

# Chapter 4

## Wars Change Alabama

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

historic Indians, council, missionary, persuade, ammunition, ally, orphan, militia, migration, elect

**Above:** This cannon at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park stands as a reminder of the battle fought on March 27, 1814. More American Indians lost their lives in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend than any other single battle in our history—as a colony or a country.



**W**

hen the explorers and settlers arrived in the land called Alabama, there were people living here. These native people had families, governments,

and religions. They had ways of making a good life. American Indians have a long history, but most of it is not written. When the Europeans came to the New World, the Indians had different ideas about what to do with these newcomers.

The Creek War was really two wars. It was a civil war within the tribe and a war with the United States. The Creek “White Sticks” wanted to make peace with the American government and the settlers. The Creek “Red Sticks” wanted to fight the Americans. The Creek Nation was divided and fought each other over what to do about the settlers.

Great Britain and Spain helped the Red Sticks fight the Americans. They did this by giving the Indians guns and supplies. Both countries wanted America to lose to the Creek Nation. Great Britain worked with Shawnee Chief Tecumseh to defeat the Americans.

The United States fought with the help of the Creek White Sticks, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. Americans were fighting for the settlers’ safety and for future settlers’ rights. The Treaty of Fort Jackson ended the war. It allowed a population explosion that changed Alabama forever. In the end, the United States did not reward the Indians who helped them defeat the Creek.

At the same time, the United States declared war on Great Britain in 1812. The new country of America fought the British in the War of 1812. Battles began in June 1812 and continued to the spring of 1815. Although a peace treaty was signed in 1814, fighting did not stop until the next year. This was because it took a long time for the news to reach all areas.

# Focus on Reading Skills

## Reading a Chart

### Learning

A chart is a way of showing information in a short form. The information may be words or numbers. One example is a mileage chart. Most road maps have a mileage chart. These charts show how far one place is from another. Cities in most areas of the state are listed on the top and side of the chart.

### Practicing

Find the starting place of your trip on the side. Hold your finger there. Find the town where your trip ends on the top. Put another finger on

it. Move straight across the chart with the first finger. Move straight down with the second finger until the fingers meet. Where your fingers meet is the mileage. For example, the mileage between Clanton and Birmingham is 51 miles.

Find the mileage between these cities:

1. Anniston and Auburn
2. Eufaula and Camden
3. Athens and Evergreen
4. Mobile and Decatur
5. Cuba and Dothan
6. Athens and Birmingham
7. Auburn and Mobile

	Anniston	Athens	Auburn	Birmingham	Camden	Clanton	Cuba	Decatur	Dothan	Eufaula	Evergreen	Mobile
Anniston	0	121	97	66	170	89	188	106	222	175	201	293
Athens	121	0	205	92	213	143	222	15	285	264	258	333
Auburn	101	212	0	116	138	89	189	190	137	68	142	235
Birmingham	66	92	112	0	121	51	126	77	193	168	166	241
Camden	170	213	128	121	0	82	81	198	145	150	58	127
Clanton	89	143	90	51	82	0	125	128	142	118	122	202
Cuba	188	222	189	126	81	125	0	202	245	220	141	146
Decatur	106	15	190	77	198	128	202	0	270	243	243	318
Dothan	222	278	137	193	145	142	245	270	0	54	109	196
Eufaula	175	264	68	169	150	118	220	243	54	0	141	233
Evergreen	201	258	145	166	58	122	141	243	109	141	0	91
Mobile	293	333	235	241	127	202	146	318	196	233	91	0

# Section I

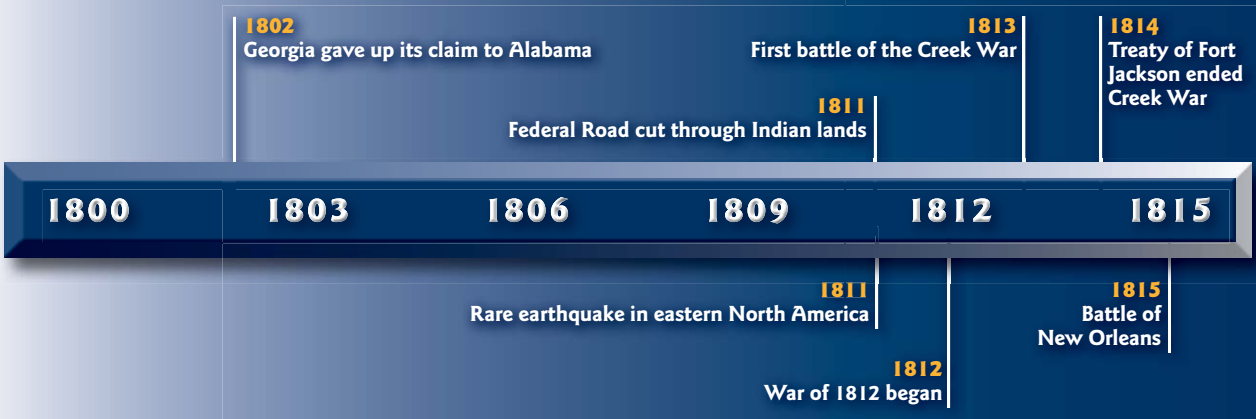
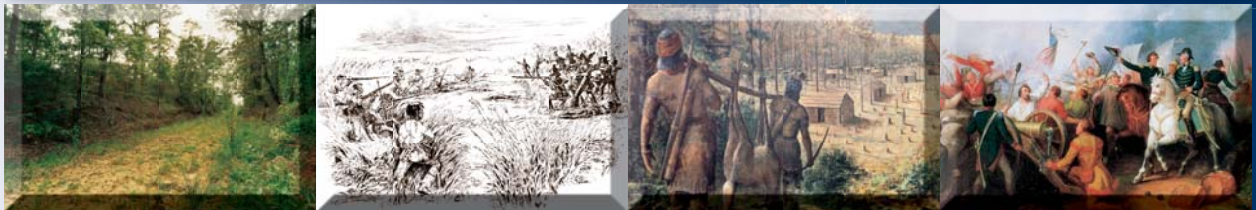
## American Indian Tribes of Alabama

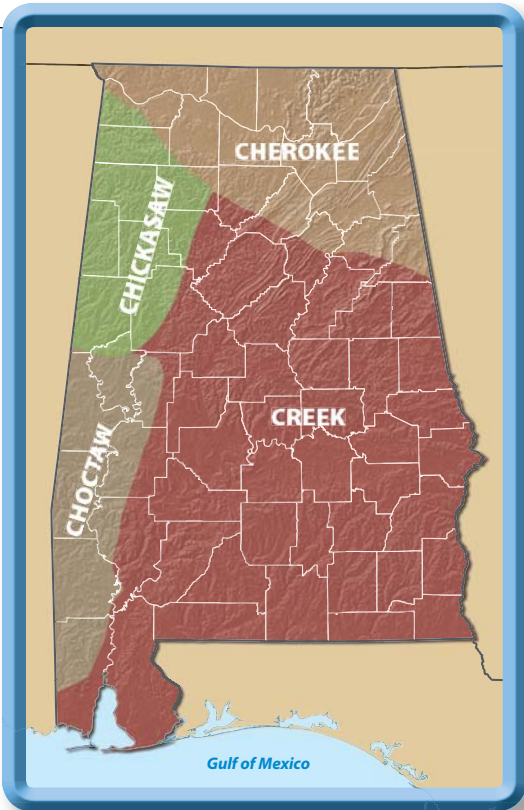
### As you read, look for

- the four main tribes of Alabama;
- how the tribes made a living;
- what they felt about the land;
- terms: **historic Indians**, **council**, **missionary**.

