

The Trail of Tears



Concept Note

Introduction

The project represents an experimental narrative exploring various perspectives on the historical event now known as “The Trail of Tears.”

The perspectives portrayed are of the national government, the Europeans settling in the Southern United States, and the Cherokee people themselves. Representing each of these groups respectively are President Andrew Jackson, Georgia Governor George Gilmer, and Cherokee Chief John Ross.

Another section addresses trail-related facts and stories, such as the legend of the Cherokee rose, and the death of Chief Ross’ wife Quatie while on the trail.

Finally, visitors may view a timeline showing a handful of major events in the history of the Trail of Tears, with each event spun to the perspective of each of the major groups.

The factual elements of the event will first be compiled in the form of a written research paper.

Technology

Flash and ActionScript are used to create a user experience. This experience will be enhanced through the integration of subtle animation and vocal recordings.

Vocal recordings were performed by actors and engineered and edited using Audacity and Sony Sound Forge. These audio selections are made available to the user through the use of the Flash FLV playback component.

Design Considerations

Major figures in the event are represented by portraits of the period, to maintain a historical look. A map of the trail itself serves as the background to the layout. A historical-looking serif face (Georgia) will be used for major headline elements, but a plain sans-serif face (Verdana) will be used for body copy to enhance legibility.

Swatches



#6b3139



#f2d780



#4e090c



#b57960



#8a0f0f




#000000

Visual Comps

Comp 1 - Main Page

The Trail of Tears

The People
The Trail
Timeline



O'elotow'ca

Painting by Jerome Jiger

The road 17,000 Cherokee Indians plodded into exile more than 160 years ago winds 1,200 miles through the heartland of America from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Today it is a road of hope and promise, but in 1838 it was a road of misery and heartache, sickness, and death known today as "The Trail of Tears."

A proud nation, uprooted and dispossessed, traveled it for six long, bitter months in the winter of 1838-39. Sickness broke out at every mile. One person out of every four died on the forced march. The humiliation and suffering that the Cherokee experienced on this sorrowful march have no parallel in American history.




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Comp 2 - Interior Page Level 1

The Trail of Tears

The People | The Trail | Timeline

The People

		
Andrew Jackson President of the United States	George Gilmer Governor of the State of Georgia	John Ross Chief of the Cherokee People

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The Trail of Tears

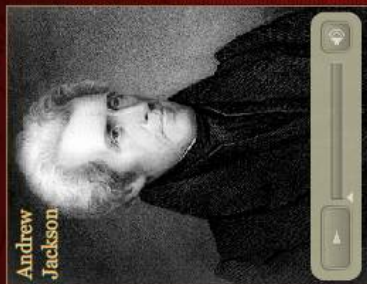
The People



The Trail

Timeline

The National Government



Andrew Jackson

State governments were uncomfortable with independent Indian tribes existing within their borders. However, authority for dealing with the relocation of Indians fell solely upon the national government. In 1802, a compact was made between the state of Georgia and the United States national government in which Georgia relinquished its claim on its western territories (which would become Alabama and Mississippi) in exchange for a promise that the national government would relocate the Indian tribes residing within Georgia's borders.

The Compact of 1802 remained inactive until 1829 when gold was discovered by prospectors in the north Georgian town of Dahlonega. Suddenly, settlers trespassing on Cherokee land began putting pressure on the government to enforce the compact and make good on their promise to remove the Cherokee people. As enforcement of state legislation on Cherokees began to surface, the Cherokee nation went before the Supreme Court which ultimately ruled that the state of Georgia had no authority over Cherokee lands.

President Andrew Jackson refused to enforce the Supreme Court's decision, however, and continued in an established record of Indian removal policy that dated back as early as 1814 when Jackson led a military campaign against the Creeks that allowed the United States to subjugate over 20 million acres of Creek tribal lands.

Next

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