

1 Preconceptions and Misconceptions

① What do you think of when you hear "Native Americans"?

Add your ideas to a word cloud online.

Please write only key words and not whole sentences!

② Watch the video and take notes on the following questions below.

What did the teacher do that caused such an outrage?

Why is her behavior problematic?

Do you think it is justified that the teacher was placed on leave?

Video Appears To Show California Teacher Mocking Native Americans

A California teacher was placed on administrative leave after a student captured video of the teacher mocking Native Americans ...

Link: <https://youtu.be/h88YSHm466U>



Preconceptions - Misconceptions

As nouns, the difference between preconception and misconception is that preconception is an opinion formed before obtaining adequate evidence, especially as the result of bias or prejudice while misconception is a mistaken belief, a wrong idea.



Native American Heritage Month

In order to fight common misconceptions regarding Native Americans, November was declared Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month in 1990.

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

2 President John Biden on Native American Heritage Month

①  **On October 31, 2022, John Biden published a proclamation to commemorate Native American Heritage Month.**

- Read the first part of his proclamation in the speech bubble below.
- What does he say about the historic relationship between America (i.e. settlers and the subsequent governments) and Native Americans? Highlight important parts. You may also take notes.
- Write down any other historic events that shaped the relationship between America and Native Americans that you may know.



President Biden

During National Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate Indigenous peoples past and present and rededicate ourselves to honoring Tribal sovereignty, promoting Tribal self-determination, and upholding the United States' solemn trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations.

America has not always delivered on its promise of equal dignity and respect for Native Americans. For centuries, broken treaties, dispossession of ancestral lands, and policies of assimilation and termination sought to decimate Native populations and their ways of life. But despite this painful history, Indigenous peoples, their governments, and their communities have persevered and flourished. As teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected officials, heroes in uniform, and so much more, they have made immeasurable contributions to our country's progress.

3 A Timeline of Native American history

① Sort the events in Native American history chronologically. (1-15)

- ☐ The U.S. establishes the Office of Indian Affairs.
- ☐ The land that would become the United States is inhabited by various historic tribes such as the Apache, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Navajo, and Sioux.
- ☐ The Wounded Knee Massacre takes place in South Dakota. Two hundred Native American women and children are killed.
- ☐ The beginning of the French and Indian War between France and Great Britain. Indian tribes are involved on both sides.
- ☐ The Homestead Act is passed by the U.S. government opening Indian land in the Midwest to settlers.
- ☐ Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa leads a rebellion against the British in the Ohio River Valley.
- ☐ Charles Curtis becomes the first Native American U.S. Senator. He would later become vice president of the United States.
- ☐ Christopher Columbus makes contact with native people on the island of San Salvador. He calls them Indians because he mistakenly thinks he has landed in the East Indies.
- ☐ All Native American Indians are declared citizens of the United States.
- ☐ Tecumseh begins to put together his confederation of Native American Tribes in an effort to stop the expansion of the United States.
- ☐ The Cherokee are forced to march from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Thousands of them die along the way in what will be known as the Trail of Tears.
- ☐ George Custer and the U.S. Army is soundly defeated at the Battle of Little Big Horn by Native Americans led by Sitting Bull.
- ☐ Native Americans under Tecumseh ally with the British against the United States in the War of 1812.
- ☐ Tribal people begin to develop across North America.
- ☐ President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act into law.

Dates

Add the dates to the corresponding events when you have finished.

5000 BC - 1400s - 1492 - 1754 - 1764 - 1810 - 1812 - 1824 - 1830 - 1838 - 1862 - 1876 - 1890 - 1907 - 1969

4 Zoom on: The Cherokee People

① What does "home" mean to you? Take notes.

- Have you ever had to leave your home (e.g. because you moved)? How did that make you feel?
If not, try and imagine the feeling.
Write down your thoughts.

② Read the quotes by different members of the Cherokee tribe below.

