

Lesson: The Math of Removal

Grade 4 Goals:

Math 1, 4
Social Studies 2

Objective:

The Trail of Tears was a devastating program of removal. Students will examine statistics and compare the survival rates of different groups.

Time:

20 minutes

Materials:

Tsali teacher background material (pg. 5)

Trail of Tears Statistics information sheet, one copy per student

The Math of Removal activity sheet, one copy per student

Process:

1. Introduce the lesson by talking about the Trail of Tears and how it dramatically changed the population of western North Carolina. Introduce Tsali and talk about his story.
2. Some Cherokee groups were permitted to travel without military soldiers present.
3. Distribute the statistics sheets to students and have them compare the survival rates for the thirteen groups. Why do they believe some had fewer casualties than others?
4. Give students time to complete the sheets. Then, discuss the results – were there any major differences between the groups?
5. Wrap up the lesson by discussing how math is essential to conducting historical research and understanding the real meaning of statistics.

Information Sheet: Trail of Tears Statistics

Directions: The following are statistics from 13 Cherokee groups that left under their own supervision. Use this information to determine the number of days for each journey and the percent of survivors for each group. Then, compare the different groups.

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Departed</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u># Departed</u>	<u>#Arrived</u>
Hair Conrad	Aug. 23, 1838	Jan. 17, 1839	729	654
Elijah Hicks	Sept. 1, 1838	Jan. 4, 1839	858	744
Jessy Bushyhead	Sept. 3, 1838	Feb. 27, 1839	950	898
John Benge	Sept. 28, 1838	Jan. 17, 1839	1200	1132
Situwakee	Sept. 7, 1838	Feb. 2, 1839	1250	1033
Old Field	Sept. 24, 1838	Feb. 23, 1839	983	921
Moses Daniel	Sept. 30, 1838	Mar 2, 1839	1035	924
Choowalooka	Sept. 14, 1838	Mar 5, 1839	1150	970
James Brown	Sept. 10, 1838	Mar 5, 1839	850	717
George Hicks	Sept. 7, 1838	Mar 14, 1839	1118	1039
Richard Taylor	Sept. 20, 1838	Mar 24, 1839	1029	942
Peter Hildebrand	Oct. 23, 1838	Mar 24, 1839	1766	1311
John Drew	Dec. 5, 1838	Mar 18, 1839	231	219

Activity Sheet: The Math of Removal

Directions: Based on information from the Statistics Sheet, record the length of each group's journey in days as well as the number of deaths.

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Length of Journey</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Hair Conrad	_____ days	_____
Elijah Hicks	_____ days	_____
Jesse Bushyhead	_____ days	_____
John Benge	_____ days	_____
Situwakee	_____ days	_____
Old Field	_____ days	_____
Moses Daniel	_____ days	_____
Choowalooka	_____ days	_____
James Brown	_____ days	_____
George Hicks	_____ days	_____
Richard Taylor	_____ days	_____
Peter Hildebrand	_____ days	_____
John Drew	_____ days	_____

Which group had the shortest journey? _____

Which group had the longest journey? _____

EXTRA CREDIT

Which group had the highest percent of survivors? _____ %

Which group had the lowest percent of survivors? _____ %

Answer Sheet: The Math of Removal

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Length of Journey</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Hair Conrad	<u>147 days</u>	<u>75</u>
Elijah Hicks	<u>126 days</u>	<u>114</u>
Jesse Bushyhead	<u>177 days</u>	<u>52</u>
John Benge	<u>111 days</u>	<u>68</u>
Situwakee	<u>148 days</u>	<u>217</u>
Old Field	<u>152 days</u>	<u>62</u>
Moses Daniel	<u>153 days</u>	<u>111</u>
Choowalooka	<u>172 days</u>	<u>180</u>
James Brown	<u>176 days</u>	<u>133</u>
George Hicks	<u>188 days</u>	<u>79</u>
Richard Taylor	<u>185 days</u>	<u>87</u>
Peter Hildebrand	<u>152 days</u>	<u>455</u>
John Drew	<u>103 days</u>	<u>87</u>

Which group had the shortest journey? Drew (103 days)

Which group had the longest journey? Hicks (188 days)

EXTRA CREDIT

Which group had the highest percent of survivors? Drew 95%

Which group had the lowest percent of survivors? Hildebrand 74%

Information Sheet: Tsali's Story

The legend of Tsali begins in 1830 with a speech given by President Andrew Jackson to Congress. President Jackson believed that Indians in the southeast were in the way of white settlement, and he wanted them removed so that white settlers could take the land. His speech set into motion the forced removal of the Five Civilized Tribes – the Creek, the Choctaw, the Chickasaw, the Seminole, and the Cherokee – from their ancient homelands. This removal order changed western North Carolina forever by taking away many Cherokee from their land and opening up the western mountains for settlement by whites.

