



**GILCREASE MUSEUM**  
*Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art*

Pre-Visit

# Early Life in Oklahoma

People came to Oklahoma for the opportunity to work their own land and own a home. Many new settlers were very poor. They had few possessions and had to live off the land for food. The natural environment provided the resources for many settlers to build a home. The grasslands had few trees, but there was an abundance of tough sod. Sod is soil with tangled roots. Settlers cut the sod into blocks and stacked the sod to make the walls of their houses. Through hard work, the settlers built small houses that protected them from the winds and cold of winter and the heat of summer. Living in a sod home had advantages and disadvantages.

**Advantages:** Sod was inexpensive, mud and roots or straw to make sod was found on the land of settlers. A small sod house could be built quickly with few tools.

**Disadvantages:** Sod houses were dusty and dirty. Sod was often the home of burrowing animals and bugs including mice, snakes and spiders. Many sod houses leaked when it rained.



Family of settlers in front of their sod house circa 1890  
Photograph , Western History Collections  
University of Oklahoma Libraries, Forbes 73.

Is your house made of sod? What material is your house made from?

Opinion: Would you like living in a sod home?

# Analyze the Article

Read the advertisement and write in complete sentences to answer the following questions:

## Oklahoma Colony!

A Colony has been organized for the purpose of opening up and settling this beautiful country lying south of the State of Kansas. This Colony will start for that country on June 25, 1883, and will settle upon and occupy this famous and fertile country. This is the last and only chance to secure for yourselves homes upon government lands that have heretofore been held for the Indians. This country belongs to the government and is surveyed and sectionized. Capt. D. L. Payne, the famous Oklahoma agitator, will lecture upon this subject

**TO-NIGHT!**

fully relating the progress made by previous expeditions to that country, and will give his hearers a truthful description of the country and the present status of the colony.

Every person who desires to secure an excellent home, should not fail to attend the lecture.

1. Why should people attend the lecture?

2. Who is presenting the lecture on the Oklahoma Colony?

2. What state is north of Oklahoma?



# Plains Indians - No More Buffalo



*Plains Indians – No More Buffalo*, was painted by Fred Beaver and is located at Gilcrease Museum.

Describe the painting. What do you see?

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What are the Indians (Native Americans) doing in the painting?

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Why do you think the artist Fred Beaver named this painting *Plains Indians - No More Buffalo*?

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## Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears

The Indian Removal Act was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 26, 1830. The Indian Removal Act relocated Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River to reservation land, designated as Indian Territory, which is now the state of Oklahoma.

The Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek (Muscogee), Seminole, and Cherokee are known as the Five Civilized Tribes. These tribes were called “civilized” because they had learned the ways of the white settlers. Over 150 years, these tribes maintained their own cultures while successfully adapting to the new cultures introduced by the English and French.

As part of the Indian Removal Act, Native Americans were first asked to leave their homeland and move west in a treaty. A treaty is a formal agreement between nations. The treaties were between the United States government and each of the Native American tribes.

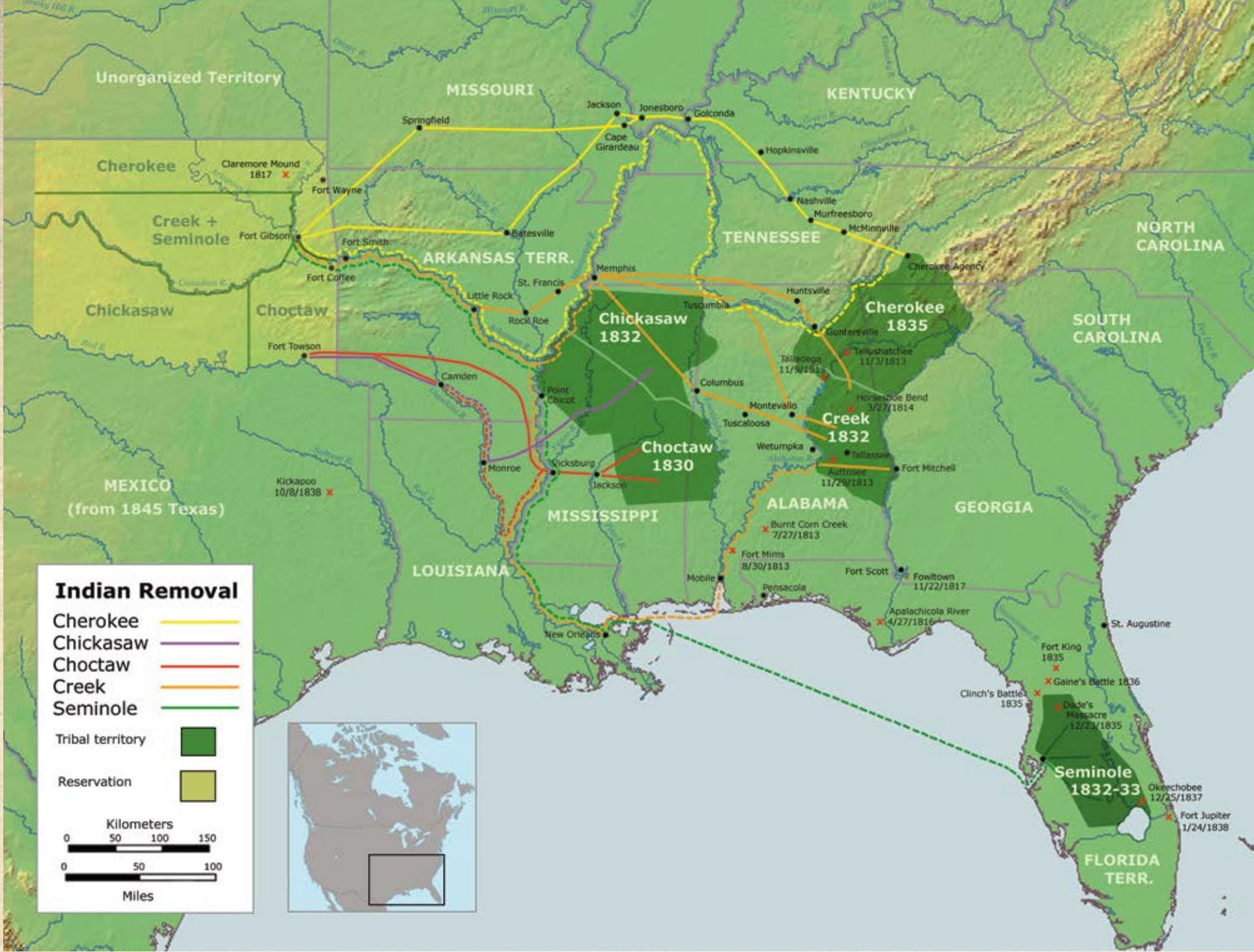
Most people in the Five Civilized Tribes did not want to leave their homelands. Chief John Ross of the Cherokee asked the United States Supreme Court to reject the Indian Removal Act. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee and said the Cherokee could stay in their homeland.

