

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Trail of Tears**

- 1 The history of the Native Americans is important to the growth of the United States. They fed themselves through agriculture, trade and hunting. The history of the Native Americans shows they played an important role in helping new settlers learn to grow crops and keep a supply of food for the cold months.
- 2 As time passed, white Americans were sometimes afraid of the Native Americans. They felt that the Native Americans were different. New groups of white settlers began living on Native American's land. They wanted to keep the land for themselves. They knew they could grow anything on it.
- 3 The US government began forcing the Native Americans to leave their homelands. They had them walk thousands of miles to different lands. This difficult and sometimes deadly journey is known as the Trail of Tears.
- 4 The Trail of Tears is an example of the terrible treatment suffered by the Native Americans at the hands of the United States government. The journey was also known as the Trail Where They Cried. The US government made an entire group of people leave their homes and move to different lands.
- 5 Tens of thousands of Native Americans were driven off of their lands. Many died due to various epidemics, illnesses and hunger. The US government promised the Native Americans that this new land would be theirs forever. However as the westward expansion continued, Native Americans new land got smaller and smaller.

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