

The
Creek War
« of »
1813-1814

What Would You Do?

For Jackson's campaign
against the
Creek Indians

1813 & 1814.

Scale



“In classrooms where teachers use deliberation, students learn to think critically, work through differences, and interact with people who may or may not share their point of view. Teaching through deliberation provides students with the skills and abilities to work with others as citizens to claim a better future for their communities.”

- Stacie Molnar-Main, *Deliberation in the Classroom*

This issue guide is designed for classroom deliberation on a period of Alabama history that deserves more of our attention: the Creek Indian Civil War of 1813-14. Deliberation is a form of discussion where participants weigh the pros and cons of different approaches to solving a complex problem. Participants work through various tradeoffs or consequences of actions with respect and passion, and, over time, they develop skills required for living in a democratic society: critical thinking, communication, judgment, and empathy. This classroom deliberation invites students to consider the difficult choices that faced Creek Indians in 1813.

About the Project

This issue guide was developed in collaboration with the Charles F. Kettering Foundation as part of a research project on integrating historical and civic education. Partners include the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University; Clarke County Historical Museum; and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. Special thanks to colleagues at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, as well as Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund, History Department, Auburn University. This issue guide is dedicated to Robert Thrower (1961-2017), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Poarch Creek Indians. Robert was a passionate advocate for this project and a key contributor to its development.

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**DAVID MATHEWS
CENTER for CIVIC LIFE**



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

*Caroline Marshall Draughon
Center for the Arts and Humanities*

1790s

Benjamin Hawkins begins to carry out the Plan of Civilization

1799

Hawkins attempts to direct National Council policies

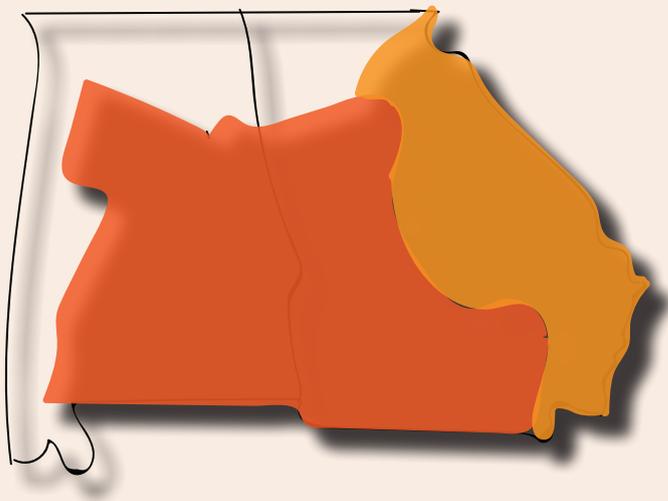
1806

The U.S. begins building the Federal Road.

September 1811

Tecumseh visits the Creeks

Challenges Facing Creek Indians in 1813³



Before the War

■ Creek Territory 1806-1814

■ Land Creeks Lost Before 1806

In 1813, the relationship between Creek Indians and their growing neighbor, the United States, was becoming tense due to several challenges.

The Plan of Civilization

In the late 1700s, the U.S. government began the “Plan of Civilization.” Under this plan, Indian Agent Benjamin Hawkins worked to change how Creek people lived. He told Creeks to make their farms private and build fences, instead of working together in one large field to produce enough food for the entire village. Creek men were told to farm and raise animals, rather than depending on hunting for food and trade. Many Creeks profited because of the new technology and practices introduced by the plan, but many others felt they were losing their cultural traditions.

Tecumseh’s Visit

Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader, visited the Creeks in 1811. He spoke to the **National Council**, a gathering of important Creek leaders, in Tuckabatchee. Tecumseh said that Native Americans should band together, strengthen their independence, and fight to push out U.S. settlers from native lands. Some Creeks viewed Tecumseh’s plan as dangerous. Other Creeks, who were willing to “raise the red stick of war” against the National Council and the Americans, would become known as **Red Sticks**.

November 1811

U.S. completes the Federal Road.

Spring 1812

Eight Red Sticks kill a family of U.S. settlers and are executed by order of the National Council.

January 1813

A second group of Creeks murdered U.S. settlers and are executed.

The Federal Road

In the early 1800s, the **National Council** was forced to let the U.S. government build a small road through Creek territory. In 1811, the road was widened for more travelers and U.S. troops. Many Creek people built taverns and ferries and were able to benefit financially from travelers along the road. Others were angered by U.S. travelers who stayed in Creek territory or settled along the border.

