



## Exploring the American Indian Side of the Story: The War of 1812



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# Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 3
Background Information	Page 4
Significant People	Page 8
Word Search	Page 12
Crossword Puzzle	Page 14
Bingo	Page 16
Test Questions	Page 17
Discussion Questions/Group Activities	Page 19
Primary Source Documents and Questions	Page 22
Poster Project	Page 26
More Resources	Page 27
Curriculum Standards	Page 28
Maps	Page 29

# Introduction

This curriculum packet is designed to provide elementary and secondary school students with an introduction to the Native American experience during the War of 1812 through a variety of methods in accordance with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. Exercises can be adapted depending on grade level.

The American Indian story has often been treated as a backdrop for discussions of the American and British military campaigns. This packet will explore the political and economic pressures that the American and British struggles for control of the continent placed on Indian nations, Indian strategies for surviving those pressures, and the long-term consequences of their decisions. American Indian support for United States militia was crucial to the survival of troops along the Natchez Trace, and American Indians eventually played an important military role in the success of the American campaigns. Indian nations were also decimated by war and by its long-term consequences. This educational resource packet will raise awareness and educate the students about the American Indian perspective that is crucial to an understanding of the war.

## Background Information

As with most wars, the War of 1812 was born out of disagreements, land disputes, mounting frustrations, the question of true freedom, and unwanted interference. The key players in the war included America, Britain, and many groups of American Indians who lived east of the Mississippi River. After the Revolutionary War and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, America began to grow rapidly. Leaders of the new nation quickly realized that more land was necessary in order to expand and grow. However, obtaining more land meant displacing the American Indian population. Furthermore, Americans were growing increasingly resentful of the British government's interference with American international trade networks and their support of American Indian groups who fought against American expansionist efforts. Rumors circulated that British troops were supplying American Indians with guns to defend themselves against the Americans (or even worse, to take the offense against the Americans).

Before the War of 1812 officially began, a key battle was fought that further encouraged the Indians to resist American encroachment. In 1811, the territorial governor of Indiana and future US President William Henry Harrison led US troops against the Indians who lived in the Northwest Territory in what is today called the Battle of Tippecanoe. American Indians of many tribes had gathered at the juncture of the Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers under the leadership of two Shawnee tribesmen, Tecumseh and his brother Lalawethica (also known as Tenskwatawa, or the Prophet) in a town they named Prophetstown. The groups had formed an alliance with the British, which angered the Americans. Harrison and his troops destroyed Prophetstown in November of 1811. At Tippecanoe, the American troops did in fact find weapons made by the British, which further aggravated the Americans. This particular battle and the loss the American Indians suffered had a direct effect on the Indian nation and their resolve to fight against US encroachment on their land. Many no longer wanted to take up arms against the United States. Tecumseh was not at the Battle in Tippecanoe to witness the destruction first hand. Instead, he was in the South attempting to encourage American Indian tribes like the Creeks, Choctaws and Chickasaws to stand with him and fight against the white man. Tecumseh attempted to court the Chickasaws in what would later be north Alabama but was sent away by the Colbert family, a powerful Chickasaw family in the Shoals region. Knowing he could no longer make any progress there, Tecumseh headed for the Choctaws. Chief Pushmataha also rejected

Tecumseh's proposed alliance, telling Tecumseh that the Choctaws and the Chickasaws had long lived in peace with European settlers. Both groups had benefitted from trade with settlers, particularly those who lived along or near the Natchez Trace. By the early 1800s, the Natchez Trace had long been used as a trade route by American Indians. During his presidency, Thomas Jefferson had entered into agreements with the Chickasaws and Choctaws to develop the Natchez Trace Indian trail into a wagon road, which Jefferson intended to use as a military road to the Gulf. The Trace would play an important role in the war to come.

After his failures with the Chickasaws and Choctaws, Tecumseh then went to speak to the Creek Indians who lived farther south in Alabama and Georgia, where he had mixed results. The Upper Creeks (many of whom lived in Alabama), also known as the Red Sticks, were influenced by Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa's ideas. Lower Creeks, many of whom lived in Georgia, had been in contact with American settlers for many years and had already adopted many American farming practices and ways of life. They did not choose to follow Tecumseh's recommendation that they take up arms against the Americans. Tensions between these two groups would grow as war loomed closer.

President James Madison officially declared war on the British on June 18, 1812. Native forces allied with the British in the Great Lakes region were successful in capturing a number of US forts, including Fort Detroit. But the American Indians fight for their land was quickly deflated after Tecumseh was defeated, wounded, and killed in the Battle of the Thames in Canada in 1813. After his death, the Indian confederacy he and his brother had formed appears to have fallen apart, along with the vision Tecumseh had of saving their land. However, American Indian attempts to retain their native ways of life and protect their lands continued to influence their involvement in the war, which would lead to other conflicts erupting in remote areas of the country. In Alabama, tensions erupted between the Upper and Lower Creeks in 1813, leading to the Creek Civil War (1813-1814). The conflict remained a American Indian conflict until the Battle of Burnt Corn, which took place on July 21, 1813. During this conflict, US militia forces were defeated by the Red Sticks. The Battle of Fort Mims, which took place north of Mobile, was fought on August 30, 1813. During this battle, the Red Sticks killed between 400 and 500 people, many of whom were women and children.

As the tensions and violence grew, American settlers in Alabama and the Chickasaws began to demand that the US government come to their aid. One of the men given command over Tennessee militia forces who were to be sent south into Red Stick territory was Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson. Lower Creeks who remained friendly to the US government were organized

under Maj. William McIntosh and 200 Cherokee also joined Andrew Jackson's forces. Additionally, Chickasaws and Choctaws joined as well. The roughly 4000 Red Sticks only possessed around 1000 muskets making it difficult for them to stand up to US forces. However, Jackson and his men also faced many obstacles. Jackson left Fayetteville, Tennessee on October 17, 1813 and joined John Coffee (who, along with Andrew Jackson, would become one of the founders of Florence) and his cavalry in Huntsville. Very quickly Jackson and Maj. Gen. William Cocke's forces who were moving against the Red Sticks from east Tennessee found their supply lines stretched and discipline problems plaguing both forces. The militia had also only enlisted for three months, which meant that by the end of 1813, Jackson was down to one regiment and most of his cavalry had deserted. The terrain the men marched through was very rough and they had to cut their own roads in many areas. By March, Jackson had organized and trained his men so that at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (located in present-day Daviston, Alabama in Tallapoosa County) on March 27, 1814, the Indians were dealt a heavy blow. Jackson's plan of attack involved marching his men south to Fort Williams while sending Gen. John Coffee with what remained of his cavalry and the loyal Lower Creek Indians under the command of Maj. William McIntosh to the rear of the Horseshoe in order to prevent any escape. After everything was in place Jackson attacked the Red Sticks encamped near the bend in the river. When the battle finally ended, the Red Sticks and what power they held previously in the Alabama portion of the Mississippi Territory was completely destroyed. The Creeks (both Upper and Lower — despite the fact that the Lower Creeks had remained loyal and had supported Jackson) had to give up more than 21 million acres of land in central Alabama and Georgia when they signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson in August of 1814.

The Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, was signed on December 24, 1814. The US government then proceeded to negotiate more than 200 treaties with various Indian nations. The Indians who had allied with the British were forced to cede their land to the U.S. government. About 99 of the treaties between the American Indians and the U.S. resulted in American Indian tribes giving up their lands and moving to reservations located west of the Mississippi River. For North America, the end of the war resulted in a new, prosperous era which is often referred to as "The Era of Good Feelings." The war also brought an end to the Federalist Party and provided a boost in confidence for the still-growing nation. In the Mississippi Territory (which included present-day Alabama and Mississippi), land was scooped up quickly by whites, and "Alabama fever" began to set in. People from all over began to settle in the Southwest, as Alabama and Mississippi were known then, and create a home for themselves now that the Indians were removed from the territory, particularly in the Creek lands located in south Alabama.

The Natchez Trace played a large role in the conflict and the settlement of Alabama and Mississippi after the war's conclusion. Using the Trace enabled the United States to send troops and supplies south to guard the Gulf Coast against the British. Jackson marched his troops on the road in 1813 as they headed south into Alabama and on their return from victory in New Orleans in 1815 . Other detachments of troops marched on the road throughout the war. The Chickasaws and Choctaws living along the Trace, including George Colbert, provided supplies to US troops on the Natchez Trace. After the war, the road also served as an immigration route for settlers who settled on land that the tribes ceded to the US government. Understanding the Natchez Trace's important role in the conflicts of the War of 1812 and more broadly in the history of Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi is central to understanding the experience of American Indians, white settlers and US troops who traveled along its path.



## Significant People



**Tecumseh** was born in 1768 in Ohio, the son of Shawnee Chief Pukeshinwau. His distrust of the US government and American settlers solidified during his childhood as he watched his family's homeland torn apart by outside forces. His father was killed in a battle between the Shawnee and US militia forces. As a young man, Tecumseh got involved in the Pan-Indian Movement (1783-1795). The Pan-Indian Movement was an attempt to reorganize tribal land from individual tribal ownership to a communal ownership pattern, where all tribes owned all native lands and would work together to protect it from the US government and white settlers. The movement, while a failure, would lead Tecumseh and his brother, Lalawethica (also known as Tenskwatawa), to form a similar movement in the 1800s. The two men began to gather people from many tribes in Shawnee territory before being forced to move to an area near the intersection of the Tippecanoe and

Wabash rivers known as Prophetstown (now in Indiana). As tensions between the US and Great Britain began to escalate, Tecumseh and his followers realized that if they wanted to secure native lands from further encroachment by the US they needed to ally themselves with Britain. Tecumseh traveled to Canada to formalize the alliance, which likely gave Tecumseh and his men access to weapons and supplies from the British Army. The formation of this alliance angered US leaders and led Governor William Henry Harrison to attack the community at Prophetstown. Tecumseh was not present at the attack, which resulted in the destruction of the community. When the war began, Tecumseh and his men played a major role in capturing Detroit from American forces. Tecumseh was killed in 1813 during the Battle of the Thames. His role in organizing American Indians in fighting against the expansion of the United States is exceptionally important.

*Tecumseh* (?)(unknown artist and date)

Image source: [http://images.ookaboo.com/photo/s/Tecumseh\\_s.jpg](http://images.ookaboo.com/photo/s/Tecumseh_s.jpg)



**Tenskwatawa** ("The Open Door" or "One with Open Mouth"), born Lalawethica (which means "He Makes a Loud Noise" or the "Noise Maker"), was Tecumseh's brother and a member of the Shawnee tribe. In 1805, when Tenskwatawa was in his late 30s, he had a vision. This vision led Tenskwatawa to oppose the influence of Americans and Christian American Indians. To free his people from the influence of Americans, he forbade the purchase of manufactured goods, clothing, and especially alcohol. He tried to return his people to their traditional way of life. By 1808, when Prophetstown was formed, Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh had a large following and by 1811, this following had become quite militant. On November 7, 1811, when William Henry Harrison and his men surrounded Prophetstown, it was Tenskwatawa and his men who attacked first. Harrison and his men beat back Tenskwatawa's

force and defeated them at the end of a two-hour battle. Tenskwatawa survived the battle and went on to aid his brother and British forces against the Americans. Tenskwatawa never regained the power he had had before the war after its conclusion 1812. In 1826 he established a village in Kansas that would grow to become modern day Kansas City. He passed away in this village in 1836.

*Tenskwatawa* (Charles Bird King, ca. 1830-33)

Image source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenskwatawa>





**Andrew Jackson** was born in 1767 in the backwoods of the Carolinas. After serving as a teenager in the Revolutionary War, he studied law and by his early twenties he had a successful law practice in Nashville. He went on to become a slave owner and to build the Hermitage, which remained his home for the rest of his life. He served in both the United States House of Representative and the Senate before serving as a major general in the War of 1812 (promoted from rank of colonel during the war). During the War of 1812, Jackson gained national prominence as a result of his victories in the Battles of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans. After the war ended, Jackson went on to serve during the First Seminole War. During this conflict, Jackson entered into Spanish Florida, capturing Pensacola and removing the Spanish governor from power. As a result of his actions, Florida would become part of the United States in 1824. Jackson would

be elected president in 1828 and was re-elected in 1832. During his time in office, Jackson would push the Indian Removal Act through Congress. The act resulted in the forced removal of approximately 125,000 American Indians out of the eastern part of the country to lands west of the Mississippi. While this act was popular with many people, especially those interested in settling on American Indian lands, other Americans were appalled by the treatment of the American Indians during removal. The people of Tusculum, Alabama, one of the sites of removal along the Tennessee River, provided food, blankets, and medicine for the American Indians removed through their town. After his presidency ended in 1836, Jackson returned to his home outside of Nashville, where he remained until his death in 1845.

*Andrew Jackson* (Charles Wilson Peale, 1819)

Image source: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/74/Charles\\_Willson\\_Peale\\_-\\_portrait\\_of\\_Andrew\\_Jackson,\\_1819.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/74/Charles_Willson_Peale_-_portrait_of_Andrew_Jackson,_1819.jpg)



**William Henry Harrison** was born in Virginia in 1773. His father was a member of the Virginia delegation to the Second Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence, and served as Governor of Virginia from 1781 to 1784. After his father's death in 1791, Harrison joined the army. He served in the Northwest Indian War (1785-1795), taking part in many battles, including the Battle of Fallen Timbers, which effectively ended the conflict. After the conclusion of the war, Harrison remained in the Northwest Territory, serving first at the secretary of the Northwest Territory and then serving as the territory's delegate to Congress. In 1800, Harrison became the governor of the Indiana Territory. As governor, Harrison worked to acquire rights to American Indian land in the region through the negotiation of treaties, leading to the acquisition of

60,000,000 acres of land. In one of these treaties, the Treaty of Fort Wayne (1809), the Miami tribe sold land which had traditionally been occupied by the Shawnees. When Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa came to Harrison in 1810 demanding that the treaty be nullified, Harrison refused. This set the stage for the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Harrison's reputation as a military commander was solidified during the War of 1812. His victories, including the Battle of the Thames (during which Tecumseh was killed), helped lead the American forces to victory in the Great Lakes region. After the war's conclusion, Harrison moved into politics, eventually taking office as president of the United States in 1841. He died of pneumonia one month into his first presidential term.

