<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>First treaty between Cherokee and United States, established peaceful relations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>George Washington initiated “civilization” program among Cherokees. Cherokee Indians were encouraged to adopt American lifestyles.</td>
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<td>1808-1810</td>
<td>First major voluntary Cherokee migration to land west of the Mississippi.</td>
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<td>1820s</td>
<td>Cherokees became the most “civilized” of the five “Civilized Tribes” (Creeks, Chickasaw, Seminole, Choctaw and Cherokee). The Cherokee had a newspaper and many had converted to Christianity; they adopted a Constitution; they had farms and some even owned slaves.</td>
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| 1828-1830 | 1828 - Andrew Jackson elected President and declares his support for removal.  
1830 - Georgia extended its state power over Cherokee Nation and nullified (makes illegal) Cherokee law.  
1830 - The Indian Removal Act is signed into law in 1830 by Andrew Jackson. The act allowed the President to grant unsettled land west of the Mississippi River in exchange for Indian land within state boundaries. White southerners are in favor, Christian missionaries are opposed. |
| 1832 | Cherokee won their case in Worcester v. Georgia. At the time, Georgia required whites to have a license to live on Cherokee land. A young missionary named Samuel Worcester was arrested by the State of Georgia for not having a license, and he fought against his arrest in the courts. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Worcester should be a free man, because Georgia laws do not apply in Indian territories. Andrew Jackson ignored the ruling. |
| 1836 | Treaty of New Echota is ratified by the US Senate. A Cherokee by the name of Major Ridge, representing just a small percentage of the Cherokee Nation, negotiated the treaty with the US government. The treaty would give Cherokee lands in Georgia to the US, and provide new lands in Oklahoma to the Cherokee. The treaty was never accepted by the elected tribal leadership, or by a majority of Cherokee Indians. The Senate passed the treaty by a single vote in May of 1836.  
Chief John Ross, the leader of the Cherokee Nation, led 16,000 Cherokee in protest against the treaty. There were about 20,000 Cherokee Indians living in Georgia.  
Only 2,000 Cherokee agreed to migrate voluntarily. |
| 1838 | U.S. government sent in 7,000 troops, who forced the Cherokees out at bayonet point. 4,000 Cherokee people died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands. This became known as the Trail of Tears. |
| 1839 | Execution of Major Ridge, John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot for their role in the Treaty of New Echota. The Cherokee practiced blood law, which means that those responsible for homicide should also be killed in order for there to be true justice. Major Ridge, his son John, and his nephew Elias were all assassinated for alienating their people from their land and bringing about the Trail of Tears. |
1. Make a list of states that Native Americans had to walk through.

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2. In your opinion, what was the most important event in causing the Trail of Tears? Why?

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3. Look back at the events for 1830. Explain the reasons white southerners would be in favor of the Indian Removal Act. Then, explain why missionaries were opposed.

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Now read the two letters from Andrew Jackson and Elias Boudinot. After reading the letters, answer the questions to analyze perspective and historical context. Context is a term used in history to help historians understand the actions and decisions of people in the past. Jackson and Boudinot’s letters will help you understand why they made their decisions about Cherokee removal.
Name ___________________

THE TRAIL OF TEARS: PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONS

Directions: Read both of the documents to answer the questions below:

Document A: Jackson’s speech

1. Why does Jackson think the United States was better in 1830 than in 1609?

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__________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Why does Jackson think that the Cherokee will be better off in Indian Territory?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Why does Jackson think his policy is kind and generous? Use a piece of evidence from the text in your answer.

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Document B: Boudinot’s letter

4. Who is Elias Boudinot? To whom is he voicing his concerns?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. What was life like for the Cherokee in Georgia, according to Boudinot? Use a piece of evidence from the text in your answer.

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6. What does Boudinot hope will happen if the Cherokees move west? What does he believe will happen if the Cherokees don’t move?

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