

Lesson 10  
READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

## Cherokees

**The Cherokees were civilized people. They had their own alphabet and published their own newspaper. They educated their men and women. They were both farmers and merchants. They wore homespun clothing, and many lived in log cabins.**

**The Cherokees believed that all men are brothers. Some Cherokees wedded white settlers and tried to adapt to the white man's ways.**

**When gold was discovered on Cherokee property, the state legislature voted to take away their status as an independent Cherokee Nation. The tribe had relied on the protection of the white man's legal system, but it failed them.**

**President Andrew Jackson asked Congress to order the mandatory removal of the tribe to land in the west. So in 1838, the government herded the Cherokee into camps. Then, under military guard, it moved them westward to a reservation. During the forced march along the "Trail of Tears" one-quarter of the people died.**

**This is a sad part of American history.**