*William Henry Harrison* (Rembrandt Peale, 1813)

Image source: <http://www.lib.niu.edu/1998/ihwt98061a.jpg>



In Alabama ca. 1764, **George Colbert** was born to James Logan Colbert and his wife, Minta Hoye, a member of the Chickasaw tribe. Because of the matrilineal nature of the Chickasaw nation, Colbert was considered a member of his mother's tribe. Colbert may have served with American troops in the Northwest Indian Wars (1785-1795). Colbert's rise to prominence in north Alabama was aided by his opening of a ferry service and an inn. The site, known today as Colbert's Ferry, crossed the Tennessee River along the Natchez Trace, an important trade route. Colbert also owned a plantation, which he ran using slave labor. Colbert led a militia force made up of Chickasaws against the Red Sticks during the Creek Wars and would aid Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812 (though Colbert is rumored to have changed Jackson \$75,000 to move his men and supplies across the river). After the conclusion of the war, in an attempt to protect the Chickasaws from the surge of white settlers who came to northwest Alabama, Colbert and his brother Levi played a large role in drafting the treaties that would cede a large amount of Chickasaw lands to the US government. In 1839, as a result of the Indian Removal Act, Colbert and his family were removed to present day Oklahoma.

*George Colbert* (Dorothy Carter McDonald)

Image source: [http://franceshunter.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/george\\_colbert.jpg](http://franceshunter.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/george_colbert.jpg)



**William McIntosh** or Taskanugi Hatke ("White Warrior") was a leader of the Lower Creeks in Georgia. Like George Colbert, McIntosh's mother was an American Indian and his father of European descent. His mother's family was a prominent one within the Creek nation and McIntosh was related to many important Creek leaders. He ran a ferry on the Chattahoochee River and owned a plantation (with slaves). During the Creek War, McIntosh and his men helped Andrew Jackson's forces overcome the Red Sticks. In 1825 McIntosh and eight other chiefs within the Creek nation, under pressure from the U.S. government, ceded all Creek land in Georgia to the US government in exchange for \$200,000. McIntosh and the other leaders ceded the land without the permission of the Creek nation as a whole and because of this, the National Council of the Creek Nation ordered their execution. The Red Stick leader Menawa and his men set McIntosh's house on fire and, after he fled from the burning house, shot him to death on April 30, 1825.

*William McIntosh* (Charles Bird King 1825)

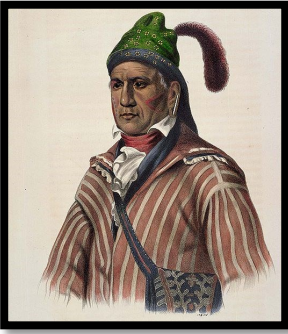
Image source: <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/file/7250>



**John Coffee** was born in Virginia in 1772. His family moved to North Carolina when Coffee was a young boy. After his father's death in 1797, Coffee and his mother moved to land near Nashville, Tennessee. In Nashville Coffee met Andrew Jackson. Coffee, Jackson, and a third man, John Hutchings, opened an inn and store in 1804. They also purchased land in north Alabama. During the War of 1812, Coffee served under the command of Jackson and aided him in both the Creek War and the Battle of New Orleans. After the wars ended, Coffee was appointed to survey the territory gained by the US government as a result of the Treaty of Fort Jackson. In 1818 Coffee and a group of investors formed the Cypress Land Company. This group founded the city of Florence. Coffee and his family lived in the Florence area until his death in 1833.

*John Coffee* (Tennessee State Museum)

Image source: [http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Person:General\\_John\\_Coffee](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Person:General_John_Coffee)



**Chief Menawa** (“Great Warrior”) was a Creek leader and like Colbert and McIntosh, was born to a American Indian mother and a father of European descent. As an adult, Menawa became one of the main leaders of the Red Sticks and was second in command at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. After the war’s end, Menawa remained a leader among the Red Sticks and continued to oppose American settlement of native lands. He was among the group who executed William McIntosh for giving up the Creek lands in 1825.

*Chief Menawa* (Charles Bird King, 1837)

Image source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Menawa\\_high\\_resolution.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Menawa_high_resolution.jpg)

**William Weatherford**, or Lamochattee (“Red Eagle”), was a chief of the Poarch Creek Indians. Weatherford, like many of the other chiefs in the Creek Nation, was of mixed heritage. His mother was a member of the Wind Clan. His father, of Scots descent, was a trader. Weatherford was William McIntosh’s cousin. The cousins would end up on the opposite sides of the Creek War. In the 1810s, Weatherford initially tried to push for his people to remain neutral in the brewing conflict; however, by August of 1813, Weatherford realized that neutrality would be impossible. He participated in the Red Stick attack on Fort Mims, though some reports do say he tried to stop the fighting before it escalated. After the war’s conclusion, Weatherford, who had been spared by Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, was one of the leaders who negotiated the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which resulted in the lost of millions of acres of Creek land. He then moved to Monroe County, Alabama, where he became a wealthy planter. He died in 1824.

**Peter McQueen** was another leader of the Red Sticks during the Creek War. He was born in the Tallassee area of Alabama, also of a Creek mother and a Scots-Irish father. Like other Red Stick leaders, he followed some of the teachings of Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh. He believed that the Creeks should resist the attempts of the Americans to take their land and to change their culture. McQueen commanded a group of Red Sticks who traveled to Florida before the Creek War broke out to obtain weapons from the Spanish. He took part in the Battle of Burnt Corn, and the attack on Fort Mims and fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. After the defeat at Horseshoe Bend, McQueen moved to Florida, where alongside the Seminoles, McQueen continued to resist American expansion.

# War of 1812 Word Search

Please complete the puzzle below

T R W V C T Y E X T N A H Z P  
 U E Y A H O C K I F O L R E R  
 T K N A S N F P W B S A X H O  
 C R M S E A P F R D I B W C P  
 A E E R K E K I E Y R A E T H  
 S W O B C W T C B E R M A A E  
 N L A A L A A M I G A A T N T  
 F S N N I O S T C H H X H C N  
 D O B N E H C D A I C Y E R W  
 E T E C U M S E H W N Y R E A  
 N O S K C A J D Q U A T F E T  
 E O H S E S R O H I D D O K C  
 P R O P H E T S T O W N R S O  
 M A D I S O N G H E N T D T H  
 G M C Q U E E N W A H S F T C

Alabama

Choctaw

Creeks

Harrison

Madison

Menawa

Prophetstown

Tenskwatawa

Weatherford

Britain

Coffee

Florence

Horseshoe

McIntosh

Natchez

Shawnee

Thames

Chickasaw

Colbert

Ghent

Jackson

McQueen

Prophet

Tecumseh

Tippecanoe

# Word Search Answers

T R W V C T Y E X T N A H Z P  
 U E Y A H O C K I F O L R E R  
 T K N A S N F P W B S A X H O  
 C R M S E A P F R D I B W C P  
 A E E R K E K I E Y R A E T H  
 S W O B C W T C B E R M A A E  
 N L A A L A A M I G A A T N T  
 F S N N I O S T C H H X H C N  
 D O B N E H C D A I C Y E R W  
 E T E C U M S E H W N Y R E A  
 N O S K C A J D Q U A T F E T  
 E O H S E S R O H I D D O K C  
 P R O P H E T S T O W N R S O  
 M A D I S O N G H E N T D T H  
 G M C Q U E E N W A H S F T C

(Over,Down,Direction)

HARRISON (11,8,N)

SHAWNEE (12,15,W)

ALABAMA (12,1,S)

HORSESHOE (9,12,W)

TECUMSEH (2,10,E)

BRITAIN (10,3,SW)

JACKSON (7,11,W)

TENSKWATAWA (1,1,SE)

CHICKASAW (11,9,NW)

MADISON (1,14,E)

THAMES (6,1,SW)

CHOCTAW (15,15,N)

MCINTOSH (8,7,SE)

TIPPECANOE (10,1,SW)

COFFEE (5,1,SE)