In spite of going to the Supreme Court, Cherokee were forced to move. In 1838, United States soldiers burned Cherokee villages and forced the Cherokee to walk 800 miles to Indian Territory, reservation land, which is now Oklahoma.

During this terrible journey, over 4,000 Cherokee people died due to cold weather, starvation, and disease. The walk took more than one year.



*Trail of Tears* is painting by Jerome Richard Tiger. The Trail of Tears was a result of the Indian Removal Act. Many Native Americans had to travel long distances in the cold to reach the Indian reservation land. Many people died on this trip which is why it is called the Trail of Tears. -What does it mean to say the Trail of Tears is a result of the Indian Removal Act?



Refer to the Indian Removal map to answer the following questions.

What were the names of the Five Civilized Tribes relocated to lands west of the Mississippi River, in present day Oklahoma?

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Which Indian (Native American) tribe had to travel the most distance from their tribal land to the reservation land?

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Name the Indian (Native American) tribes that once lived in present-day Mississippi?

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What does the yellow line on the map represent?

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What do you think the dotted lines on the map represent?

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Opinion: How would you feel if you had to move from your family/tribal land to a reservation? Why do you think you would feel that way? (Answer in complete sentences.)

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# Craft: Paper Bead Making

Making paper beads is a fun activity. Use different paper (newspaper, magazines, wallpaper, and wrapping paper) to make different bead designs!

Step 1: Cut the paper in any shape like the shapes here on the right.

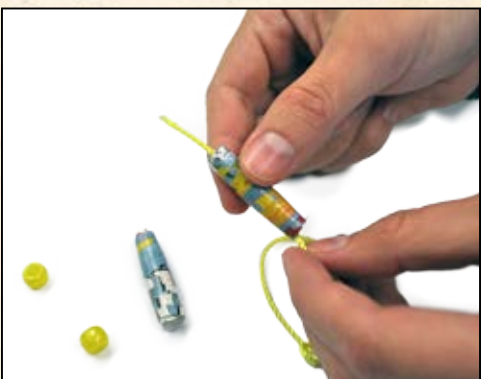
Step 2: Roll the paper strip around a pencil.

Step 3: Spread a small amount of white school glue on the final inch of paper. Continue rolling the paper around, spreading the excess glue onto the bead.

Step 4: The bead should be solid. Slide it off the pencil.

Step 5: To finish the bead and make it shine, paint the bead using diluted white school glue.

Step 6: String the bead on a piece of yarn to make a bracelet or necklace.



Make your own beads that look similar to the beads used in these Native American moccasins. These moccasins are located at the Gilcrease Museum.




**MOCCASINS**  
Blackfoot, early 20th century, leather, glass beads, cloth

2017-V1.11

## Museum Pass

Please redeem this pass for admission for two adults at the Gilcrease Museum ticket desk. Children under 18 receive free admission. Expires 12/31/17



### GILCREASE MUSEUM

*Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art*

1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road ■ Tulsa, OK 74127 ■ 918-596-2700  
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday ■ 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ■ [gilcrease.org](http://gilcrease.org)  
Restaurant Hours: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ■ 918-596-2720

Parent/Guardian

Date of visit

E-mail address (optional)

Phone number (optional)

Would you like to receive information about Gilcrease Museum?☐ Yes ☐ No