Five years after that speech, only a few Cherokee had signed the removal treaty, and Cherokee chief John Ross asked Congress not to ratify the treaty. The Cherokee wanted to stay on the land they had known all their lives. Congress ignored the pleas of the Cherokee and ratified the treaty in 1836. The United States government gave the Cherokee two years to move west to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Most Cherokee never believed that removal would happen. When the deadline for voluntary removal passed in 1838, only about a thousand Cherokee had left. General Winfield Scott took command of the operation to forcibly remove the remaining Cherokee and issued a proclamation on May 10, 1838, telling the Cherokee of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama to prepare for their move west.

General Scott ordered the roundup and forced removal of all Cherokee families to begin in May of 1838. The journey was so horrible that it became known as *Nunna daul Tsuny* (The Trail Where They Cried), or the Trail of Tears. During the Trail of Tears, one observer stated, the Cherokee “buried fourteen or fifteen at

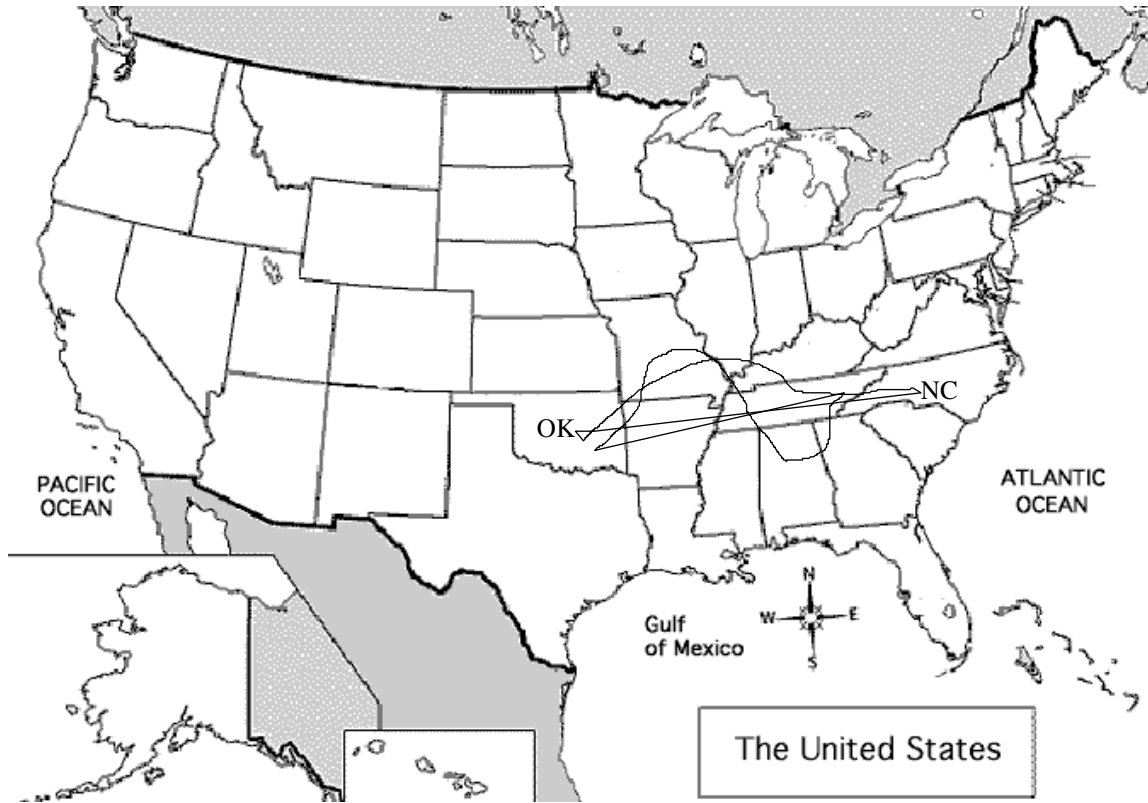
every stopping place, and they make a journey of ten miles per day only on an average." Most of the Cherokee men, women, and children in North Carolina walked the Trail of Tears, but some refused to leave. They took refuge in their beloved mountains. General Scott ordered troops to track down and bring in these "renegade" Cherokee. Tsali was one of these figures.

In October 1838 federal troops rounded up a family of twelve, led by Tsali, in the mountains of North Carolina. While on their way to the removal camp, soldiers mistreated Tsali's wife. Tsali and his family killed two of the soldiers and fled back into the mountains.

A fellow Cherokee named Euchella led a band that recaptured Tsali and his family. They executed Tsali, two of his sons, and his son-in-law. Euchella had made a deal with the United States Army. In exchange for his deed, all fugitive Cherokee were allowed to remain safely in North Carolina. Their descendants became known as the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

The legend of Tsali continues today in many forms, from *Unto These Hills*, a play telling his story, to signs on the landscape that bear his name. Tsali is not forgotten, though the details of his legend may vary greatly. The Cherokee knew it was wrong to be forced to leave their homeland. Tsali and his family fought – and died – for what they thought was right.

Trail of Tears Map



Trail of Tears Map Legend

NC = North Carolina

OK = Present-day Oklahoma

———— = Trail of Tears route