MCQUEEN (2,15,E)

WEATHERFORD (13,4,S)

COLBERT (7,9,NW)

MENAWA (6,10,NW)

CREEKS (14,8,S)

NATCHEZ (14,7,N)

FLORENCE (1,8,NE)

PROPHET (15,1,S)

GHENT (8,14,E)

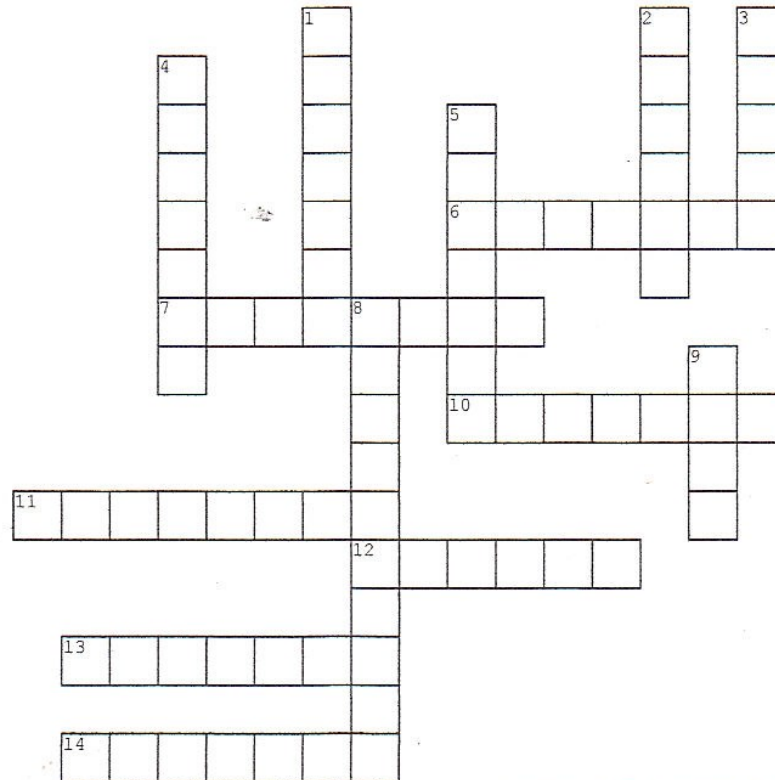
PROPHETSTOWN (1,13,E)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# War of 1812

Complete the crossword below

Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Maker

bend jackson colbert alabama thames britain tippecanoe cherokee  
shawnee madison mcintosh ghent coffee natchez

### Across

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ family helped keep Tecumseh out of North Alabama
7. William \_\_\_\_\_ McIntosh commanded Creek forces loyal to the United States
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ Trace was an important trade route through TN, AL and MS
11. \_\_\_\_\_ troops helped Jackson defeat the Red Sticks.
12. General John \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the founders of Florence, AL
13. This European nation helped Tecumseh and the Native Americans
14. Tecumseh belonged to the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe

### Down

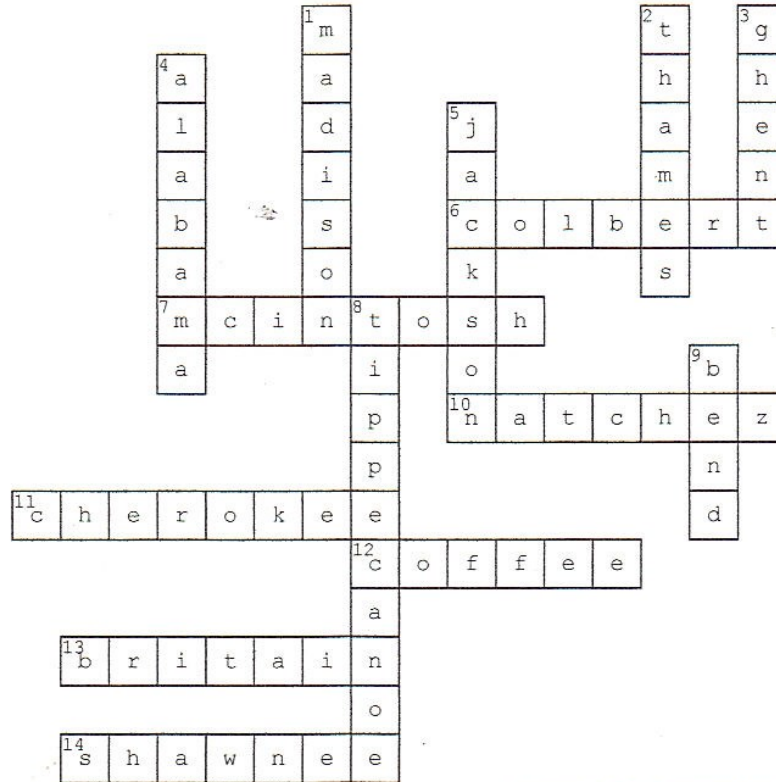
1. President \_\_\_\_\_ declared war on June 18, 1812
2. Tecumseh died at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ ended the War of 1812
4. Most of the Creek War was fought in \_\_\_\_\_
5. Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ commanded US forces during the Creek War
8. Future President Harrison was victorious at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Battle of Horseshoe \_\_\_\_\_ took place in Alabama in 1814



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# War of 1812

Complete the crossword below

Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Maker

bend jackson colbert alabama thames britain tippecanoe cherokee

shawnee madison mcintosh ghent coffee natchez

## Across

- The \_\_\_\_\_ family helped keep Tecumseh out of North Alabama (**colbert**)
- William \_\_\_\_\_ McIntosh commanded Creek forces loyal to the United States (**mcintosh**)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Trace was an important trade route through TN, AL and MS (**natchez**)
- \_\_\_\_\_ troops helped Jackson defeat the Red Sticks. (**cherokee**)
- General John \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the founders of Florence, AL (**coffee**)
- This European nation helped Tecumseh and the Native Americans (**britain**)
- Tecumseh belonged to the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe (**shawnee**)

## Down

- President \_\_\_\_\_ declared war on June 18, 1812 (**madison**)
- Tecumseh died at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ (**thames**)
- The Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ ended the War of 1812 (**ghent**)
- Most of the Creek War was fought in \_\_\_\_\_ (**alabama**)
- Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ commanded US forces during the Creek War (**jackson**)
- Future President Harrison was victorious at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ (**tippecanoe**)
- The Battle of Horseshoe \_\_\_\_\_ took place in Alabama in 1814 (**bend**)

# War of 1812 Bingo

## Instructions

- 1). To create a template for the Bingo card, divide a sheet of paper into 25 squares, five across by five down. Use a ruler to make the squares even if you are doing this by hand. You can also create a table on your computer. Write "Free Space" in the center square.
- 2). Make copies of the template. If you want to reuse these bingo cards for multiple classes, print the copies on card stock. If they're for one-time use, regular paper is fine. Make enough cards so each player can have one.
- 3). Write one vocabulary word or date in each square. Mix up the order for each card so no two are the same. For example: Ghent Treaty, General Coffee, President Madison, Tecumseh, Horseshoe Bend, August 9, 1814, etc. (the Word Search exercise also contains twenty five terms).
- 4). Write the definition/piece of information about the vocabulary word on an index card, with one definition/piece of information per card. Fold these in half.
- 5). Draw the first index card and read the definition on it. Players whose cards display the corresponding word will mark its square. The first player to get five squares in a row and yell "Bingo!" wins.