**Historic Indians** are those who were living in the New World when the Europeans arrived. The explorers and settlers began keeping written records of the American Indians they met. Historic Indians are known by tribal names. The four main tribes of

**Figure 10**  
**Timeline:**  
**1800 to 1815**





Alabama were the Creek, the Cherokee, the Choctaw, and the Chickasaw.

These Indians lived mostly in villages near waterways. They farmed, fished, and hunted. They believed the land belonged to all people. The Indians took care of the land that they used. They used all parts of the animals that they killed. That was part of their culture. The tribes traded and worked with traders and settlers. They learned much of the culture of Europeans, or white men.

### The Creek

The Creek tribe was one of the larger tribes in the southeastern part of North America. The Creek were not just one group of people. They allowed people

### Map 14 Indian Lands

**Map Skill:** Which tribe had the most land in the eastern part of the state?

**Right:** *Yoholo Micco was chief of the Creek town of Eufalo on the Tallapoosa River. In 1814, he signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson. He later moved to Arkansas. Opposite page, above:* *Tah-chee was a Cherokee chief who moved to the West before the forced removal. Opposite page, below:* *An early view of a Cherokee village.*



from other Indian tribes to join them. Even though the people were not alike, the different towns came together to form a nation. The English traders called all of these people “Creek.”

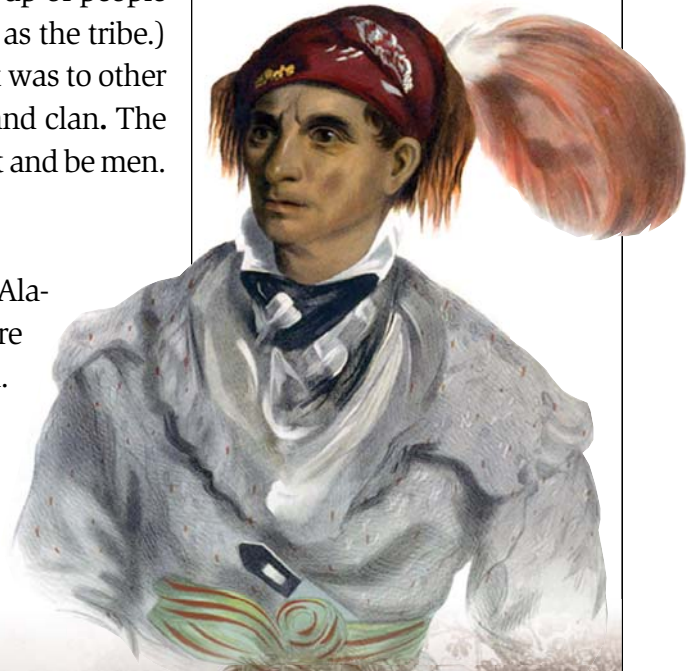
Creek Indians, also called the Muskogee, lived in central, eastern, and southeastern Alabama. Around 1700, the Creek Nation had 50 small towns or tribes. A chief or “miko” and a tribal council ruled each town. (A **council** is a group of people chosen to make decisions for a larger group, such as the tribe.)

Family life was very important to the Creek, as it was to other tribes. Children belonged to the woman’s family and clan. The mother’s male relatives taught her sons how to hunt and be men.

## The Cherokee

The Cherokee lived in the northeastern part of Alabama and the Tennessee River Valley. By 1782, there were several Cherokee towns in the future Alabama.

Many of the Cherokee married white settlers and adopted their ways. The federal (United States) government sent an agent to help the Indians change the way they lived. The women were given looms (weaving machines) so they could





## About Alabama

The state's name comes from the Alabama River (above), which was named after the Alabama (Alibamon) Indians. The Choctaw words *alba amo* may be the source of the name. These words mean "clearers of the thicket."

make cloth. The agent gave the men plows and encouraged them to farm and raise livestock.

Some Cherokee became farmers and traders who imported goods from Europe. Christian missionaries started schools at Creek Path and Wills Town. (A **missionary** is a person who goes to another area to do religious work.) Many of the Indians adopted the white man's god. They sang the songs of the "black coats" (ministers).

### The Choctaw

The Choctaw tribe was one of the most powerful in the Southeast. They lived along the Mobile and Alabama Rivers in southwestern Alabama. There were about a dozen Choctaw villages in Alabama, mainly in present-day Sumter, Choctaw, and Washington Counties.

Pushmataha was a famous Choctaw leader. During the Creek War, he joined American forces to fight the Red Sticks.

The Choctaw were excellent farmers and traders. When deer became scarce, the Choctaw raised livestock, grew cotton, operated inns, and owned ferries. In 1786, the Choctaw signed their first treaty with the United States to begin trade.





## The Chickasaw

The few Chickasaw villages in the state were in the northwestern part. Most of their early villages were along the Tennessee River.

The Chickasaw were brave and fierce fighters. In 1541, Chickasaw warriors successfully fought the forces of Hernando de Soto.

William and George Colbert were Chickasaw brothers who could speak and write English. The Colberts encouraged their tribe to raise cattle and grow cotton. They wanted the Chickasaw to have a more American-style government.

### Think It Through!

1. Which tribe let people from other groups join them?
2. Why did the United States government want the Indians to change their ways?

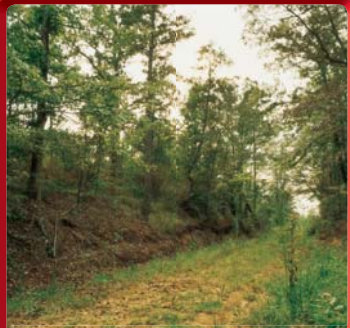
**Above:** Many tribes played the game of stickball. This painting is of a Choctaw stickball game. Villages often competed against each other. The number of players and the size of the field varied widely. It is the origin of the modern game of lacrosse.

**Opposite page below:** This painting is of a Choctaw village in the early 1800s. The styles of the Indians' houses and clothing show the effect of contact with Europeans.



## Section 2

# Causes of the War



## About Alabama

When it was built, the Federal Road connected south Georgia with Fort Stoddert near present-day Mt. Vernon, Alabama.

