

Legend of the Cherokee Rose

In 1838, the United States Government made the Cherokee move from their homes in Georgia and other states to what was then called the Indian Territory. That land is now the state of Oklahoma.

1. What clues does the title give us about the subject of this passage? _____
2. Does the first paragraph tell us anything about who the Cherokee were? Explain.

3. Does the first paragraph tell us anything about the rose in the title? _____
4. How long ago did the events in this passage take place? _____

Day 1

The Cherokee had to walk for hundreds of miles, and they often did not have enough food or water. Many hundreds of them died. The mothers felt so sad that some of them could not take care of their children.

1. How did the Cherokee get to Indian Territory? _____
2. Does the author include any opinions in this paragraph? _____
3. Who is feeling sad in this paragraph? _____
4. This trip is called the Trail of Tears. What clues tell you why? _____

Day 2

According to the legend, the chiefs asked the Great One for a sign that would make the mothers feel better and make them strong enough to take care of their children.

1. Who in the tribe created a solution to the problem? _____
2. What solution did the tribe create for the mothers? _____
3. Who do you think the Great One was? _____
4. If you were the Great One, what kind of sign would you send to make the mothers feel better and be stronger? _____

Day 3

The Great One promised that where a mother's tear fell, a flower would grow. It is called the Cherokee rose. It is white, which stands for the mothers' tears. The flower's center is gold, a symbol of the gold that was taken from the tribe's land. The seven leaves on the stem stand for the seven groups who walked along the Trail of Tears.

1. What is the Cherokee rose? _____
2. How did the legend of Cherokee rose come about? _____
3. What are the different parts of the rose, and what are they symbols of? _____

4. How does this story make you feel? _____

Day 4

Name _____

The Trail of Tears

The ancient Cherokee were hunters and farmers. They lived in the area that we know as the Appalachian Mountains of Georgia. But in 1829, white settlers found gold on this land. They went to the United States Government and asked that the Cherokee be forced to leave the land, hoping they would then get the rights to it.

A new law called the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was passed. The law stated that all Native Americans east of the Mississippi would be moved. They would have to move to territory in the West—an area that is now Oklahoma.

Some agreed to go, but most would not leave their land. Starting in the spring of 1838, the army gathered the Cherokee together. The people were held in forts like prisoners. Within one month, the first group of Cherokee was forced to leave Georgia. They marched over 1,000 miles to the new land. Some people had horses and wagons. Most people walked. The trip lasted many months. Thousands died either during the march or once they got to the land. There was no shelter or food at the territory. The last group of Cherokee arrived on the Indian Territory in March of 1839. In all, almost 17,000 Cherokee were forced to move to the new land.

1. Why were the Cherokee forced to leave? _____

2. Did the Cherokee go willingly? _____

3. What was the Trail of Tears? _____

4. Could something like this happen today? Explain. _____