# Test Questions

## Multiple Choice

1. In 1811, \_\_\_\_\_, the territorial governor of Indiana, led troops to battle in the Battle of Tippecanoe.  
Answer: William Henry Harrison
2. The British encouraged the American Indians to rebel against American expansionism in the West. True or False?  
Answer: True
3. Tecumseh was the chief of what tribe?  
A. Cherokee  
B. Chickasaw  
C. Shawnee  
D. Creek  
Answer: C
4. What family discouraged Tecumseh's attempt to persuade the Chickasaw Indians to join his fight?  
A. The Madison Family  
B. The McIntosh Family  
C. The Colbert Family  
D. The Jackson Family  
Answer: C
5. In what battle was Tecumseh killed?  
A. Battle of Thames  
B. Battle of Lake Erie  
C. Battle of Chesapeake Bay  
D. Battle of Yorktown  
Answer: A
6. The United States declared war on Great Britain for a variety of reasons which included taxes and quartering of troops. True or False?  
Answer: False
7. Tecumseh's brother, Tenskwatawa, was also known as  
A. The chief  
B. The Prophet  
C. Master  
D. Crowned Prince  
Answer: B
8. What general aided Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend?  
A. John Coffee  
B. Tecumseh  
C. James Madison  
D. William McIntosh  
Answer: A

9. Tecumseh used whose teachings to rally the Indian nations together?

- A. Andrew Jackson
- B. William Henry Harrison
- C. John C. Calhoun
- D. His brother, Tenskwatawa

Answer: D

10. What American Indian leader of the Choctaw tribe opposed Tecumseh and the alliance he proposed with the British?

- A. John Norton
- B. Pushmataha
- C. The Prophet
- D. Powhatan

Answer: B

### It's About Time

**Objective:** In this handout, students will put the events in chronological order by placing numbers 1-8 in order beside the phrase.

\_\_\_ The Battle of Tippecanoe (1)

\_\_\_ Tecumseh is killed in at the Battle of the Thames (4)

\_\_\_ American forces defeat the Red Sticks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (6)

\_\_\_ Treaty of Ghent is signed (8)

\_\_\_ Massacre at Fort Mims (3)

\_\_\_ British and Indian forces repel American troops at the Battle of Frenchtown (2)

\_\_\_ The Creeks sign treaty at Fort Jackson (7)

\_\_\_ The Battle of Talladega (5)

## Discussion Questions/Group Activities

(based on information included in the Background section)

1. What evidence exists that Great Britain encouraged American Indian involvement in the War of 1812?
2. How is the Creek War related to the War of 1812?
3. What were Tecumseh's motivations in fighting American expansion?
4. How did the outcome of the War of 1812 ultimately affect American Indians in the United States?
5. After the War of 1812 ended, the United States proceeded to negotiate treaties with many Indian nations which resulted in the ceding of a large amount of land as well as the creation of reservations located west of the Mississippi River. If the end result of the War of 1812 had been different, do you think the Indian nations would have been able to keep more of their land? Why or why not?
6. Many feel that the death of Tecumseh in 1813 caused the decline of the Indian nations and that his absence in leadership allowed the United States to succeed in obtaining their land. What do you believe would have happened to the Indians and their land if Tecumseh had not died during the war? Give reasons and examples for why you think this way.
7. In 1810, Tecumseh wrote the following to Gen. William Henry Harrison: "The only way to stop this evil [meaning the settlement of whites on Indian land] is for all the red men to unite in claiming a common and equal right in the land as it was at first, and should be now-for it never was divided, but belongs to all...Sell a country! Why not sell the air, the clouds and the great sea, as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?" Do you think that Tecumseh's view of the earth and particularly land is justified or do you think the United States did in fact have a right to their land? Why or why not?
8. Do you think the alliance Tecumseh and the American Indians made with the British was necessary and beneficial? Why or why not?



### Activity 1

Allowing the students to see the map of the tribal boundaries (See Map 1), ask them to draw the same lines and label the Indian tribes on the blank map of Alabama (See Map 4). Then ask them to color the tribal lands in a different color (Cherokee-blue, Chickasaw-green, Muskogee Creek-red, Choctaw-purple). Showing them the map (See Map 2) of the Natchez Trace, have them add the road to their map. Also, using Map 3, point out the locations of the major battles of the Creek War and ask them to label them on their map. Finally, ask them what Indian tribe once lived where they do now.

### Activity 2

Have students examine the picture below and talk about the differences between the technology used by the American Indians and that used by the US Army. What other differences between American Indian and American life can they think of? Some examples may include: property ownership (communal v. individual); religion (Native religion emphasized people's relationship with nature v. Christianity); methods of getting food (agriculture v. hunting/gathering); and women's role in society (matrilineal society v. patrilineal society)



*Attack on a Creek Village*

Image source: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cmamcrk4/crkwr6.html#anchor667963>



**Activity 3**

Have the students divide into small groups and assign them the name of an Alabama Indian tribe (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw). Ask them to make one of their group members a chief and then discuss among themselves what they would say to Tecumseh when he came asking their group to join the Confederacy against America and expansion. They should then format an answer with detailed reasons for or against joining with Tecumseh. The chief of the group will then present the group's answers and reasons to the rest of the class.

## Primary Source Documents

### **The Deposition of Samuel Moniac, of lawful age, a Warrior of the Creek nation, Mississippi Territory, Washington District, 1813**

About the last of October, 1812, thirty northern Indians came down with Tecumseh, who said he had been sent by his brother, the Prophet. They attended our council at the Tuccabache, and had a talk for us. I was there for the space of three days; but every day, while I was there, Tecumseh refused to deliver his talk; and, on being requested to give it, said the sun had gone too far that day. The next day I came away, and he delivered his talk. It was not until about Christmas that any of our people began to dance the war-dance. The Muskhogees have not been used to dance before war, but afterward. At that time, about forty of our people began this "northern custom;" and my brother-in-law, Francis, who also pretends to be a "prophet," was at the head of them.

Their number has very much increased since, and there are probably now more than one half of the Creek nation who have joined them. Being afraid of the consequences of a murder having been committed on the mail-route, I left my house on the road, and had gone down to my plantation on the river, where I remained some time. I went to Pensacola with some steers; during which time my sister and brother, who have joined the war party, came and took off a number of my horses, and other stock, and thirty-six of my negroes. About twenty-two days ago I went up to my house on the road, and found some Indians encamped near it, and I tried to avoid them, but could not. An Indian came to me, who goes by the name of High-headed Jim, and who, I found, had been appointed to head a party sent to Autossee town, on the Tallapoosa, on a trip to Pensacola. he shook hands with me, and immediately began to tremble and jerk in every part of his frame, and the very calves of his legs were convulsed, and he would get entirely out of breath with the agitation. This practice was introduced in May or June last by "the Prophet Francis," who says that he was so instructed by the Spirit. High-headed Jim asked me what I meant to do. I said that I would sell my property, and buy ammunition from the governor; and join them. He then told me they were going down to *Pensacola to get ammunition*, and they had got a *letter from a British general*, which would enable them to receive ammunition from the governor; that it had been given to the Little Warrior, and was saved by his nephew when he was killed, and by him sent to Francis. High Head told me that, when they went back with their supply, another body of men would go down for another supply of ammunition; and that ten men were to go out of town, and they calculated on *five horseloads for every town*. He said they were to make a general attack on the American settlements; that the Indians on the waters of the Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Black Warrior were to attack the settlements on the Tombigby and

Cherokees were to attack the people of Tennessee, and that the Seminoles and Lower Creeks were to attack the Georgians; that the Choctas also had joined them and were to attack the Mississippi settlements; that the attack was to be made at the same time in all places, *when they had become furnished with ammunition.*

I found from my sister that they were treated very rigorously by the chiefs; and that many, especially the women, among them two daughters of the late General McGillivray, who had been induced to join them in order to save their property, were very desirous of leaving them, but could not.