The road was originally planned to go from Washington, D.C., to New Orleans, Louisiana.

### As you read, look for

- the causes of the Creek War;
- who the Red Sticks and White Sticks were;
- the British interest in the war;
- more settlers coming onto Indian lands;
- American Indians forced to leave their land;
- terms: **persuade**, **ammunition**, **ally**.

**The Indians could not agree on what to do about the problem** of too many settlers. All of the tribes had traded animal skins with the Europeans for guns, knives, plows, and more. The Indians liked using these tools, and some of them had adopted a new way of life. Many American Indians wanted to live with the settlers. But many others wanted the settlers to leave.

### More Settlers Come to Alabama

Georgia had claimed the land to the west of it and sold a lot of the land to speculators. President George Washington declared the sale illegal. Georgia gave up its claim to Alabama in 1802. But by that time, many settlers had already moved into present-day Alabama.

The settlers began to take over Indian land. In 1802, a Creek chief complained to the government's Indian agent. The chief was upset that settlers put cattle on Indian hunting grounds. That same year, President Thomas Jefferson had a plan to buy Indian land. He wanted to move the people to the Indian Territory in the West. By 1805, there were so many settlers that 30 Creek chiefs and warriors went to Washington, D.C., to see President Jefferson. They were persuaded to allow a "horse path" through

their country. (To **persuade** is to get someone to do something; to convince.) In 1811, the horse path turned into a road called the Federal Road. Many wagonloads of pioneers followed this road and settled near Alabama's rivers.

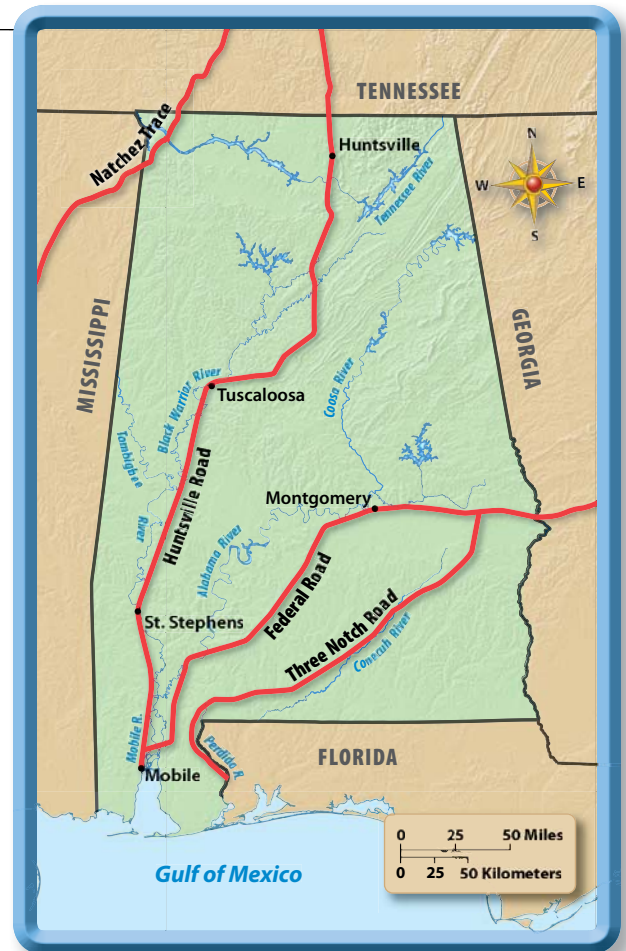
The Indians still could not agree on what to do about the settlers taking the land. Some Indians liked the settlers. Chief Pushmataha thought the settlers had helped the Choctaw. He wanted to live near them in peace.

Other Indians hated the settlers. They did not like it when white men cut trees to clear fields or build villages. These Indians wanted the settlers to leave the land. They were angry that the federal government wanted them to change their culture to the ways of white men.

## Tecumseh

There were several wars in Europe between 1801 and 1815. The warring countries took their fighting to each other's colonies. The United States did not take sides in the wars. It wanted to trade with all of Europe—especially France. But the British navy began stopping American ships bound for France. They sometimes took war supplies and even American seamen. At the same time, some Americans wanted to make Canada part of the United States. But Canada was a British colony. In Chapter 3, you read about other disputes between the United States and Great Britain. All of these problems led to the War of 1812.

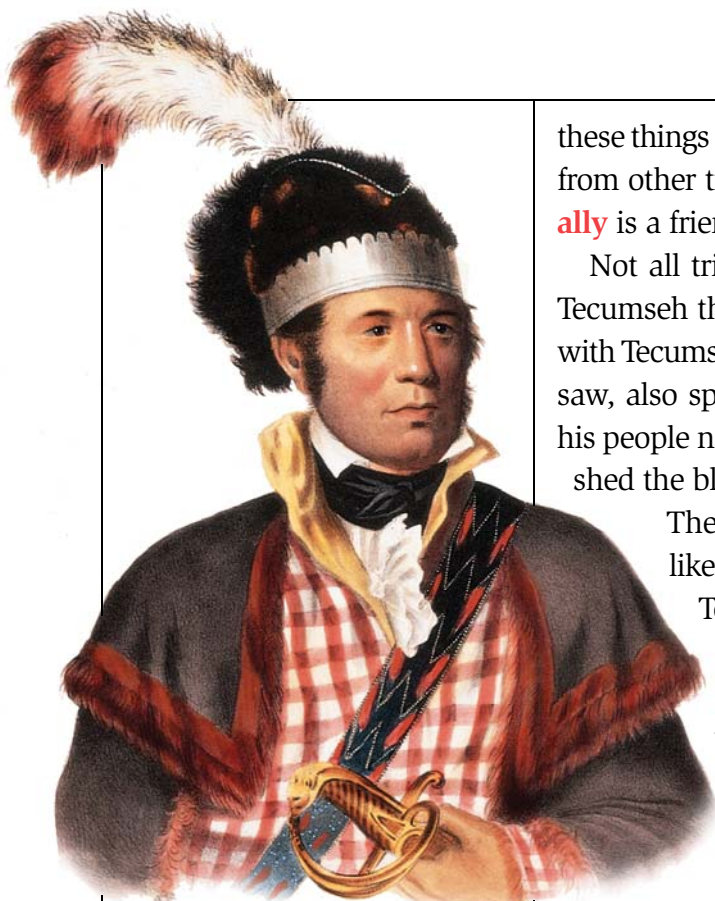
Great Britain was about to go to war. They wanted the American Indians on their side. They asked Shawnee Chief Tecumseh to help them. Tecumseh believed the only way the Indians could keep their lands was to fight the settlers. Great Britain promised the chief guns and **ammunition** (bullets and gunpowder). Tecumseh wanted



## Map 15 Pioneer Roads

**Map Skill:** Rivers were difficult to cross in the pioneer days. Settlers are headed south from Georgia on Three Notch Road. What rivers will they have to cross?