Problems with the National Council

The Creek **National Council** traditionally had very little power and was mostly a way for important chiefs and leaders to work together. Benjamin Hawkins pressured the Council to use more power over Creek towns. In 1812, for example, a group of **Red Stick** warriors, returning from a visit to the Shawnee Indians, murdered American settlers near the Creek Nation. Hawkins told the **National Council** to punish these warriors, and the Council executed the guilty Creeks. This upset the **Red Sticks** and more traditional Creeks, because it was usually the job of town leaders to punish lawbreakers.



...Imagine you are a Creek Indian, and it is springtime in 1813. Some people are talking about going to war with the United States and Creeks friendly with the U.S. Some people are talking about stopping the Red Sticks from causing any more trouble. Others are willing to move to keep their families safe. You have at least one family member who supports one of these three approaches, and you must decide what to do for yourself and your family.

What will you do?

Preserve Our
Culture at Any
Cost

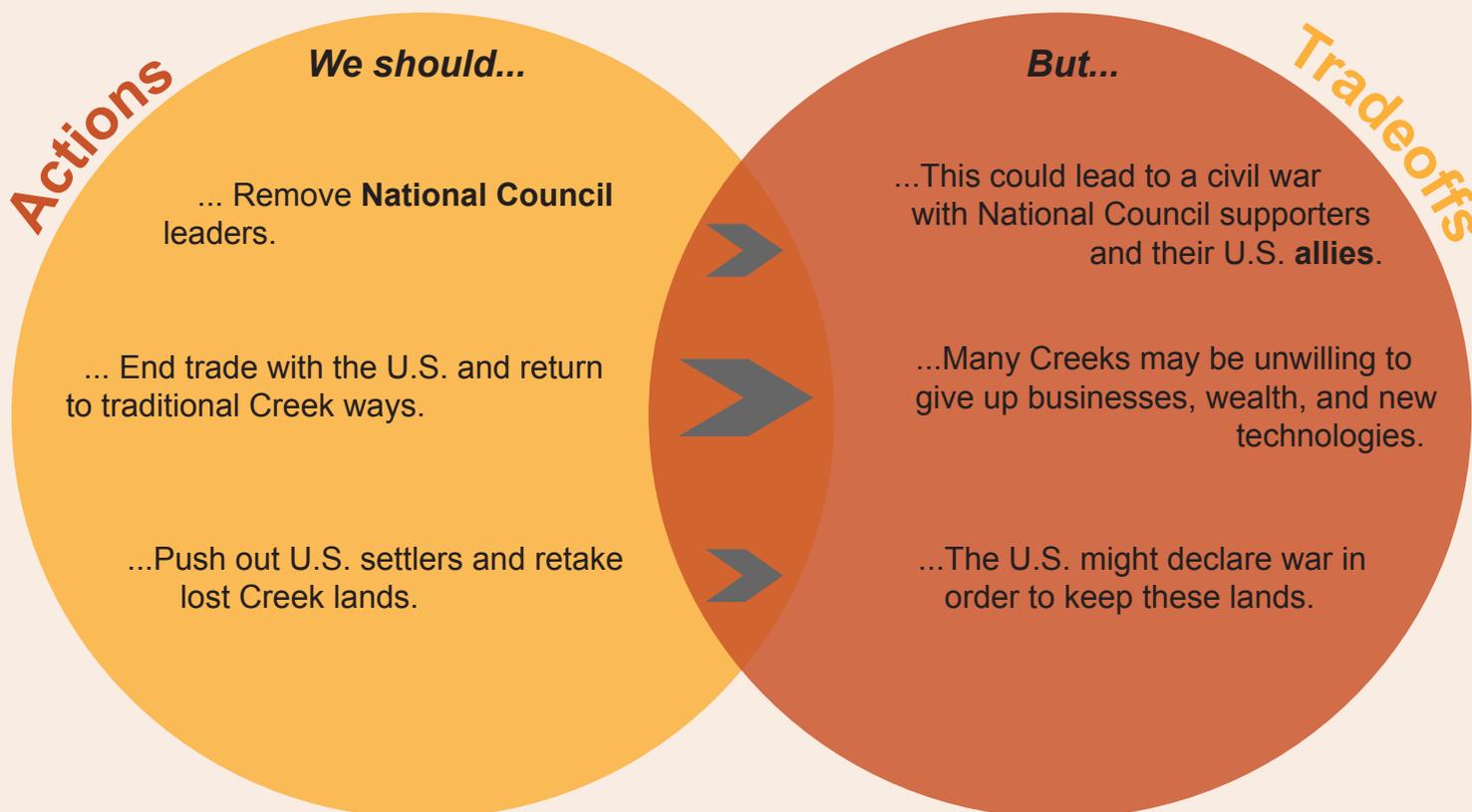
Ensure the
Safety of Our
Family

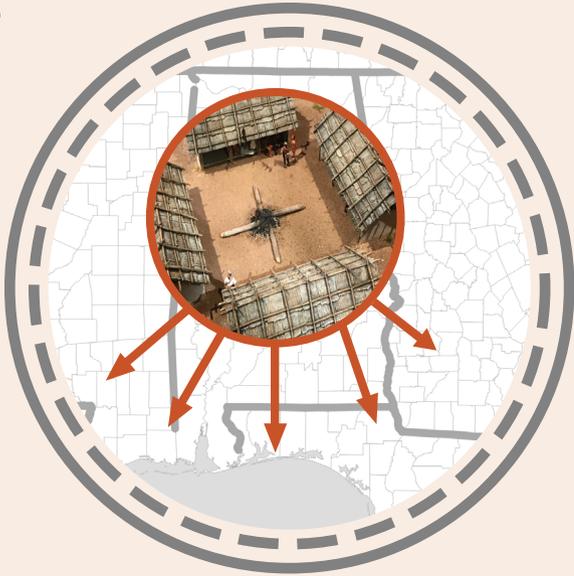
Make the Best
of Our
Situation



Approach 1: *Preserve Our Culture at Any Cost*

Josiah Francis (Hillis Hadjo) believes that close ties to the United States government are a **threat** to our traditions and way of life. He and the Red Sticks are willing to fight our leaders, fellow Creeks, and even the U.S. military in order to end this threat to Creek **culture** and independence.





Approach 2: *Ensure the Safety of Our Family*

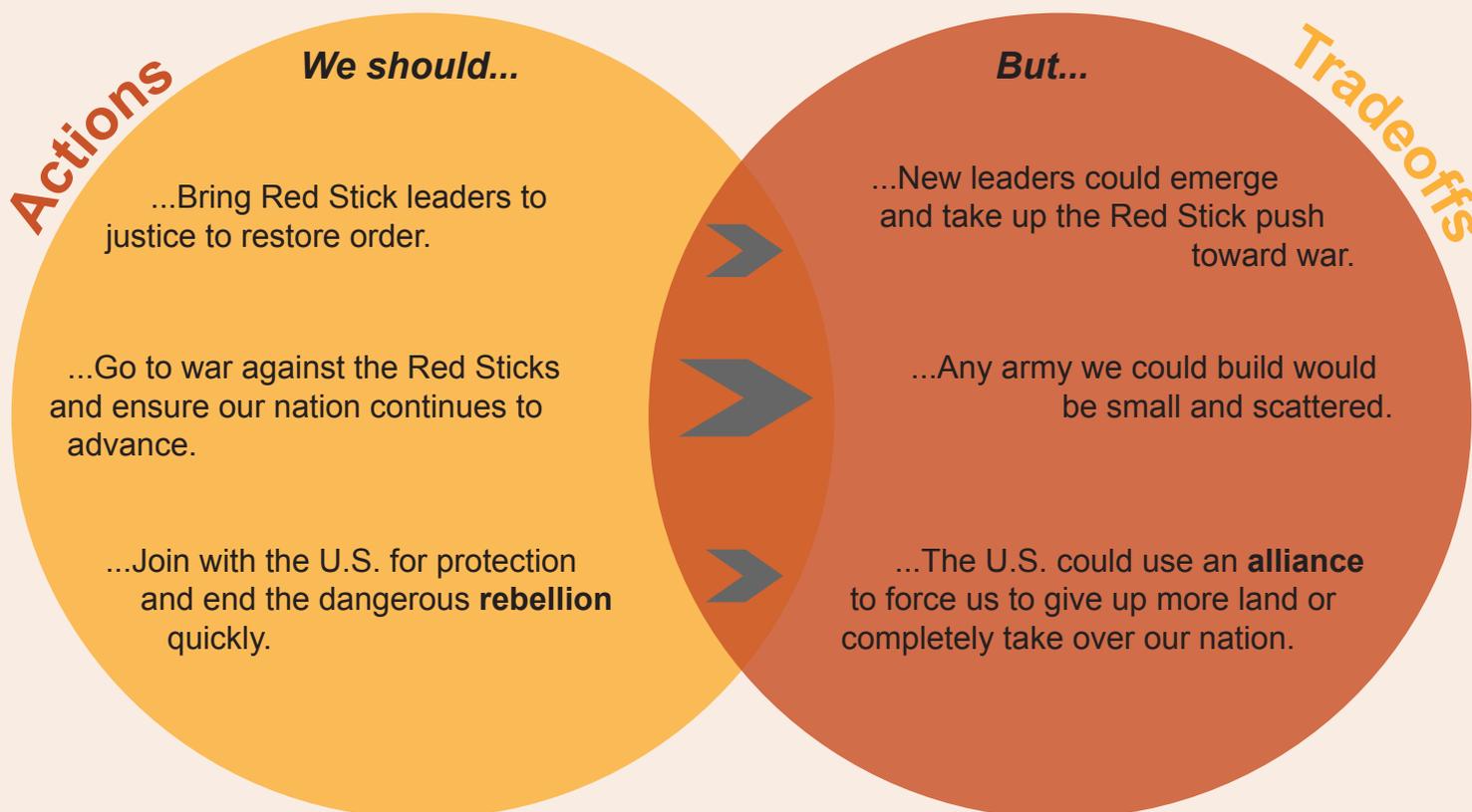
Many fear that a major **conflict** between Red Sticks and Creeks more friendly to the United States would destroy our nation. They value **safety** and the lives of their families more than anything else and are even willing to move their homes to avoid any fighting.





