

ANSWERS—REMOVAL & RELOCATION OF THE CHOCTAWS

Guiding Questions	Notes	Source of Information
<p>Prior to Removal: Where were the Choctaws’ ancestral homes? What was their lifestyle there?</p>	<p><i>The Choctaws resided in central Mississippi. They began as deerskin traders but learned English, farming, raising livestock and horses, planted cottonfields, and other business ventures. The Choctaws also cultivated corn, beans, and squash.</i></p>	<p><i>Mississippi Historical Society Native American Roots website</i></p>
<p>Removal and Relocation: How and when were Choctaws removed from their homeland? What was it like on the Trail of Tear to Oklahoma territory? Where were Choctaws eventually relocated in Oklahoma?</p>	<p><i>Mississippi Historical Society Native American Roots website</i></p>	<p><i>Oklahoma Historical Society Mississippi Historical Society</i></p>
<p>Response: How did the Choctaws and their leaders respond to removal and relocation?</p>	<p><i>Pushmataha, a Choctaw Chief, wished for peace with the settlers rather than war, as other tribes were contemplating. He told his people that the wealth and power of the government and settlers would result in slaughter of the tribe if they resisted. Pushmataha did not trust the government but felt that for the safety of his tribe, they must relocate. Jackson told the tribe that they would not have the protection of the federal government and would be subject to Mississippi state law. The state would immediately take all their lands without payment.</i></p>	<p><i>Digital History Native American Roots</i></p>
<p>Additional Facts: Add any interesting or surprising facts found during your research.</p>	<p><i>Answers will vary. A few facts are: During the Trail of Tears, the government issued only one blanket per family even though it was winter. During several meetings with the Choctaws over removal, the tribe was given alcohol to “help” with negotiations.</i></p>	<p><i>Native American Roots</i></p>