I found from the talk of High Head that the war was to be against the whites, and not between the Indians themselves; that all they wanted was to kill those who had taken the talk of the white, viz: the Big Warrior, Alexander Curnells, Captain Isaac, William M'Intosh, the Mad Dragon's son, the Little Prince, Spoke Kange, and Tallasee Thicksico. They have destroyed a large quantity of my cattle, have burned my houses and my plantation, as well as those of James Curnells and Leonard M'Gee.

(Signed) Samuel (his S. M. mark) Moniac

Sworn to and subscribed before me, one of the United States judges for the Mississippi Territory, this 2nd day of August, 1813. Harry Toulmin

(A true copy) George T. Ross, Lieutenant-colonel of Volunteers

Discussion Question: What kinds of things do the “prophets” do to make their message seem true? Does Sam believe them?

Discussion Question: From what Sam says about his way of life, do you think he has adopted the more “American” way of living or does he live in the traditional Creek way?

Discussion Question: How do the Red Sticks feel about people like William McIntosh who remained loyal to the American government?

Source: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cmamcrk4/crkdox1.html>

# Primary Source Documents

## Firsthand Account of the Battle of Fort Mims, 1813

General Thomas Woodward, speaking of Weatherford joining the Red Sticks:

'Moniac boldly refused and mounted his horse. Josiah Francis, his brother-in-law, seized his bridle. Moniac snatched a war club from his hand and gave him a severe blow and put out, with a shower of rifle bullets following him. Weatherford consented to remain. He told them that he disapproved of their course, and that it would be their ruin, but that they were his people, he was raised with them, and he would share their fate'. General Woodward names among these chiefs, Hopie Tustanugge, or Far Off Warrior, a Tuskegee, their eldest or principal chief, 'the one' says Woodward, 'looked upon as the General,' and who was killed at Fort Mims; Peter McQueen; Jim Boy or High Head Jim; Josiah Francis or Hillis Hadjo, 'the new made prophet,' probably the same who is called Joseph by General Wilkinson; Seekaboo, the Shawnee prophet; and several others. He says that Weatherford offered some advice to these chiefs, but they declined to follow his suggestions. The reasons for which Weatherford assigned for joining the war party, as detailed at some length by Woodward, are very creditable to Weatherford's humanity. He thought he would thus be the means of preventing not a little bloodshed."

Discussion Question: Why might Weatherford be reluctant to join the Red Sticks?

Discussion Question: Why did Weatherford eventually agree to join the Red Sticks?

Discussion Question: If you were in Weatherford's position, what would you have done?

Source: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cmamcrk4/crkwr3.html#anchor450769>

# Primary Source Documents

## Andrew Jackson, Speech to the Creek Nation in 1816 (portion of speech)

"Friends and Brothers. You know me to be your friend, you remember when your nation listened to the advise of bad men, and became crazy by the prophecies of your, wicked prophets raised by the machinations of great Britain and Spain... You remember I destroyed your enemies, put those wicked prophets to death and to flight, and by the Capitulation and Treaty at Fort Jackson gave peace to your nation....

Brothers Listen, did I not send my men warriors... and destroyed upwards of two hundred of the Hostile Indians and did the British dare to land any men to protect them. Listen, did not the British after exciting them to war, after promising them protection flee like cowards and leave the Indians to perish, and is there any of your nation after all this so crazy as to Listen to their wicked talks again.

Friends and Brothers I hear with sorrow that some of your people has been listening to the wicked Talks of Colonel Nicholls again, and that he has directed you to oppose the running of the line agreeable to the Treaty of Fort Jackson...

Brothers Listen did I ever tell you a lie. Listen I now tell you that line must and will be run, and the least opposition brings down instant destruction on the heads of the opposers. Brothers Listen, My men are ready to crush all the enemies of the United States...I am your friend and Brother."

Discussion Question: How does Jackson depict the British in this speech?

Discussion Question: How can this speech be seen as a threat to the Creeks?

Discussion Question: How does Jackson characterize Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa?

[http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/creek\\_jack.html](http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/creek_jack.html)

# Poster Project

**Objective:** Students will research a topic they have picked from the list below. Using scholarly texts and websites, they will create posters discussing the important people, places, and events of the War of 1812.

**Materials needed:**

Poster board  
Scissors  
Glue  
Pictures/maps/graphs  
Researched information

**Important People, Places and Events**

Tecumseh  
Tenskwatawa  
Peter McQueen  
Shawnee  
The Red Sticks  
Tippecanoe  
The Battle of Horseshoe Bend  
Seminoles  
Creeks  
William Weatherford  
Menawa  
Battle of the Thames  
The Creek War  
George Colbert  
William McIntosh

**Your poster should include:**

A pictorial representation of the person or place (if available)  
Background/biographical information  
Involvement during the War of 1812 or the Creek War  
Life of the person after the War of 1812



## For More Information

Each of the websites listed below has information about both the War of 1812 and the Creek War, as well as information about many of the individuals who participated in both conflicts.

### **Library of Congress**

<http://www.loc.gov/>

### **Digital Library of Georgia**

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome>

### **Encyclopedia of Alabama**

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Home.jsp>

### **Alabama State Archives**

<http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/creekwar/creek.html>

### **Explore Southern History**

<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/creekwar.html>

### **Tennessee Encyclopedia**

<http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/index.php>

### **Tennessee State Library and Archives**

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/1812.htm>

### **PBS.org**

<http://www.pbs.org/wned/war-of-1812/essays/native-nations-perspective/>

# Curriculum Standards

## 4th Grade: Alabama Studies

### 4.3.1 Students will:

- Explain the social, political, and economic impact of the War of 1812, including battles and significant leaders of the Creek War, on Alabama (Economics, Geography, History, Civics and Government).

