties and with the acts of Congress.

**Station 4:** Arguments against Native American Resettlement - American author Ralph Waldo Emerson, letter to President Martin Van Buren in 1838.

A PROTEST AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE CHEROKEE INDIANS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA LETTER TO MARTIN VAN BUREN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES April 23, 1838.

SIR : The seat you fill places you in a relation of credit and nearness to every citizen. By right and natural position, every citizen is your friend...Sir, my communication respects the sinister rumors that fill this part of the country concerning the Cherokee people. The interest always felt in the Native population - an interest.... has been heightened in regard to this tribe. Even in our distant State some good rumor of the Cherokee worth and civility has arrived....we have witnessed with sympathy the painful labors of these Native Americans have worked to redeem their race from the doom of eternal inferiority....they have worked hard to become more civil and adopt the customs of the Caucasian race... So is it true then that which the newspapers tell us? Would we truly ask those who were there before us to move hundreds of miles without any legal cause simply because we want their lands? We seem to be committing a crime....a crime that deprives us as well as the Cherokees of a country... will the American government steal? Will it lie? Will it kill?.....

**Station 5:** Trail of Tears - In 1838 and 1839, large groups of Cherokee people migrated to the newly formed Indian territories along a pathway that would become known as the “Trail of Tears”. The migrants faced disease, hunger, and exhaustion on the forced march; 4,000 out of 15,000 Cherokee peoples died along the path. View the following two images created depicting the Trail of Tears. The first was painted in 1942 by Robert Lindeneux. The second, by an unknown artist in 1982.





**Station 6:** Southern Plantation Owners - excerpt from “A Century of Dishonor” by Helen Hunt Jackson.

1	“Some of you (southerners) are poor farmers. You live on the worst land in Georgia and other parts of the south. The big plantation
2	owners with all their cotton and slaves take up the best land and leave you the scraps. You’ve heard that the Cherokee land in
3	Georgia is some of the most fertile land in the country. Best yet, the government of Georgia is having a lottery so that even poor
4	farmers like you will have an equal shot at getting good land... And some of you are big plantation owners who grow cotton on your
5	land and own many slaves. You live in Georgia near the coast. The problem is cotton exhausts the soil, so that after a number of
6	years, your land is not as productive as it once was. You need new land with soil that hasn’t been used to grow cotton for years and
7	years. As of now, the Cherokee are living on the land that rightfully belongs to the state of Georgia... There is a place set aside for
8	the Cherokee and other Indians west of the Mississippi River. They belong with their own kind, right? Remember - the whole country
9	- no the whole world - depends on cotton. Your plantation and plantations like yours are what keep this country strong!”



**Station 7:** Excerpt from the closing paragraphs of an address made by a council of Cherokee people to the United States in July 1830.

1	We are aware, that some persons suppose it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the Mississippi. We think otherwise. Our
2	people universally think otherwise.... there is probably not an adult person in the Cherokee nation, who would think it best to
3	remove...
4	
5	We are not willing to remove; and if we could be brought to this extremity, it would be not by argument, not because our judgment
6	was satisfied, not because our condition will be improved; but only because we cannot endure to be deprived of our national and
7	individual rights and subjected to a process of intolerable oppression.
8	
9	We wish to remain on the land of our fathers...we see nothing but ruin before us. The country west of the Arkansas territory is
10	unknown to us. From what we can learn of it, we have no prepossessions in its favor. All the inviting parts of it, as we believe, are
11	preoccupied by various Indian nations...They would regard us as intruders, and look upon us with an evil eye... All our neighbors, in
12	case of our removal, though crowded into our near vicinity, would speak a language totally different from ours, and practice different
13	customs...Were the country to which we are urged much better than it is represented to be and were it free from the objections
14	which we have made to it, still it is not the land of our birth, nor of our affections. It contains neither the scenes of our childhood, nor
15	the graves of our fathers.