Approach 3: *Make the Best of Our Situation*

William McIntosh thinks there are benefits to a friendship with the United States government. The U.S. can provide trade, new technology, and protection to our nation. He and others like him are willing to fight against the Red Sticks and **cooperate** with the U.S. so that both nations can move **forward together**.



Major Battles of the Creek War

1. Tuckabatchee

Tecumseh spoke to the **National Council** at Tuckabatchee in 1811. The Red Sticks attacked the town on July 22, 1813 and forced survivors to flee.

2. Burnt Corn Creek

On July 27, 1813, Red Stick warriors were carrying supplies and ammunition from the Spanish in Pensacola back to Creek territory. The Americans and other Creeks attacked them at Burnt Corn Creek.

3. Fort Mims

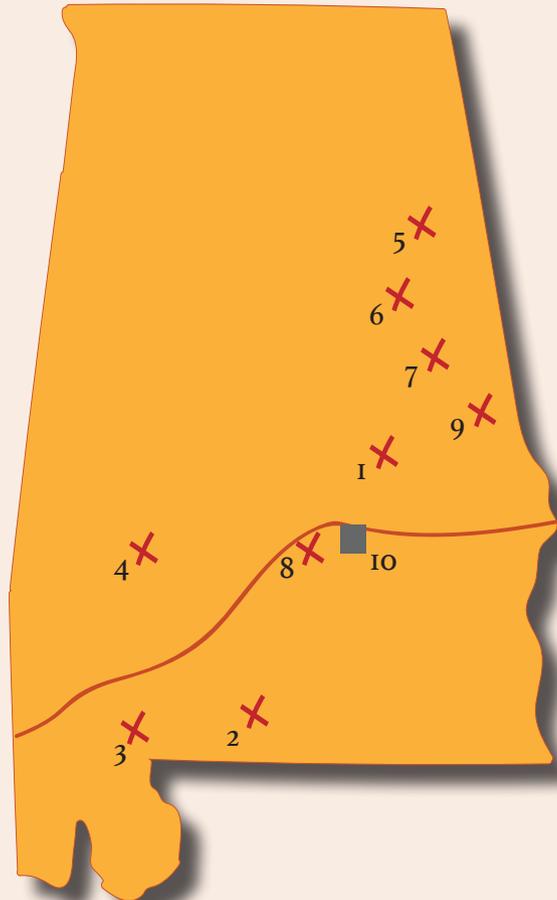
Red Sticks attacked the **fortified** settlement of Samuel Mims on August 30, 1813. They killed over 250 Americans and Creeks and took many others captive. Americans called this the Fort Mims Massacre.

4. Fort Sinefield

Red Stick warriors launched an unsuccessful attack on Fort Sinefield on September 2, 1813.

