

Lesson 1

Theme: Native American involvement in Battle of Horseshoe Bend (focus Cherokee)

Objective: Alabama Course of Study 2nd Grade Social Studies #3

Lesson: Compare Cherokee and Creek Nations

Time: 2 days – 20-30 minutes each day

Grade level: 2nd grade

I. Introduce Cherokee and Creek tribes; show lands they occupied before statehoods; (See “Alabama’s Indian Peoples”)

II. Compare: food, dress, games, land using chart.

III. Fill chart in as you share information with students. Use smartboard or chart tablet paper. (possibly Cherokee one day, Creek 2nd day) (Creek information: see pages 3-6; Cherokee information: see pages 7-9)

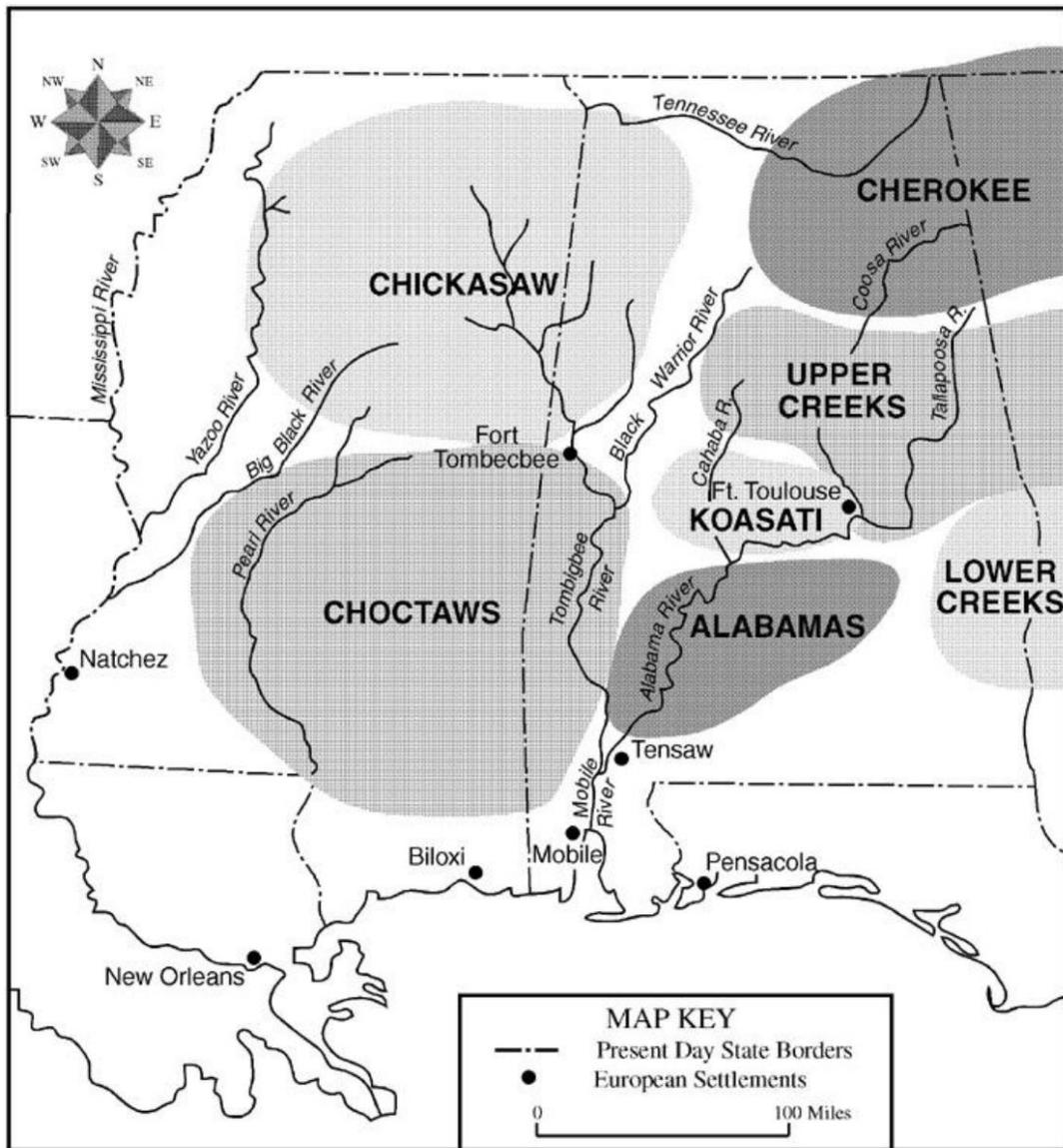
| | Cherokee | Creek |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| food | | |
| dress | | |
| games | | |
| land | refer back to map | refer back to map |