**Left:** The Sovereign Nation of the Shawnee Tribe (Oklahoma) has honored Tecumseh with a special silver dollar.



these things to use in fighting the Americans. With some Indians from other tribes, Tecumseh went south looking for allies. (An **ally** is a friend or partner.)

Not all tribes wanted to join this war. The Chickasaw told Tecumseh they wanted peace. They decided not to fight along with Tecumseh. The Colbert family, who were important Chickasaw, also spoke against war. Choctaw Chief Pushmataha told his people not to think about fighting. He said, “We have never shed the blood of white men in war.”

The Creek Nation was already split into the more warlike upper towns and the more peaceful lower towns.

Tecumseh’s arrival made that split even wider. He went from town to town trying to get all of the Indians to work together. When he visited a tribe, the warriors sat around a fire to hear him speak. He said, “Will we let ourselves be destroyed . . . without a struggle, give up our homes, our country? . . . I know you will cry *Never!*” Then the warriors voted on joining Tecumseh in war.

There are stories that those who wanted to fight took burning sticks from the fire and held them up. These Indians were called “Red Sticks.” Some of the Creek who became Red Sticks were Josiah Francis, Peter McQueen, and Menawa. Jim Boy and William Weatherford, or Red Eagle, also joined the Red Sticks. Those who did not want to fight held up sticks that had not been burned or had white ashes on them. This group was called “White Sticks” and included William McIntosh and Big Warrior.

The disagreement between the Red Sticks and the White Sticks turned into a tribal civil war. This tribal civil war led to the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814.



**Top:** William McIntosh was a White Stick.  
**Above:** Jim Boy (Tustenaggee Emathla) was a Red Stick.

### Think It Through!

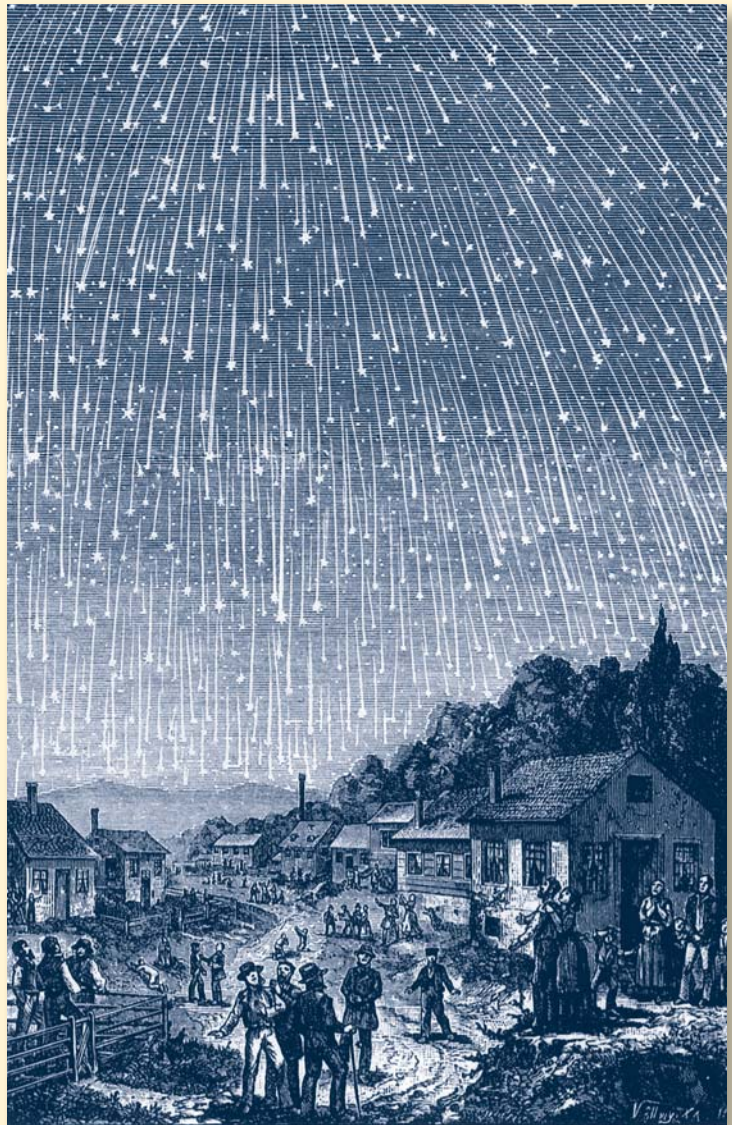
1. Who was the Shawnee leader who wanted war?
2. How could having the Creek as allies help the British in the War of 1812?
3. Who was the Choctaw chief who wanted peace?
4. How did the Chickasaw feel about going to war against white men?

# Focus on Science

## “Stars Fell on Alabama”

The legend goes that Tecumseh said a fire from the sky would fall on Alabama. This would prove the rightness of his plan. Afterwards, it is reported that a great meteor shower occurred. People claimed that Tecumseh also said he could stamp his foot and make “the whole earth tremble.” A large earthquake shook the territory on December 16, 1811. Many people believed that Tecumseh caused the meteor shower and the earthquake.

Much earlier, during prehistoric times, a gigantic meteorite fell to Earth. The impact was near present-day Wetumpka in Elmore County. It is called the Wetumpka Astrobleme, which means “star wound.” The meteorite hit about 65 million years ago. At that time, that area was covered by the Gulf of Mexico. The meteorite hit with such force that it made a huge crater (a bowl-shaped dent in the earth) that can be seen today. In 1972, T. L. Neatherly, a geologist with the Alabama Geological Survey, and his team mapped the crater. Neatherly wrote, “It is deeper in the middle and higher at the edges, a round circle that is 400 to 500 feet above the rest of the hard rock.” You can go today and see the giant crater.