### Grade Level Example:

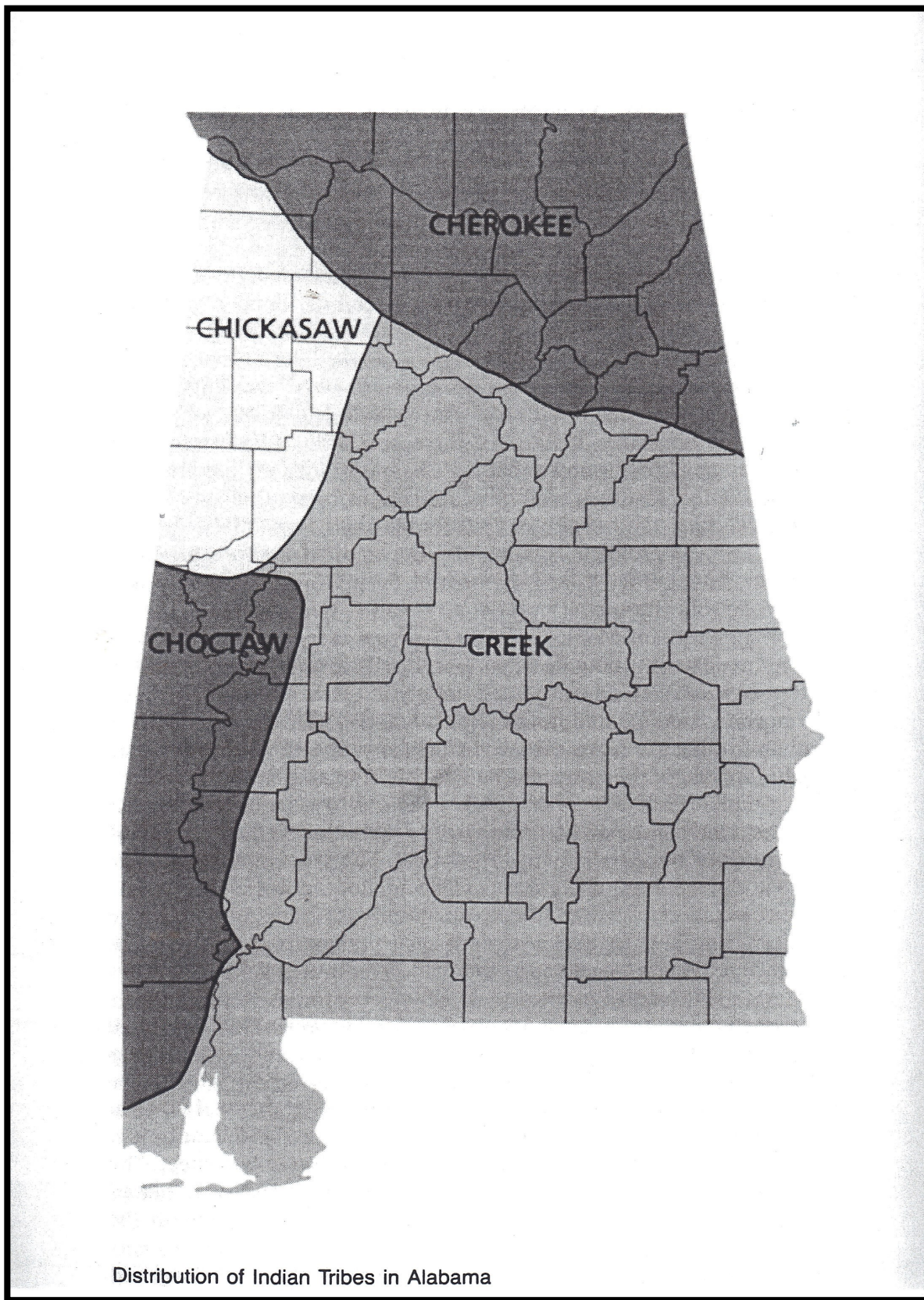
social—adoption of European culture by American Indians, opening of Alabama land for settlement political—forced relocation of American Indians, labeling of Andrew Jackson as a hero and propelling him toward Presidency economic—acquisition of tribal land in Alabama by the United States

## 10th Grade: US History I

### 10.8. Students will:

- Compare major events in Alabama from 1781 to 1823, including statehood as part of the expanding nation, acquisition of land, settlement, and the Creek War, to those of the developing nation. (Economics, Geography, History, Civics and Government)