(see file” comparison chart” for individual charts)

III. Color pictures of Cherokee, Creek traditional war dress. See pages 11 and 12.

(This lesson was planned with an emphasis on Cherokee involvement. The comparison can be with any tribes you choose.)

Alabama's Indian Peoples



Map created by the Cartographic Research Laboratory, Department of Geography, University of Alabama, for Robert J. Norrell, *The Alabama Journey, State History and Geography* (Tuscaloosa: Yellowhammer Press, 1998).

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Clothing and Personal Adornment



One of the main ways Southeastern Indians expressed the difference between men and women was through clothing. The basic garment for men was the breechcloth, a rectangular piece of leather or woven grass worn between the legs. Men also wore sashes with long tassels tied at their waists or draped across their shoulders. When travelling, the men wore deerskin leggings, one for each leg suspended from the belt.

When the weather was cold, both men and women wore a “matchcoat” which was a mantle made of animal skins and draped over one or both shoulders. These matchcoats were made of the skins of bison, deer, beaver, muskrat, or other animals. Matchcoats for the elite were made of bird feathers woven into a fiber mesh. During cold weather both men and women wore leather moccasins that were wrapped around the ankles or calves. Men also wore a pouch suspended from their belts or sashes which contained tobacco, a pipe, flint, and other tools.

Women wore a short deerskin skirt which covered them from the waist to the knees. In warm weather, they wore nothing above the waist. In warm weather, they wore nothing above the waist. In cold weather they wore feather or skin matchcoats draped under the right arm and tied over the left shoulder, exposing the right breast. Children went naked in warm weather until the age of 12 or 13, when they began to wear adult clothing.

Native Americans used shells, seeds, bone, teeth, stones, and feathers to make body decorations. They wore ear spools, necklaces with pendants made from conch shells, hair knots, and belts with tassels on the ends. Usually they wore nothing on their heads, but occasionally men wore turbans made of animal skin, feathers, or cloth. During ceremonies the hair was decorated with feathers.

After glass beads were introduced by Europeans, the Indians became expert in designing colorful belts, headbands, necklaces, and other jewelry. These items used the designs from the ancient religious culture as well as adapting new patterns from European designs.

For more information: Alabama Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 870340, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340.
Phone: (205)371-2234. E-mail: Moundville@bama.ua.edu.



Native American Foods



Southeastern Native Americans had a widely varied food supply that included wild and cultivated plant foods, game, and fish. Much of the Indian culture was based on hunting and fishing. Game included buffalo, deer, small mammals, birds, and sometimes bear. Large fish were abundant, as were smaller fish and various types of shell fish.

Much of the Indians' diet was made up of wild plants, including various root vegetables, berries, fruits, nuts, and seeds. After agriculture was developed, the native peoples produced numerous varieties of corn, beans, and squash. Agriculture was principally a woman's occupation. The forests were cleared by the men, and the large fields were planted by both men and women. The garden plots of kitchen gardens lying within or around the village were cultivated by women.

The Southeastern Indians dried or smoked their food for storage. Sundried plums, grapes, and berries lasted several months. Meat was boiled in a stew or broiled over a wood fire or dried. Meat, fish, and oysters were smoked. The staple food of the Southeastern Indians was cracked hominy (grits) from which a kind of soup was made. The Creeks called this dish *sa-fki*, the Cherokees called it *gano-ni*, and the Choctaws called it *tanfula*. They also made bread from cornmeal.