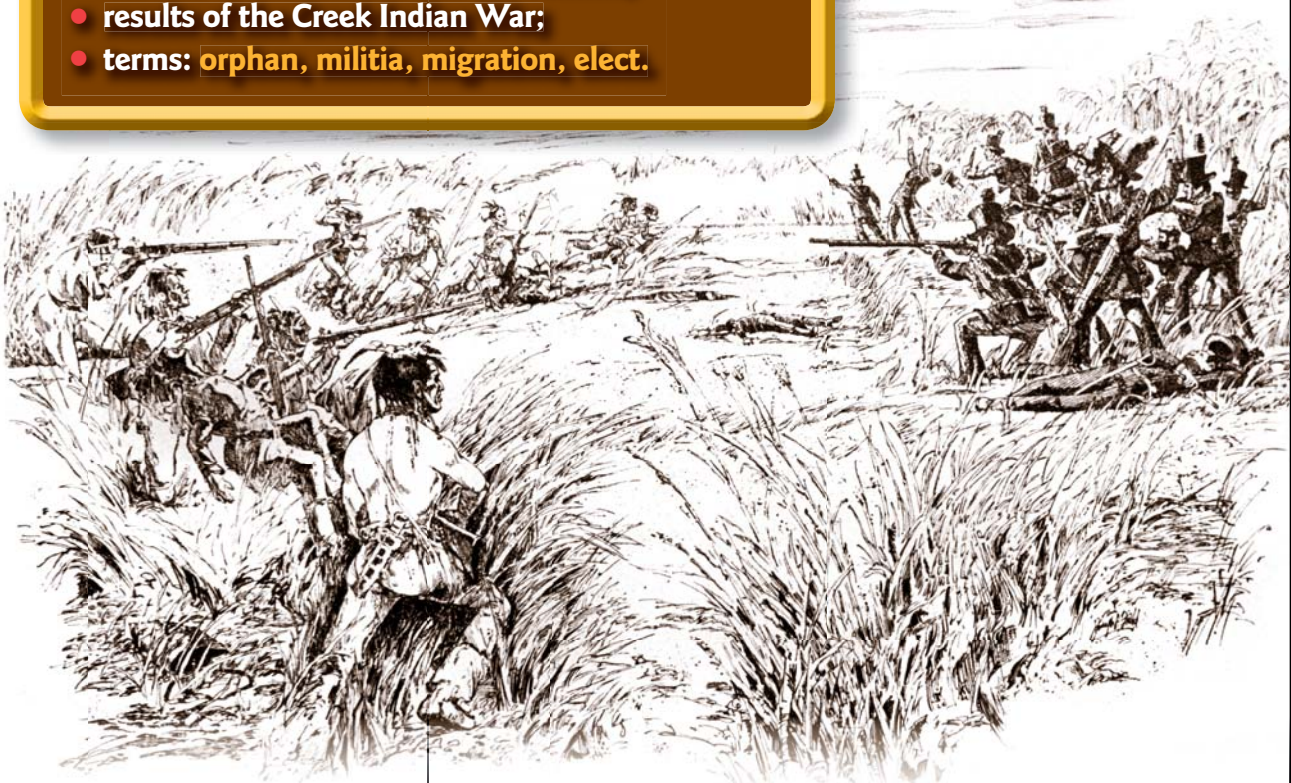
**Above:** Legend has it that a meteor shower followed Tecumseh’s claim that a fire from the sky would fall on Alabama.

## Section 3

# The Creek Indian War

### As you read, look for

- the Indian-settler battles;
- leaders of the Indians and the settlers;
- results of the Creek Indian War;
- terms: **orphan, militia, migration, elect.**



**Above:** *The Creek Indian War began when settlers attacked a group of Creek Indians bringing weapons from the coast.*

**As early as 1795, Tecumseh believed there would be war** between the Indians and the settlers. He said, “My heart is a stone: heavy with sadness for my people; cold with the knowledge that no treaty will keep whites out of our lands. . . .”

### The War Begins

In the summer of 1813, Peter McQueen and other Red Stick warriors went to Pensacola. There they received supplies and ammunition from the Spanish. The Red Sticks headed home on

the night of July 26, 1813. They camped at Burnt Corn Creek in present-day Monroe County.

The settlers found out about the guns and ammunition. On the morning of July 27, Colonel James Caller led about 180 settlers in an attack on the Indians. The surprised Red Sticks ran into a nearby swamp. Instead of chasing them, the soldiers started picking up the Indians' guns. When the warriors saw this, they came back. This time, the settlers were surprised. Some of them ran; others stayed to fight. The Red Sticks finally drove the settlers away and won this battle, the first of the Creek War.

## Fort Mims

After the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek, the settlers decided to build forts for protection. They built walls around a house and farm buildings belonging to Samuel Mims. He lived in an area that today is Baldwin County. Families began moving inside the fort for protection. By the middle of August 1813, over 500 people were living at Fort Mims.

Major Daniel Beasley was in command of Fort Mims. General Ferdinand Claiborne, his superior officer, inspected the fort and told Beasley to make the fort stronger. This work was not done.

As days passed with no Indian attack, the heavy gates to the fort were left open. Every day, some sand blew against the gates. As the sand piled up, it became impossible to close the gates quickly.

August 30, 1813, was a summer morning like many others. Women cooked meals and washed clothes. Children ran around the yard inside the fort. Some of the men played cards. No one stood guard. Indians were seen nearby, but no one thought there was any danger.

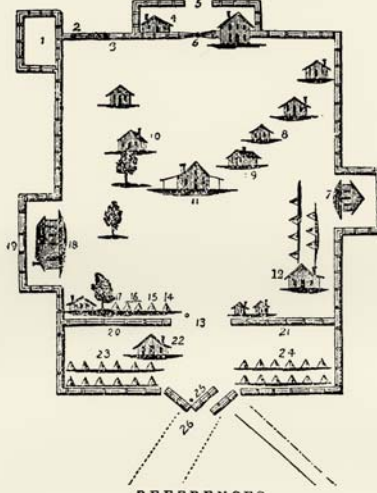
In the woods around the fort, hundreds of Red Sticks were hiding. Their leader was Chief Red Eagle, Alexander McGillivray's nephew. The Red Sticks planned to attack at noon.

When the bugle sounded the call for lunch, the Red Sticks ran yelling into the fort. Major Beasley hurried to close the gate, but it was too late. He was killed before he could even try to close it.

The Red Sticks killed everyone they could see. Chief Red Eagle tried to stop the killing of women and children, but his warriors

DRAWING OF FORT MIMS,

Found among Gen. Claiborne's manuscript papers.



### REFERENCES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Block House.   | 14 Ensign Chambliss' Tent.                  |
| 2 Pickets cut away by the Indians.                               | 15 Ensign Gibbs'.                           |
| 3 Guard's Station.   | 16 Randon's.                                |
| 4 Guard House.   | 17 Captain Middleton's.                     |
| 5 Western Gate, but not up.                                      | 18 Captain Jack's Station.                  |
| 6 This Gate was shut, but a hole was cut through by the Indians. | 19 Port-holes taken by Indians.             |
| 7 Captain Bailey's Station.                                      | 20 21 Port-holes taken by Indians.          |
| 8 Steadham's House   | 22 Major Beasley's Cabin.                   |
| 9 Mrs. Dyer's House.   | 23 Captain Jack's Company.                  |
| 10 Kitchen.  | 24 Captain Middleton's Company.             |
| 11 Mims' House.  | 25 Where Major Beasley fell.                |
| 12 Randon's House.   | 26 Eastern Gate, where the Indians entered. |
| 18 Old Gate-way—open.  |   |

**Above:** This plan of Fort Mims was based on one found in General Claiborne's papers.



**Above:** *On August 30, 1813, hundreds of Creek warriors attacked Fort Mims. They killed most of the people in the fort and burned it to the ground. It was one of the worst massacres in American history.*

would not listen. So he got on his horse and rode away before the battle was over. The Red Stick warriors killed hundreds of people and took about 100 captives, including slaves. Then they burned the fort. Fewer than 40 people escaped from the fort during the attack. Most of those who survived ran into the woods and hid. One who escaped was a slave woman named Hester. Even though wounded, she made it to the river and found a canoe. She paddled to Fort Stoddert near Mobile and reported the first news of the battle at Fort Mims.