- What does "homelands" mean to them, geographically as well as emotionally?
Take notes in the table on the next page.
- You can also watch a clip by the Smithsonian "National Museum of the American Indian" if you follow the link or scan the QR code.
<https://l.fobizz.com/c1c1a4d7>



Transcript: Protecting Homelands

Bill John Baker, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief, 2011–2019:

"Before removal the Cherokees had their original homeland was in the southeast. It was Georgia, Tennessee, part of Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and even Kentucky. It was a vast area that the Cherokees owned and controlled."

Catherine Foreman-Gray, Cherokee Nation Historian:

"Cherokees are very tied to our traditional homelands. That was something that was given to us by the creator, and it's always been very sacred ground."

S. Joe Crittenden, Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief, 2011–2019:

"It's where we have our roots. It's where we have precious memories of elders and burial grounds and all of those things that make the meaning of life what it is."

Madison Whitekiller, Miss Cherokee 2017:

"Just going back to the homelands, you get a sense of home. It's just breath taking, and you feel a sense of comfort while being there."

Chuck Hoskin Jr., Cherokee Nation Principal Chief:

"As we began to interact with the Europeans and the colonists, as we began to trade with them, as we began to have tensions with them over land and resources, we began to deal with them on a government to government basis. And so we adapted our government in a way to protect our own resources and to deal with the world around us."

Madison Whitekiller, Miss Cherokee 2017:

"We have always been a people who have adapted, and grown with the changing world around us. But we really held strong to not only our language but our history, and our culture, and our traditions while doing all that everyone else did."

Bill John Baker, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief, 2011–2019:

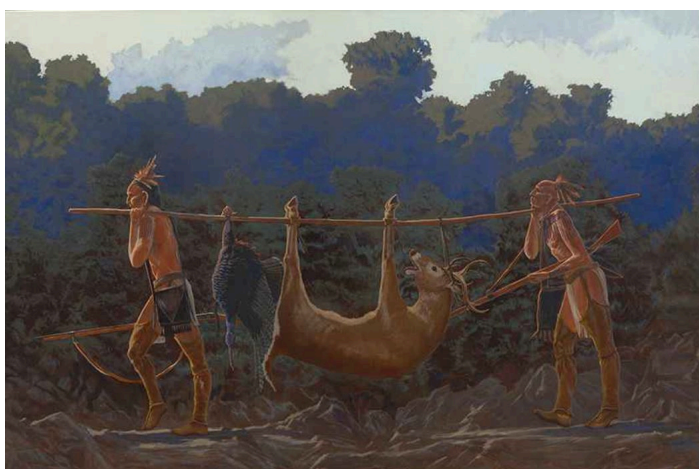
"It is like a religious experience to go back and feel Georgia and Tennessee and North Carolina. And a peace that comes over you that you know it's home."

AmericanIndian.si.edu/NK360 1

Geographical homelands of the Cherokees	Emotional homelands of the Cherokees

③ Describe and compare the paintings.

- What do they tell you about the lifestyle of the Cherokees?



④ **Read the text about precontact Cherokee lifestyle and add the missing words from the box below.**

Cherokee society before contact with _____ was traditionally organized around a matrilineal clan, or family, system: children were born into the clan of their _____. When a woman married, her husband would join her household and their children would be members of the mother's clan. Cherokee towns were _____, each having its own council house, warriors, and leaders. Cherokee _____ hunted to provide meat and hides for clothing, lodging, and other items. _____ grew corn, beans, squash, and tobacco, and they gathered a variety of _____ native plants. In the spring of 1540, _____ explorer Hernando de Soto entered the Cherokee Nation in southeastern North America. This was the first known _____ between Cherokee people and Europeans. By the late 1600s, Cherokee people were entering into trade relationships with Europeans that brought cloth, metal, and firearms to the tribe. The French and Indian War (1754–1763) and the _____ Revolutionary War (1775–1783) pulled the Cherokee and other Native Nations into _____ conflict. They sided with the entity that could offer the most beneficial _____. With the arrival of Europeans in North America, Cherokee leaders felt it was important to establish government-to-government relationships with them for the protection and _____ of Cherokee people. In March 1832, the U.S. Supreme Court established the Cherokee and other tribes as _____ nations within the United States.

