

# Alabama: Our Beautiful Home

A photograph of the Alabama State Capitol building, a grand white neoclassical structure with a prominent dome and a portico supported by columns. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Lush green trees are visible on both sides of the building, and a well-manicured lawn with colorful flowers is in the foreground.

## Chapter 4: Wars Change Alabama STUDY PRESENTATION





**Section 1: American Indian Tribes of Alabama**  
**Section 2: Causes of the War**  
**Section 3: The Creek Indian War**



# Section 1: American Indian Tribes of Alabama

- Essential Question: What caused conflict between the native people and European settlers?





# Section 1: American Indian Tribes of Alabama

- What terms do I need to know?
  - historic Indians
  - council
  - missionary



# Introduction

- The **historic Indians** were those present when Europeans arrived.
- In Alabama, these were the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw.
- They lived in villages near waterways and farmed, fished, and hunted.
- They traded with European traders and settlers, and they learned from the white men.



# Alabama Indians Lands Map



# The Creek

- This one of the largest tribes and were also known as Muskogee.
- They lived in central and southeastern Alabama.
- A chief and **council** ruled each of the towns.
- Children were a part of the mother's family (clan) and were taught by her family.





# The Cherokee

- The Cherokee lived in northeastern Alabama and the Tennessee River Valley.
- They learned the ways of the white man and married them, too.
- Government agents gave them tools like looms and plows. This helped them become more like the white men.
- **Missionaries** were sent to teach the religion of the white men.





# The Choctaw

- This powerful tribe lived along the Alabama and Mobile Rivers in southwest Alabama.
- Pushmataha was a famous chief. He and his warriors fought with American soldiers.
- The Choctaw learned to raise livestock, farm, trade, and operate businesses.



# The Chickasaw

- A few of the Chickasaw lived in northwest Alabama.
- Their warriors fought the Spanish explorers with de Soto in the 1500s.
- William and George Colbert were Chickasaw brothers who worked to make their people's culture and government more like America's.



# Section 2: Causes of the War

- Essential Question: What conflicts led to war with the Indians?





# Section 2: Causes of the War

- What terms do I need to know?
  - persuade
  - ammunition
  - ally



# More Settlers Come to Alabama

- The Indians liked the guns, knives, plows, etc. earned from trade with the settlers.
- As more settlers came, however, they pushed the Indians from their lands.
- Georgia gave up claims on the land of Alabama in 1802.
- About the same time, Creek chiefs met with president Thomas Jefferson. The chiefs were **persuaded** to allow a horse path across their lands. This later became the Federal Road.
- Some Indians wanted to live in peace others wanted to fight the settlers.



# Tecumseh

- In the War of 1812, the British hoped to get Indians to join in the fight against Americans.
- The British promised Shawnee chief Tecumseh guns and ammunition to push the Americans off their lands.
- The Chickasaw refused to join Tecumseh and the Creeks were divided on the idea.
- The Creeks who wanted war became known as Red Sticks; those who did not were White Sticks. These two groups fought each other which later led to the Creek Indian War.





# Section 3: The Creek Indian War

- Essential Question: How did the Creek Indian War cause changes in Alabama?



# Section 3: The Creek Indian War

- What terms do I need to know?
  - orphan
  - militia
  - migration
  - elect



# The Creek Indian War

- The Red Sticks got weapons from the Spanish in Florida.
- As they traveled home in July 1813, settlers attacked them. The Red Sticks drove the settlers away.
- This is known as the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek.





# Fort Mims

- Settlers built more forts to protect themselves from the Red Sticks.
- One of them, Fort Mims, was in the area of Baldwin County. About 500 people were living at the fort in August 1813.
- The settlers left the gates open and did not keep careful watch. On August 30, the Red Sticks were led by Chief Red Eagle to attack.
- Hundreds of men, women, and children were killed or taken prisoner. Less than 40 survived.



# Sam Dale - Hero

- The attack on Fort Mims made settlers angry and afraid.
- Sam Dale became a hero to the settlers by leading a small group to attack and kill Red Sticks traveling by canoe.



# The Settlers Ask for Help

- Georgia sent troops to help the settlers, and Andrew Jackson led the troops from Tennessee.
- A **militia** from Fort Stoddard and Choctaw Chief Pushmataha and the White Sticks fought the Red Sticks.
- In the fall of 1813, General Andrew Jackson led soldiers in an attack on Red Sticks in an area now in Calhoun County. Nearly 200 Red Sticks were killed.



Andrew Jackson





# The Battle of Holy Ground

- Many Red Sticks were camped at a special place on the Alabama River in Lowndes County. Creek legend said this “Holy Ground” would protect the Red Sticks.
- In December 1813, General Claiborne and Chief Pushmataha attacked the Red Sticks at Holy Ground.
- The Red Sticks were defeated and their settlement was burned.



# The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

- In March 1814, about 1,000 Red Sticks were camped at a horseshoe shaped bend in the Tallapoosa River. They built a wall to protect themselves along with the river at the rear.
- General Jackson split his army into two groups: one attacked the wall, the other sneaked in from the river.
- Over 800 Red Sticks were killed.
- The defeat broke the power of the Red Sticks.



# The War Ends

- Chief War Eagle surrendered in April 1814 to General Jackson. The general sent the chief to his home in Tennessee for protection.
- The war ended officially in August with the Treaty of Fort Jackson.
- The Creek gave up 23 million acres to the United States.
- This started the “Great **Migration**” of settlers into Alabama.





# Jacksonian Democracy

- Andrew Jackson was called a hero because of his victories against the Red Sticks and later against the British in the Battle of New Orleans.
- Jackson was **elected** president in 1828 and was thought of as a “common man.” This happened at a time when more men were getting the right to vote.
- Jackson’s plan was to force Indians to leave their lands and move westward. Even the Indians who along side Jackson were forced to move. He thought this was the only way to keep them safe from future fights with settlers.



# Indian Removal

- Many Indians adopted the religion, clothing, and farming ways of the Americans. Still, settlers kept pushing onto their lands.
- In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. This forced all Indians to leave Alabama traveling 1,000 miles to the west side of the Mississippi River on the "[Trail of Tears](#)."
- The Indians were to live in the lands now called Oklahoma. Many Indians died along the way.
- A few stayed in Alabama but gave up their Indian ways.







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