5. Tallushatchee

This was Andrew Jackson's first battle of the war. His troops defeated the Red Stick warriors at Tallushatchee on November 3, 1813.



— The Federal Road

✕ Major Battles

■ Fort Jackson

6. Talladega

The Battle of Talladega was a large victory for the Americans on November 9, 1813. Nearly 300 Red Stick warriors died and many more were wounded.

7. Hillabee

American troops, under General William Cocke, attacked Hillabee on November 18, 1813, only one day after the Creeks there asked Jackson for peace.

8. Holy Ground

American Troops attacked the fortified Red Stick town at Holy Ground on December 23, 1813. Led by William Weatherford, most of the Red Stick warriors escaped the attack.

9. Horseshoe Bend

Andrew Jackson led the attack on the last major Red Stick town on March 27, 1814. About 800 of the 1,000 Red Stick warriors were killed.

10. Fort Jackson

On August 9, 1814, leading Creek headmen representing the **National Council** signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, ending the war.

July 22, 1813
Siege of
Tuckabatchee

July 27, 1813
Skirmish at
Burnt Corn Creek

Aug. 30, 1813
Attack on
Fort Mims

Sept. 2, 1813
Attack on
Fort Sinefield

Nov. 3, 1813
Battle of
Tallushatchee

Nov. 9, 1813
Battle of
Talladega

End of the War and After

Last Battle and Treaty

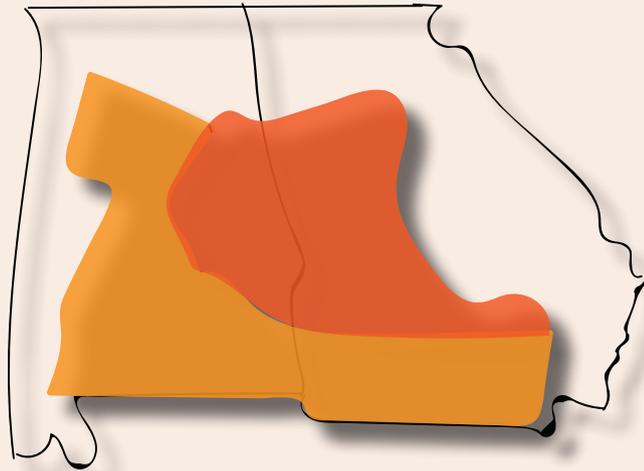
The final battle of the Creek War, at Horseshoe Bend, happened on March 27, 1814. In this battle Andrew Jackson defeated the last **Red Stick** stronghold. On August 9, 1814, Creek leaders such as William McIntosh signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson. This officially ended the war and gave away more than 22 million acres of land, or almost half of Creek territory, to the United States.

After the War

Land Given to the U.S. in the Treaty of Fort Jackson



Creek Territory After the War



What Happened Next

About fifteen years later, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. This law gave Jackson the ability to make **treaties** with Native American nations in order to gain their lands. In 1832, the Creek Nation signed the Treaty of Cusseta, also known as the Treaty of Washington, which traded all of Creek territory for private land ownership. This led to many Creeks selling or being cheated out of their land. By 1836, any Creeks still in Alabama and Georgia were forced to give up their land and move west of the Mississippi River to federal land known as Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). All Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River were coerced into signing removal **treaties**. The journey west was harsh. Among the Cherokees, who had a high death rate, the removal west is known as the Trail of Tears.

Nov. 18, 1813
Attack on
Hillabee

Dec. 23, 1813
Battle of
Holy Ground

March 27, 1814
Battle of
Horseshoe Bend

Aug. 9, 1814
Treaty of
Fort Jackson

May 28, 1830
Indian Removal
Act

March 24, 1832
Treaty of
Cusseta

Glossary

Allies, Alliance: An official friendship between two or more governments or nations.

Conflict: A fight or disagreement.

Cooperate: To work together.

Fortified, Fort: A place where walls and other defenses have been built to protect against attack.

Migrate: When a group of people moves from one place to another.

National Council: The national government of the Creeks, which was made up Creek chiefs from around the nation.

Rebellion: A violent act or fight against a government.

Red Sticks: A group of Creeks who joined together to fight the National Council and United States in order to return to more traditional ways.

Threat: Something that could be a danger.

Tradeoff: A consequence, or what we must give up to get something we want more.

Treaty: A formal deal or agreement between two governments or nations.

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