

An Indigenous View of the American Revolution **Guided Reading**

Answer these questions as you read Buckongahelas' Address:

1. Who is Buckongahelas?
2. Who does the author refer to as the "father" and "son" in the war?
3. What is the goal of this speech?
4. Why did the Christian Delaware Indians side with the British in the war?
5. How does Buckongahelas view the relationship between Indians and colonists?

An Indigenous Constitution **Guided Reading**

Answer these questions as you read the Cherokee Constitution of 1827:

1. What is the goal of the Cherokee Constitution, as stated in the preamble?
2. What is Article I concerned with?
3. How did the constitution recognize land ownership?
4. How many branches of government does this constitution create?
5. Where is the General Council?
6. Who could be a citizen of the Cherokee Nation?
7. What does this constitution say is the "supreme law" of the land?
8. What were the requirements to be Principal Chief?
9. How long did the Principal Chief serve in office?
10. How many justices were to serve on the Cherokee Supreme Court?
11. How were court justices selected?
12. How long did justices serve on the court?

An Indigenous View of Indian Removal **Guided Reading**

Answer these questions as you read “Our Hearts are Sickened,” by Chief John Ross:

1. Why did Chief Ross write this letter?
2. What happened at New Echota?
3. How was the Treaty of New Echota fraudulent?
4. What did the United States use the Treaty of New Echota to do?
5. Why is Chief Ross’ “heart sickened”?
6. What is the “cause of liberty and justice”?
7. What does Chief Ross say the Cherokee have done by following Washington and Jefferson?

End of session discussion prompt

Indigenous peoples have historically held beliefs that fundamentally differ from beliefs in the larger United States. In the Cherokee Constitution of 1827, for example, the Cherokee people wanted to hold land in common to support their community.

What are some different ways of thinking that you encountered in these readings?

What are some similarities?

How do these ideas make you think of what it means to be a citizen?