The brave act of a Red Stick saved the members of one family. Toward the end of the battle, Mrs. Vicey McGirth and her children stood together in the corner of a building. They were about to be killed when a young warrior named Sanota saw them. Mrs. McGirth had taken him in as an orphan. (An **orphan** is a child whose parents have died.) She had treated him as one of her own children. Sanota jumped in front of the family and protected them with his body. He said he wanted them for his slaves. Sanota led the mother and children away from the fort

and took them to his village. Later, they slipped away and found Mr. McGirth. Zachariah McGirth was not at the fort at the time of the attack. He thought his family had died in the battle.

### **Sam Dale—Hero**

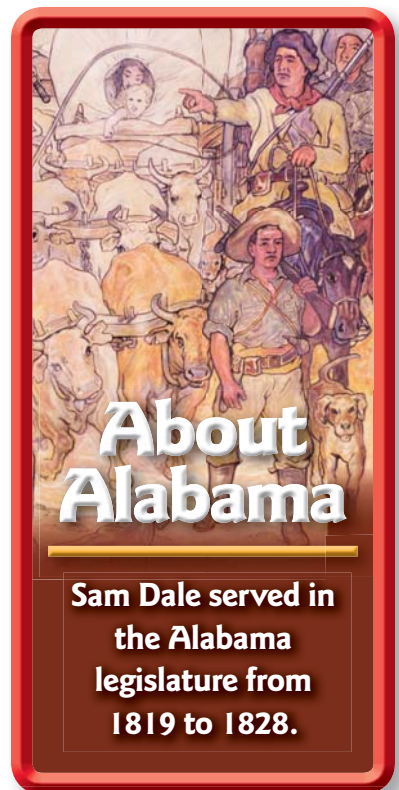
After the attack on Fort Mims, the settlers were even more afraid of the Red Sticks. They were also very angry with the Indians. Groups of settlers often went out to look for them. Sam Dale, who fought at Burnt Corn Creek, was a scout for one of those groups of settlers.

One day in November, Dale's party was crossing the Alabama River. They saw a large canoe coming down the river. In it were 11 Indian warriors. When they saw the settlers, 2 of the Indians jumped in the river to swim for shore. "Big Sam" Dale asked for volunteers to fight the Indians.

The other settlers watched while Captain Dale, James Smith, Jeremiah Austill, and a former slave named Caesar hurried into a small canoe. Caesar paddled to the Red Sticks' canoe and held the boats together.

The Red Sticks and the settlers fought hand to hand for a few minutes. Sam Dale fought with one foot in his canoe and the other foot in the Indians' canoe. The settlers killed all of the warriors. This small battle gave the Americans new hope in this war.

Sam Dale became a hero to settlers all over the territory. Dale often carried urgent military messages. On one trip, he surprised everyone by traveling from Georgia to New Orleans, Louisiana, in only eight days. The trip through the middle of Creek territory usually took two weeks.



**Above:** Jeremiah Austill fought alongside Sam Dale.  
**Left:** Sam Dale became an Alabama hero for his actions during the canoe fight. He is shown bringing settlers into Alabama in a mural in the state Capitol (top).





## The Settlers Ask for Help

Leaders of the settlers asked states and other American territories for help. Georgia sent about 3,000 men under the command of Generals John Floyd and David Adams. Major General Andrew Jackson led men from Tennessee. General Claiborne came with the territorial militia from Fort Stoddert. The **militia** was made up of citizens trained as soldiers. In September 1813, Choctaw Chief Pushmataha offered to help the United States fight the Red Sticks. The Chickasaw, Cherokee, and White Stick Creek also fought on the side of the settlers.

This is from a letter written by Indian Agent John McKee to General Jackson.



**Top:** The Choctaw chief Pushmataha fought on the side of the White Sticks in the Creek Indian War. **Above:** Major John Coffee was one of Andrew Jackson's senior officers. **Right:** Andrew Jackson became a national hero after the Creek Indian War and the Battle of New Orleans. He was later elected to two terms as president of the United States.



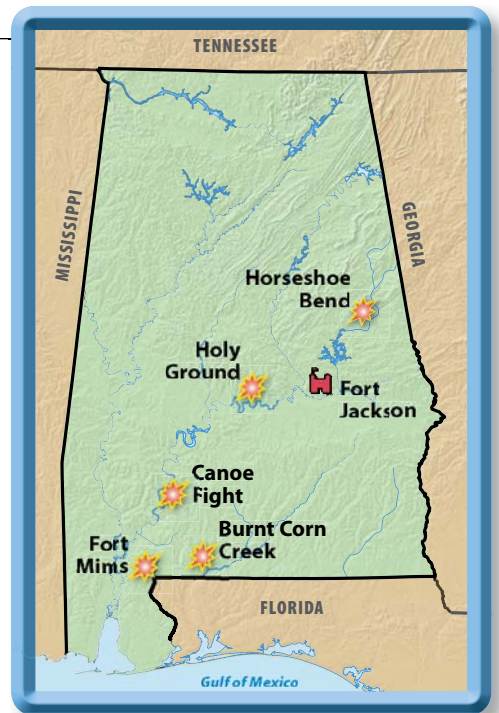
*In this group of Tennessee Volunteers was a man named Davy Crockett. As a scout under the command of Colonel John Coffee, Crockett and his men traveled to the Falls of the Black Warrior, a Creek settlement. Their mission was to destroy it. When they got there, it was deserted. The Indians, in their hurry to leave, left their cribs full of corn and beans. Crockett and his men burned the settlement of about fifty cabins and a long house.*

In the fall of 1813, General Andrew Jackson sent Major John Coffee out with a group of soldiers. They attacked the Red Sticks at a town on the Tallasseehatchee Creek in present-day Calhoun County. Coffee's men killed nearly 200 Red Sticks.

### **The Battle of Holy Ground**

After the attack on Fort Mims, Red Eagle's warriors camped at Holy Ground. Holy Ground was on the east bank of the Alabama River near present-day White Hall in Lowndes County. The Creek believed that Holy Ground was a special place. Their legend was that any enemy who came there would die.

General Claiborne did not believe the story. In December 1813, his troops and the Choctaw led by Chief Pushmataha attacked. The Red Sticks fought with great fury. They did not understand why the white men did not die. When the Red Sticks realized they were losing, they fled into the surrounding swamps. Many rushed into the woods to hide while others were killed. Legend says that Red Eagle and his horse jumped off a high bluff into the Alabama River to escape. After winning the battle, General Claiborne burned the town around Holy Ground.