Among the most important religious ceremonies was the Green Corn Ceremony, or Busk (from a word meaning "to fast"), held in summer between late July and early September to mark the ripening of the late corn. This rite of thanksgiving for a successful corn crop was also a time of purification and renewal. The people of the tribe fasted, refurbished their public buildings, washed their clothing, cleaned the ceremonial grounds, and most importantly, put out the old fire and lit a new fire. After several days of ritual purification and dancing, a great feast was prepared with dried meat, fish, oil, beans, pumpkins, and the new corn.

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Indian Games



Chunkey

Chunkey was a popular game played by men in the Southeastern Indian tribes (it was a version of the hoop and pole game played by Native Americans all over North America). A wheel-shaped disc made of polished stone or clay was rolled down by the field. Two players held long poles, and just as the chunkey stone stopped rolling, each player cast his pole at the stone. The player coming closest to or touching the stone won.

Rolling a Stone

Similar to chunkey, 'rolling a stone' was played by rolling a small ceramic or soapstone ball (or disc) along a trench several feet long. At the end of the trench were a series of small holes dug into the earth, some more difficult to roll the ball into than others. Whoever rolled the stone ball into the highest scoring holes was the winner.

Hidden Ball of Moccasin Game

A small stone was hidden under one of four moccasins, and the object was to guess which one the object was hidden under. The skill was in misleading the guesser with special chants, body movements and other tricks. This was a popular gambling game and was called 'the shell game' by Europeans.

Cane Game

Played with four 8-inch gaming sticks made of split cane, this game was similar to throwing dice. The player threw the sticks up in the air, and the scoring was calculated on whether the convex or concave sides were up when the sticks landed. Different tribes scored this game in different ways.

Corn Game

This game was also similar to throwing dice. Played with a dozen or so corn kernels, seeds, or beans which had been blackened on one side, the score was calculated by the number of black or white sides landing up after the grains were tossed. This game was played by Cherokees, Creeks, and Choctaws.

Hoop and Pole Game

This is an Indian game of skill, played with a hoop made from willow and webbed with cord. The hoops is rolled on a smooth, flat ground surface. As the hoop rolls, the player throws his pole at the hoop, trying to hit the center webbing. Each player gets one throw at a time, and the score is based on the row of webbing the pole passes through, the nearer the center, the higher the score. If the pole passes all the way through the hoop, the player earns no points. Each player is given five tries.

Tossed Ball

Similar to our game of jacks, seven sticks are laid on the ground. Each player must throw the ball up in the air, picking up one stick before catching the ball. If the ball hits the ground, his turn is over. If he succeeds, he throws the ball again and picks up two sticks. As long as he is successful, his turn continues, picking up one more stick each time, until all seven of the sticks are picked up. When the player misses, he relinquishes the ball to the next player. When the first player begins his turn again, he must begin with one stick.

The Shell Guessing Game

There are six players on each team. The object is to guess under which shell the team has hidden a marble. One player from the first team will start the game by hiding the marble under one of seven shells. The person on the opposite team across from that player tries to guess where the marble is hidden. If the guess is correct, his team receives one point and that team continues guessing in turn. If the guess is incorrect, he scores nothing for this team, and the opposing team begins guessing. The game continues until all of the twenty counters have been distributed. This game, like other Indian games, keeps score with small markers or counters which may be a small pebble, a pottery fragment, a grain of corn, or a special disc made of stone. The team with the largest number of points wins the game.

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Cherokee

Traditional Foods

Bear, rabbit, ground hog, raccoon, quail and other birds, possum, trout and other fish, wild boar, squirrel, muskrat, rattlesnake, crows foot, deer, buffalo, turtle, elk, frog legs and crawfish are some of the sources of meat that were hunted by tribal men. The bear fat was rendered for use as grease. Some of the meat was dried or ground into powder for future use.

Fruits were also gathered seasonally and eaten or preserved. Some of the fruits that were eaten were huckleberries (wild blueberries), blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and elderberries.

