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American Experience: We Shall Remain

Cherokee

Key people: The Ridge (Major Ridge), John Ridge his son, John Ross

What did the Cherokee do to resist US invasion of their territory and maintain their culture?

- Adopted some of white culture: farmed, sent children to school to be lawyers, learned English, held slaves.
- Created their own constitution that mirrored the United States Government.
- Created a written form of Cherokee language- every Cherokee learned how to read and write.
- Sued state of Georgia- went to U.S. Supreme Court (Worcester vs. Georgia) to say that they are a sovereign nation & Georgia cannot override Cherokee laws.
- Made law- any Cherokee that makes a treaty to sell land without the consent of the whole tribe will be put to death.
- Some chose to move in order to set up a new nation away from whites.
- 16,000 Cherokee sign petition to over turn treaty signed by the Ridges & others- petition sent to US Senate, but was never presented due to a duel between 2 Senators.

What were the pivotal events that prevented the Cherokee from being successful in warding off the Americans?

- Jackson refuses to enforce Supreme Court decision.
- Cherokee tribe splits and starts fighting.
- Senators duel and never present Cherokee petition.

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### Shawnee

Key people: Tecumseh, the Prophet

### What did the Shawnee do to resist US invasion of their territory and maintain their culture?

- Gained support from the British who gave them guns.
- Unite all the local tribes in fighting the Americans.
- Reject all white ways- dress, alcohol, trade, etc.
- Set up village inside US territory in defiance.
- The Prophet attracts many people and preaches having nothing to do with the white man.
- Create Prophetstown- a place for natives to meet away from US eyes. Becomes a center of resistance.
- Wanted to create a united Indian nation- only be created by uniting ALL Indian people in protecting their land.
- Land cannot be sold without the consent of all tribes.
- Travels around to convince various tribes and villages to join in resisting.
- Met with Harrison to negotiate getting the land back- will go to war if US doesn't stop taking land.

### What were the pivotal events that prevented the Shawnee from being successful in warding off the Americans?

- Harrison attacks while Tecumseh is away.
- British fail to fully support Native resistance.