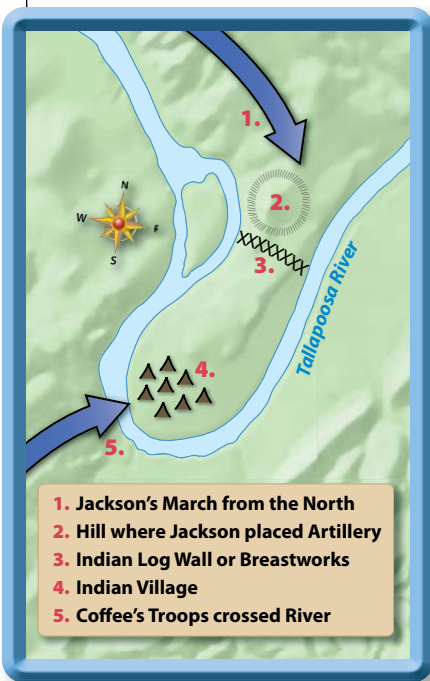
### **Map 16** **Battles of** **the Creek** **War** **1813-1814**

**Map Skill:** Which third of the state had the most battles?



**Left:** These peaceful woods on the banks of the Alabama River were the sight of the bloody Battle of Holy Ground.

**Above:** It is possible that pottery fragments found at Holy Ground are evidence of items taken from Fort Mims.



## The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Chief Menawa was one of the Creek leaders during the war. In March 1814, he was camped with about 1,000 Red Sticks. They were inside a horseshoe-shaped bend of the Tallapoosa River. The river was on three sides of the camp. Warriors had built a strong log wall on the fourth side. They believed they were safe.

General Jackson divided his army of 3,300 men. He attacked the log wall with part of the army. The rest went with Major Coffee into the woods behind the bend of the river. This second group included 600 Indians who were American allies.

On March 27, 1814, General Jackson ordered the attack. While his troops fought at the wall, Coffee's men and Indian allies

## Map 17 Battle of Horseshoe Bend

**Map Skills:** Look at the aerial photo and the map of Horseshoe Bend.

- 1.** From which direction did General Jackson attack?
- 2.** From which direction did John Coffee's men attack?
- 3.** If any Red Sticks could escape, where do you think would be the best places?

*The Creek village of Tohopeke (right) was built in the horseshoe of the Tallapoosa River (top right).*



swam the river. They first destroyed the Red Sticks' canoes so they could not escape. Then they set the village on fire so the Creek were attacked on two sides.

The fierce battle lasted all day. In the end, over 800 Red Stick warriors were killed. Menawa was shot and thought to be dead, but he escaped after dark. Losing this battle broke the power of the Red Sticks forever.

## The War Ends

After the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, General Jackson moved his army to the old French Fort Toulouse. They rebuilt the fortress and called it Fort Jackson.

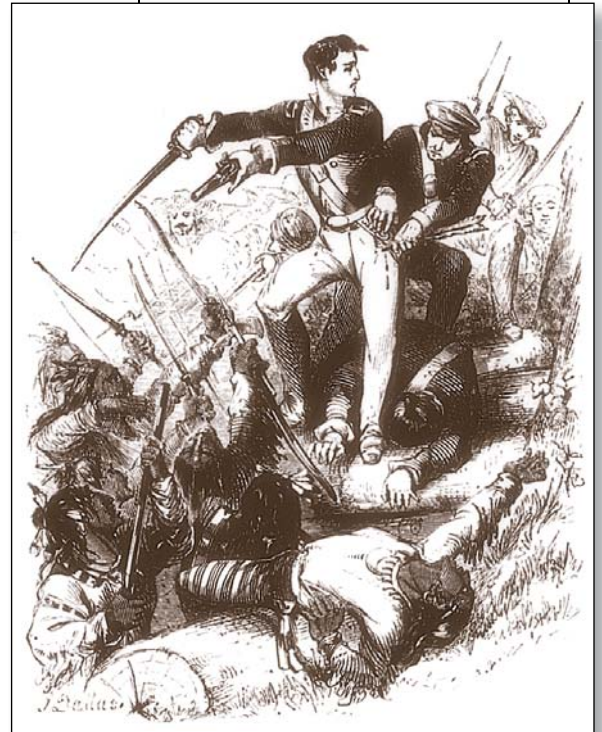
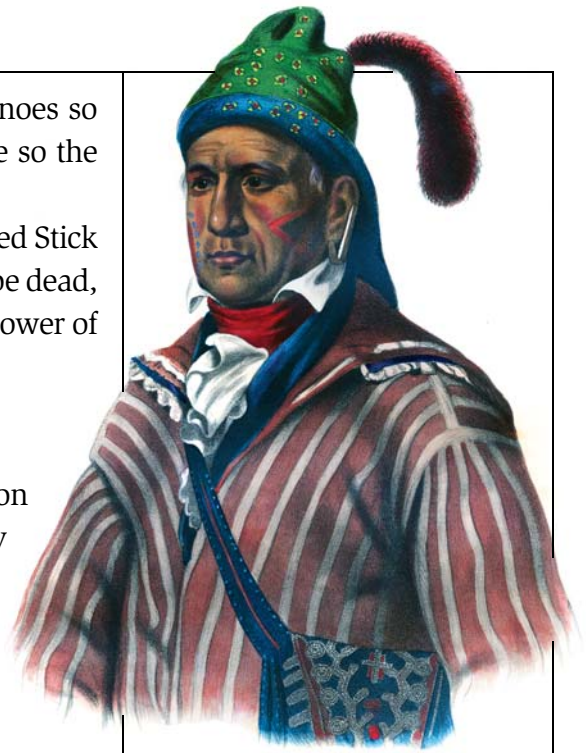
Chief Red Eagle went to Fort Jackson and gave himself up in April 1814. The general sent him to The Hermitage, Jackson's home near Nashville, Tennessee, for protection. Red Eagle later returned to Alabama where he lived in Baldwin County until his death in 1824.

The Creek War ended on August 9, 1814, with the signing of the Treaty of Fort Jackson. The Creek agreed to give much of their land, 23 million acres, to the United States. Settlers soon began moving onto this land. So many settlers moved in after the treaty that it was called the "Great Migration." (**Migration** is when a group of people or animals move from one area to another.)

## Jacksonian Democracy

Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory," was called a hero because of his victories against the Red Sticks. General Jackson soon went to New Orleans, Louisiana, to fight in the War of 1812. He defended the city against the British troops in the Battle of New Orleans. After an outstanding victory, Jackson was again hailed as a hero. He was admired throughout the United States. He ran for office to represent the common man. There was a new spirit in America. This time was called the Jacksonian Democracy. More states allowed the average man to vote. Before, only rich landowners could vote or hold office.