Some of the more traditional dishes that are consumed by the Cherokee people are bean bread, fry bread, poke salad, chestnut bread, branch lettuce, bear grass, sochani, honey locust drink, leather breeches (a kind of green bean), hominy, sassafras tea, spicewood tea, ramps, slicks (a type of mushroom), swamp potatoes, wisi (pronounced wishy) mushrooms, butter beans, creases, hickory nuts, bean salad, dandelions, turnip greens, pumpkin, sunflower, squash, collard greens, mustard greens, watercress, sweet grass, mountain salad, dock weed, lamb's quarters, pig weed, jellico, hominy corn drink, lye dumplings, pinto beans and hickory nut soup.

<http://wcufoodandculture.blogspot.com/2009/03/cherokee-food-culture.html>

Traditional Games

Chunkey: This game was played by almost all of the southeastern Indians, with some variation. All of the games made use of a smooth stone disk, usually with concave sides, and two long slender poles.

Generally speaking, two persons played and onlookers wagered on the outcome of the game. The idea was to start the stone disk rolling along a smooth piece of ground while the two players threw their poles after it with

the goal of either hitting the stone or coming as near as possible to it when the stone came to a rest.

The sticks were about eight feet long, and coated with bear grease. There were several marks along the length of the shaft. One player rolled the stone and both of the players threw their poles after it. When the stone came to rest near one of the players' poles, the count was according to the marks on the pole.

The stones, generally made from hard quartz and perfectly finished, were considered very valuable because they were difficult to make from this hard material. These stones never belonged to individual persons, but to the town as a whole. Some called this game "running hard labor". The players would often keep playing and wagering on this game most of the day, staking everything they had on it.

<http://www.cherokee.org/AboutTheNation/Culture/General/Chunkey.aspx>

A-ne-jo-di, or the **Stickball Game**, is a very rough game played by not only the **Cherokee**, but many other Southeastern Woodland tribes and it is also popular with many Canadian First Nations. The game resembles the modern European game of lacrosse. This game is a pre-requisite before a Cherokee Stomp Dance can begin, but it is also played socially or competitively without the Stomp Dance occurring in conjunction with it.

Di-ga-da-yo-s-di or **Marbles** is another popular Cherokee game, which is played in tournaments. The marble game dates back to approximately 800 a.d., and is a complex game of skill and strategy played by adults on a five-hole outdoor course. The "marbles" aren't the small shooters used by kids today. They were carved from stone until the early 20th century. There are still a few traditional marble makers, but today most people use billiard balls to play this game.

<http://www.aaanativearts.com/cherokee/cherokee-games.htm>

Traditional Dress:

Although there have been many styles of clothing unique to the Cherokee people throughout the years, one style remains in vogue. The Cherokee tear dress is the standard traditional fashion for women, and the ribbon shirt remains popular for men.

The tear dress is believed to be the style of dress from the Trail of Tears era, when most women no longer had access to scissors due to the "removals" and the subsequent confiscation of most personal and household belongings. Thus, the material was 'torn' from larger bolt pieces. The name is equally proper whether pronounced 'tear,' as in Trail of Tears, or 'tear,' as in being torn fabric. The style of tear dress worn today was patterned after an actual dress stored for many years in a trunk.

Tear dresses are styled from a calico print material, with an applique pattern of diamonds on the yoke and around the skirt, just above the flounce. Some Cherokee seamstresses have modified the design to utilize triangles, circles, and even the sacred seven-sided star of the Cherokee.

The Trail of Tears era dresses had 3/4 length sleeves, which did not get in the way of dishes, grinding corn and nuts, and other household duties. It also had a skirt length of mid-calf, so as not to gather dirt or dew from the ground. Another feature was the button down top, a convenience for nursing infants. Little girl's' dresses were usually fastened in the back. Today the tear dress has been modified to be worn floor length, except for Stomp Dance shell shakers, who usually wear calf-length tear dresses because of the shell shackles. The sleeves are often times worn full-length.

While the tear dress has remained unique to the Cherokee, the male ribbon shirt has become popular in many different tribes especially on the pow-wow circuit. The ribbon shirt is also made from calico fabric, with ribbon designs on the front and back. The sleeves are made similar to the tear dress. The traditional turban, also made from calico, is still worn by some men.

<http://www.cherokee.org/AboutTheNation/Culture/CherokeeArts/CherokeeClothing.aspx>

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Cherokee



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