**Missing words**

alliance - sovereign - international - mother - independent - encounter - Europeans - men - contact - women - Spanish - American - advancement - edible

⑤ In your opinion, what are the three most important/interesting bits of information in the text about the Cherokee people?

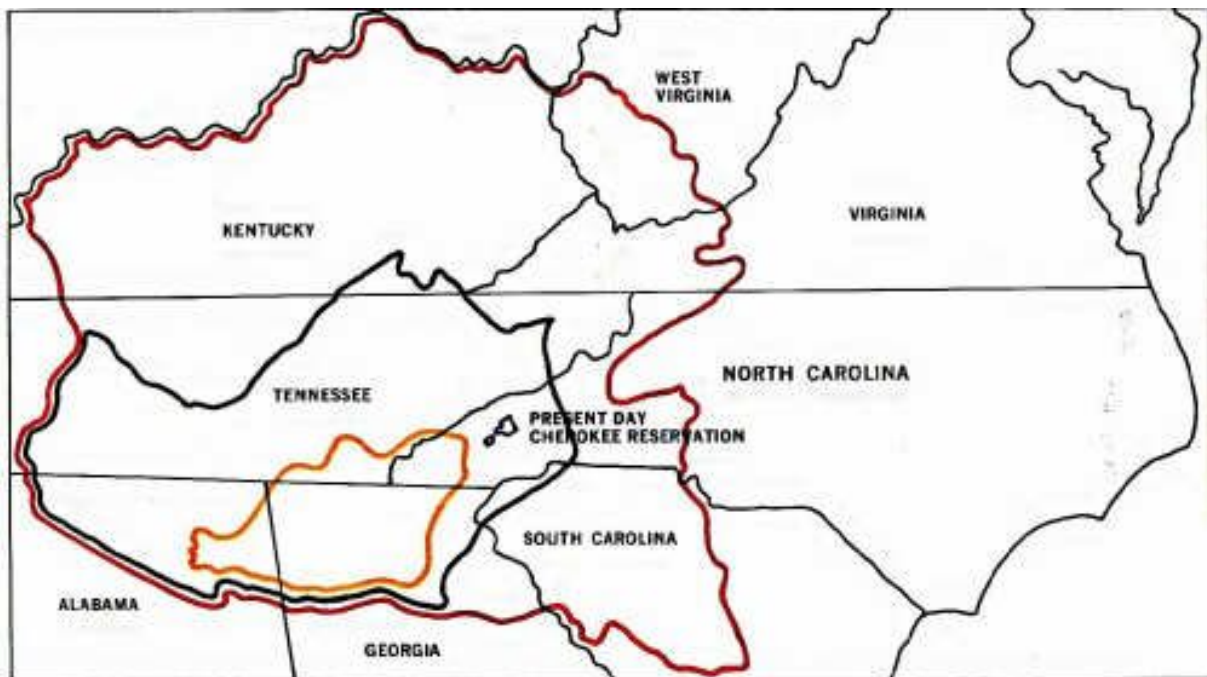
- Highlight these parts in the text and note them in your own words.

⑥ Discuss the questions below.

- What kinds of decisions did the Cherokee Nation face when European Nations—and later the United States—encroached on its homelands?
- What is the significance of the U.S. Supreme Court establishing the Cherokee and other tribes as sovereign nations within the United States?

⑦ The westward expansion of the settlers had an impact on Cherokee territory.

- Analyze the map below and note changes in the size of their lands. Comment on this development.



The Cherokee Country

-  ORIGINAL CHEROKEE CLAIMS
-  CHEROKEE BOUNDARY AT CLOSE OF REVOLUTION
-  CHEROKEE BOUNDARY AT FINAL CESSION
-  PRESENT CHEROKEE RESERVATION (QUALLA BOUNDARY)

5 1830-1838: The Removal of a Nation

① The Indian Removal Act (1830)

- Analyze the meme and the info box on the Indian Removal Act. Add important information to the table below.
- Explain the Indian Removal Act and its impact for Native Americans in your own words.



Andrew Jackson letting Native Americans coexist with the settlers

Urging the Indian Removal Act and causing a fourth of them to die



Indian Removal Act (1830)

The Indian Removal Act was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830, authorizing the president to grant lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for Indian lands in the South-East - which would be valuable to grow cotton - within existing state borders. A few tribes went peacefully, but many resisted the relocation policy.