In 1828, Jackson was elected president of the United States. (**Elect** means to choose by vote.) He called for the removal of



**Top:** The Creek warrior Menawa was shot during the battle. He pretended to be dead and then escaped. **Above:** Sam Houston was wounded by an arrow during the battle. He later became famous in Texas.



**Red Eagle, Creek chief and warrior, became a landowner with slaves. His American name was William Weatherford.**

the Indians. He wanted their land to be settled by white men. Even the Indians who fought with Jackson at Horseshoe Bend were removed.

### **Indian Removal**

As many new settlers moved into Alabama, they wanted more and more land. Many Indians adopted the religion, clothing, and farming ways of the Americans. Treaties were made between the American Indians and the U.S. government. The United States broke most of its promises because settlers wanted to move to the new land. The Indians who remained in Alabama had a very hard time. It was many years before they received their rights as citizens.

In 1830, the Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. This was a forced migration of American Indians from their land. It was called the "Trail of Tears." Over the next 15 years, many Indians were forced to move to lands west of the Mississippi River. It was about 1,000 miles to the new land in today's state of Oklahoma. Some of the Indians were forced to walk all of the way. Others went by boat part of the way and walked the rest of the trail. Many Indians died along the way. You will read more about the removal of the American Indians in Chapter 6.

Most of those who stayed behind did not talk about their Indian heritage. Even if they lived in American Indian communities, they gave up most Indian ways. The Poarch Creek Indians, however, did stay together in the Tensaw community.

### **Think It Through!**

- 1. Where was the first battle of the Creek Indian War?**
- 2. What might have prevented the Indians' easy capture of Fort Mims?**
- 3. Which Indian groups fought on the side of the settlers?**
- 4. How did the Red Stick plan cause their defeat at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend?**
- 5. Who was the leader of the American troops and Indian allies at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend?**

# Focus on American Indians

## The Long Road to Citizenship

**The U.S. Congress did not give full citizenship to American Indians until 1924. Before that time, Alabama had laws that kept an Indian from suing or speaking against a white man in court. At that time, there were laws that kept black and white children from going to school together. These same laws kept Indian children out of both schools. Many of the Indian children in Alabama were educated in schools begun by missionaries.**

**In Alabama today, about 45,000 people consider themselves Indian. About half of those people claim to be of pure American Indian heritage. Some of them live in mostly Indian communities. Others live in towns and cities around the state.**

**It is no longer dangerous to have Indian ancestors. Unlike earlier times, claiming Indian ancestry today is a source of pride. The State of Alabama recognizes nine tribes, bands, or nations. These are the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, MaChis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama, Star Clan of Muscogee Creek, Cher-O-Creek Intra Tribal Indians, MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians, Piqua Shawnee Tribe, and United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation.**

**The Poarch Creek tribe near Atmore is now the only federally recognized tribe in Alabama.**



**Above:** *The Poarch Band of Creek Indians operates three hotel/casinos, including Wind Creek.*

**Alabama recognized the MOWA Choctaw as a tribe in 1979. The tribe is working to gain recognition from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. MOWA Choctaw Chief Wilford “Longhair” Taylor lives in Washington County. He wants the tribe’s identity to be restored. Chief Taylor said, “We were a Choctaw community in 1814, we are a Choctaw community now, and we will always be a Choctaw community.”**

# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

By the early 1800s, settlers had moved onto Indian lands in present-day Alabama. The Indians were divided about how to react. The Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Choctaw chose peace. The Creek Nation split into groups over the issue. The Creek in favor of war to keep their homeland were called Red Sticks. The Creek who wanted peace were called White Sticks. This split led to a Creek civil war.

In the summer of 1813, settlers attacked Red Sticks camped at Burnt Corn Creek. This was the first battle of the Creek War. Later in the summer, Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims.

Cherokee, Chickasaw, and White Stick Creek joined men from Georgia and Tennessee to fight the Red Sticks. Major General Andrew Jackson and Major John Coffee led the Tennesseans.

Red Eagle, a Red Stick, and his men camped at Holy Ground. Choctaw Chief Pushmataha and his warriors joined General Claiborne and his men to drive the Red Sticks from the area.

Chief Menawa and his fellow Red Sticks camped at Horseshoe Bend. The Tallapoosa River surrounded them on three sides. General Jackson and his men attacked from the land side. Major Coffee and his men swam the river and cut off the Red Sticks' escape route.

The battles of Holy Ground and Horseshoe Bend were the last major battles of the Creek War. The Treaty of Fort Jackson formally ended the war. The treaty forced the Indians to give up much of their land to the United States.

After Andrew Jackson became president of the United States, the Indians were forced to leave their land.



## Remember

On a separate sheet of paper, write the word that best completes each of the following sentences.

Ally	Migration
Ammunition	Militia
Council	Orphan

1. A settler joined the \_\_\_\_\_ to fight like a soldier but was not in the army.
2. Peter McQueen went to Pensacola to get guns and \_\_\_\_\_ from Spain.
3. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is a friend or partner who is on your side.
4. Sanota was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ who saved a settler family at Fort Mims.
5. Creek Indian towns were ruled by a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The “Great \_\_\_\_\_” occurred after the Treaty of Fort Jackson.



## Reviewing the Facts

1. Why did the settlers build forts?
2. What did the British promise Tecumseh to make him their ally?
3. Who were the Red Sticks? White Sticks?
4. Who reported the first news of the battle at Fort Mims?

5. Who went to Fort Jackson to end the Creek War?
6. What American general won the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812?



### Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. If the Indians had won the Creek War, how might things have been different in Alabama?
2. Why do you think the settlers and soldiers at Fort Mims were so careless in watching for danger?



### Making Decisions

Some settlers from Georgia and Tennessee came to fight Red Sticks in present-day Alabama. Would you have come? Why or why not?



### Project

Make a model or drawing of any of the battles in the Creek Indian War.



### Writing

1. After reading about the attack on Fort Mims, write a headline and a news story that might have appeared in a newspaper “back East.”
2. Andrew Jackson was a tough fighter and excellent soldier. He became a hero all over America. Write a letter to a friend telling how you feel about Andrew Jackson.



### Preparing for Tests

*Multiple Choice*—These questions are like ones you may see on tests.

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The American army general who fought the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the Battle of New Orleans was...
  - A. Peter McQueen
  - B. Samuel Mims
  - C. William Weatherford
  - D. Andrew Jackson
2. The final battle of the Creek War was...
  - A. Holy Ground
  - B. Horseshoe Bend
  - C. Burnt Corn
  - D. Fort Mims



### Using Technology

Go to [archives.alabama.gov/timeline/al1702.html](http://archives.alabama.gov/timeline/al1702.html). Scroll through the timeline and look for the term “Creek Indians.” Answer the following questions.

1. What year did the Creek Indians sign the Treaty of New York?
2. What two important events happened before and after the Creek Indian treaty event?