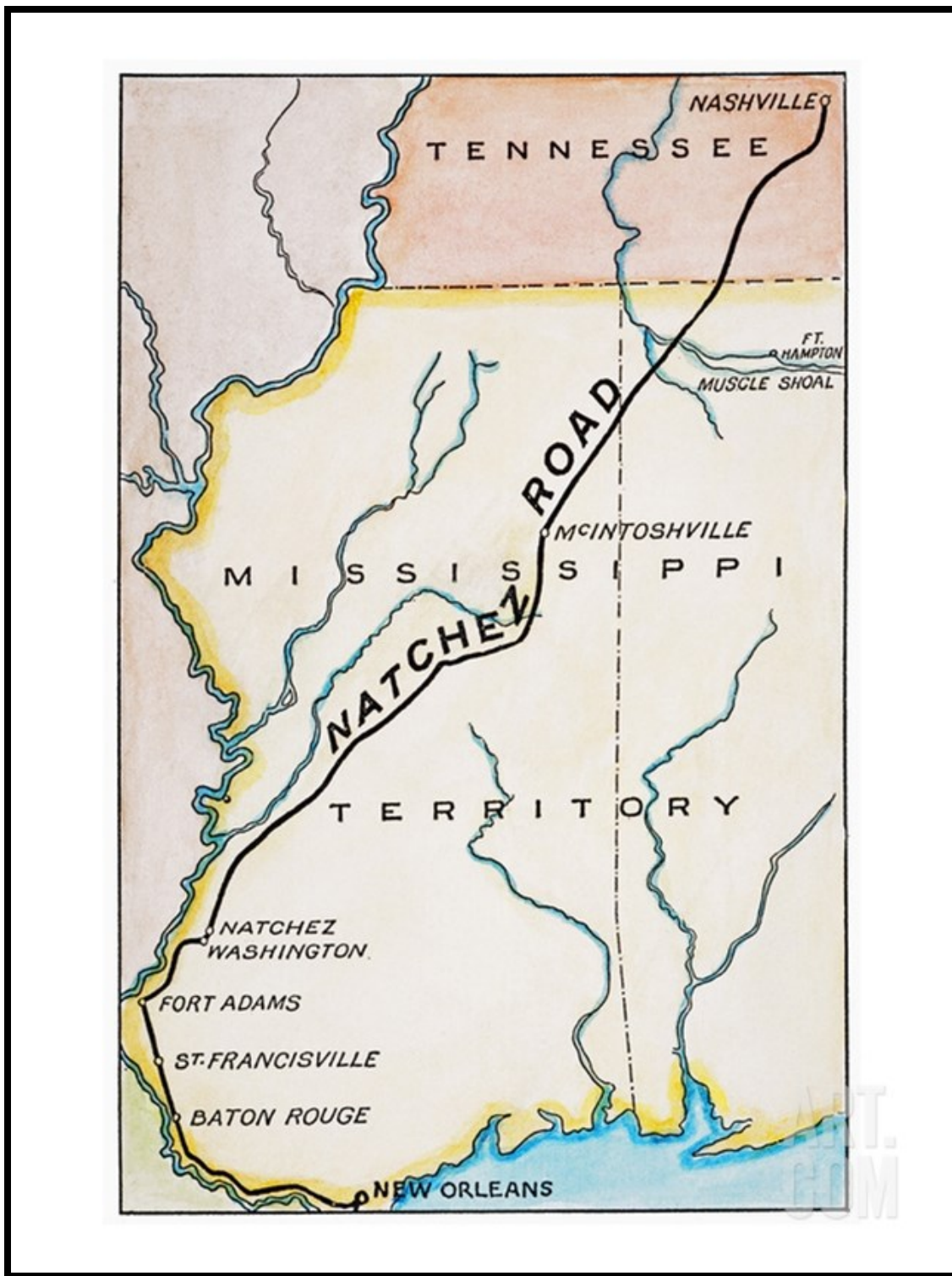
# Tribes of Alabama



Distribution of Indian Tribes in Alabama



## Map of the Natchez Trace



Map by John Melish, 1816

# Map of Key Battles in the Creek War

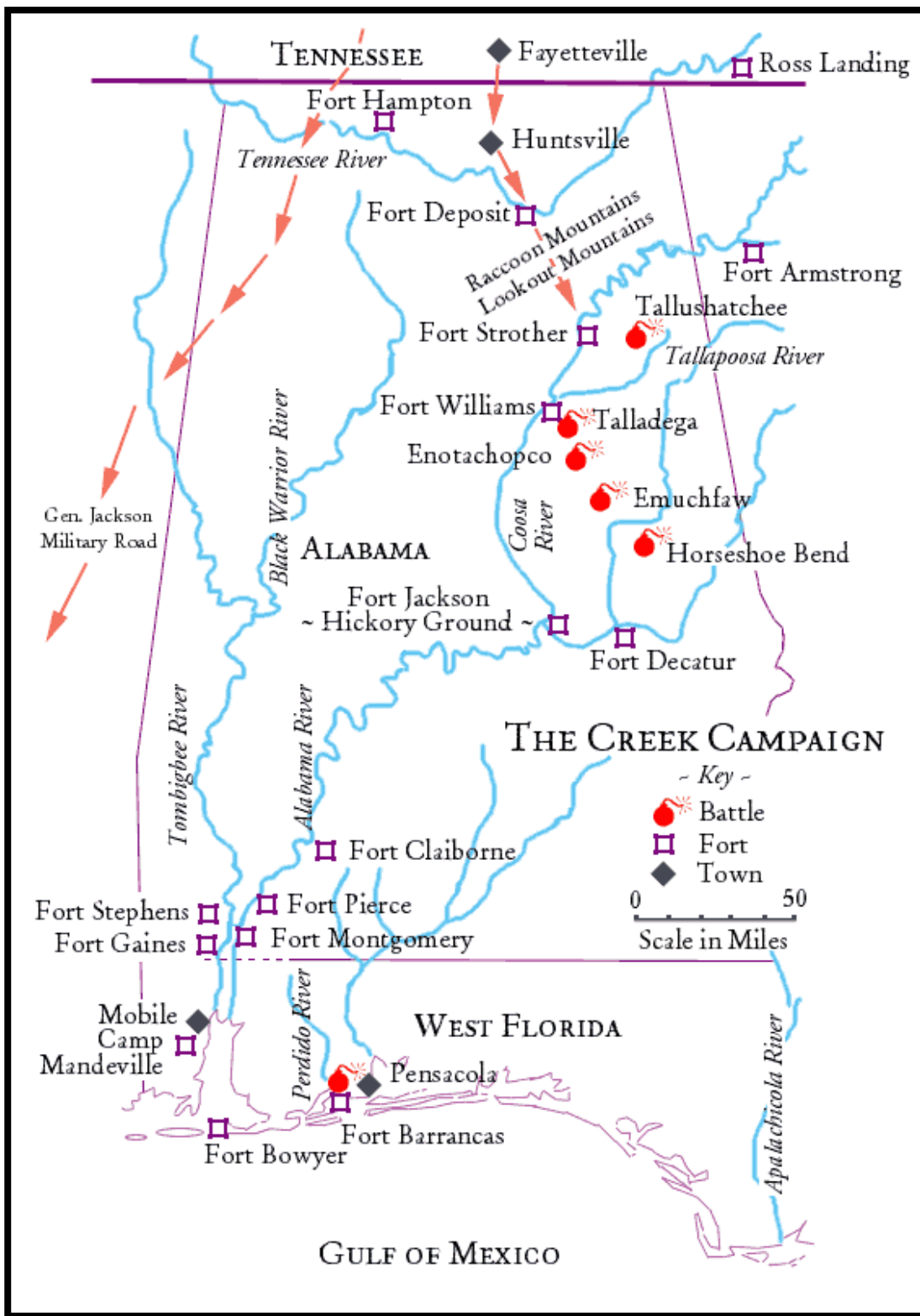
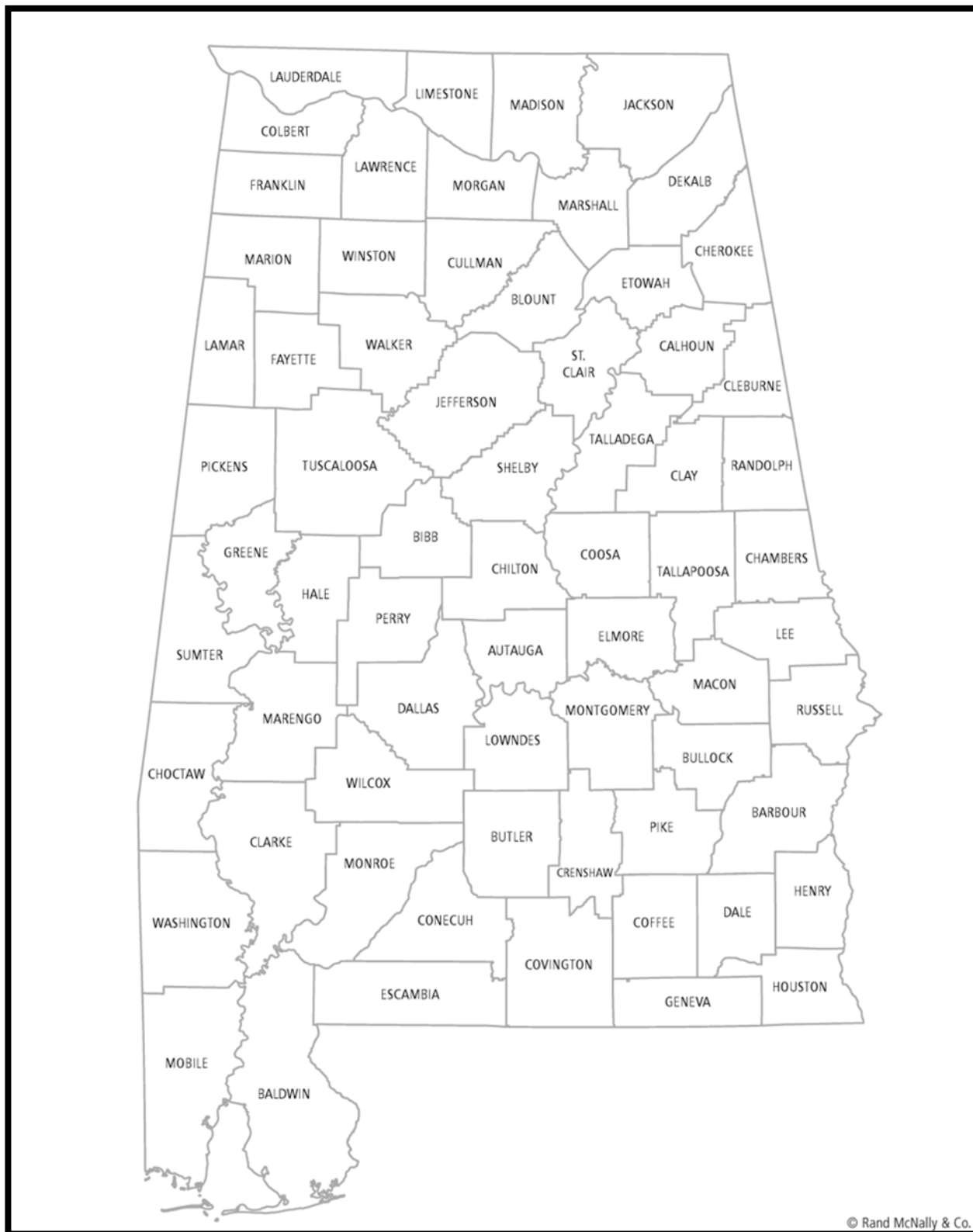


Image Source: <http://alabamatrails1812.com/map.htm>

# Map of Alabama



# Special Thanks

The Natchez Trace Parkway Association

The Natchez Trace Parkway

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

The Department of History and Political Science, the University of North Alabama

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