What?	
Who?	
Why?	
Consequences?	



② **The Trail of Tears (1838)**

- Watch the video and take notes in the table

**A Brief History Of
The Trail of Tears**

Link:
<https://youtu.be/CM8PcTIRbDk>

**YouTube-
Video**

What?	
Who?	
Why?	
Consequences?	

③ **You want to know more?**

- Watch the video “The Indian Problem” for a more in-depth portrayal of Native Americans in the 19th century.

The “Indian Problem”



**YouTube-
Video**

Link: <https://youtu.be/if-BOZgWZPE>

6 Native Americans Today

① Analyze these photos of members of the Cherokee nation.

- Describe the photos.
- What do they imply about the situation of Native Americans today? Explain



② Listen to the text about the situation of Native Americans today.

- Take notes.
- Create a mind-map with your notes.
- Highlight the most important / surprising points.

③ **Read the following extract from President Biden's proclamation on Native American Heritage Month.**

- List what the Biden administration does for Native Americans.
- Comment on these efforts.



We must do more to ensure that Native Americans have every opportunity to succeed and that their expertise informs our Federal policy-making. That is why my Administration is engaging in meaningful consultation with Tribal leaders, particularly when it comes to treaty rights, reserved rights, management and stewardship of Federal lands, consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, and other policies that affect Native peoples. That is also why I appointed Secretary Deb Haaland to be the first-ever Native American Cabinet Secretary, and why more than 50 Native Americans now serve in significant roles across the executive branch.

Meanwhile, we are creating new jobs in Native American communities and bolstering infrastructure in Tribal areas. My Administration's American Rescue plan made the largest-ever investment in Indian Country to help Tribal Nations combat the COVID-19 pandemic and to support Tribal economic recovery. My Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law secured more than \$13 billion exclusively for Native communities to deliver high-speed internet to Tribal lands, build safer roads and bridges, modernize sanitation systems, and provide clean drinking water — all while putting people to work. Through the Inflation Reduction Act, we are lowering the price of health care coverage and capping drug costs for Indigenous families. We are empowering Tribes to fight drought, improve fisheries, and transition to clean energy as part of the most significant climate investment this Nation has ever made. Those investments include climate adaptation planning and community-led relocation efforts, funding a Tribal Electrification Program to provide power to unelectrified homes, making Environmental Justice Block Grants available to help alleviate legacy pollution, bolstering conservation programs across the country, and restoring protections for treasured lands that Indigenous peoples have tirelessly stewarded, such as Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

We are also helping Native communities heal from intergenerational trauma caused by past policies. Last year, the Department of the Interior launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to shed light on the harmful history of forced cultural assimilation at these academic institutions. We are investing in Tribal language revitalization, protecting Tribal voting rights, and working with Tribal partners to tackle the crisis of missing or murdered Indigenous people.

As we look ahead, my Administration will continue to write a new and better chapter in the story of our Nation-to-Nation relationships. We will defend Tribal sovereignty, self-government, self-determination, and the homelands of Tribal Nations. We will support Tribal economies, recognizing that Tribal governments provide a vast array of physical infrastructure, social services, and good-paying jobs that benefit their citizens and surrounding communities. We will keep fighting for better health care, child care, education, and housing in Tribal communities. We will always honor the profound impact Native Americans continue to have in shaping our Nation and bringing us closer to the more perfect Union we know we can and must be.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2022 as National Native American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to celebrate November 25, 2022, as Native American Heritage Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

Sources:

<https://youtu.be/h88YSHm466U?si=weJvPfeKfwi-lGuO>

<https://www.facebook.com/rack.brand/photos/a.1606119122883577/1762634830565338/?type=3>

<https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/31/a-proclamation-on-national-native-american-heritage-month-2023/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-timeline>

<https://americanindian.si.edu>

<https://youtu.be/CM8PcTIRbDk?si=mqJMBbKfPeLMXukG>

<https://youtu.be/if-BOZgWZPE>