



HELP WANTED:

Progressive state-of-the-art Museum seeks inquisitive individual for position of Historian. Successful candidate will be able to read differing accounts of stories, determine similarities and differences, and come to conclusions regarding actual events. **Apply Yourself Here.**

YOU BE THE HISTORIAN

Culture Clashes

The Cherokee are a nation of North American Indians who once lived in the mountainous region of the western Carolinas, northern Georgia, and eastern Tennessee. The largest and most powerful tribe in the region, their culture included farming (mostly *maize* production), settled villages, and advanced religious and social rituals. In 1827, the Cherokees established a constitutional form of government.

Sadly, the Cherokee Nation is widely known for its forced journey to Indian Territory, a journey now known as the Trail of Tears. What would happen to modern America if we were invaded by aliens? Would we have an experience like the Cherokee tribe's? Read more!

YOU ARE HIRED

Historians place our view of the world into a meaningful story by identifying the cause-and-effect relationships between events. These relationships help us to understand not only who we are now but what could happen in the future in a similar situation. Read the following true story and compare it to an imaginary future event.

The Cherokee's Trail of Tears

In May 1838, because whites wanted their land, the United States Army began rounding up Cherokees and penning them in *stockades* before moving them to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Even though the soldiers were told to treat the Cherokees kindly, families were separated, and the elderly and ill were forced from their homes at gunpoint. Families were given only moments to collect possessions. White looters followed, *ransacking* homes as the Cherokees were led away.

The move to Indian Territory was a disaster for the Cherokees. Placed in *internment camps*, many grew sick and died while waiting for the United States government to move them. Finally, Cherokee leaders asked permission to begin the journey on their own.

Leaving their camps in November 1838, 12,000 Cherokees trudged 800 miles west on what became known as The Trail of Tears. Heavy rains made the roads impassable and little food could be found. Two-thirds of the Cherokees were trapped between the ice-bound Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during January. Some drank stagnant water and

VOCABULARY

Internment Camps: (*in-turn-muhnt kamps*) *noun* Place to impound or confine especially during a war.

Ransacking: (*ran-sak-ing*) *verb* To search a place wildly, usually looking for something to steal.

Stagnant: (*stag-nuhnt*) *adjective* Foul or polluted as a result of not moving.

Stockades: (*stok-adz*) *noun* A fence or enclosure made of strong posts set firmly in the ground.

Maize: (*mayz*) *noun* Corn

Reservations: (*rez-ur-vay-shuhn*) *noun* Land set apart by the federal government for the use of an American Indian tribe.



died. It is believed that over 4,000 died—nearly a third of those who had begun the journey from Tennessee. One survivor told how his father got sick and died; then, his mother; then, one by one, his five brothers and sisters. “One each day. Then all are gone.”

By March 1839, the survivors had arrived in Indian Territory to live on *reservations*. Once there they were reunited for the first time in 50 years with Western Cherokees, who were already living in Indian Territory. Jealousy, rivalry, and refusal to compromise led to a bitter civil war between these two groups.

The Years of Change—2005 and Beyond

Imagine that for the past 50 years aliens from another solar system have landed and begun colonizing earth. At first we weren't afraid but as more and more of them arrived they began changing our way of life. Now the aliens control our government and have forced many of us to leave our homes and move to strange and desolate lands. They have taken our children away to their schools for “retraining”. Not only are our children forced to learn the alien's language and forbidden to speak their own but they are dressed in alien clothing and embrace the alien's religion.

The aliens destroyed our most important food sources. Grocery stores have disappeared so we eat only food the aliens provide. And we don't like the food. It's out-dated, spoiled and usually what they don't want for themselves. Animals, fields and orchards have been destroyed to make way for the alien culture. They assume it is their right to decide what is “acceptable” and to treat us like animals because they are sure they are smarter and more advanced than we are. They have no problem killing off humans who “get in the way” or who try to resist alien “progress”.

Some of the aliens are genuinely understanding and have our best interests at heart but simply being in contact with them can make humans sick and cause us to die in large numbers. Inter-marriage between the two is possible so there are a small but growing number of mixed human and alien individuals who try to keep a foot in both worlds. There are occasional rumors of surprise uprisings—humans are starting to form resistance movements. These movements are dangerous and often end with tragic results.

QUESTIONS

1. What is similar in both stories?
2. What actions did the more powerful incoming groups use against the other?
3. If the aliens had known what had happened to the Cherokees could they have learned something?
4. How would you react in this situation? Would you resist the aliens?

BEYOND THE MUSEUM

The Salina Public Library has a DVD titled *Rabbit Proof Fence* produced by Miramax Home Entertainment. It tells the story of Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers and integrate them into white society. The main character, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin in a daring escape from their internment camp. Molly and the girls, part of what would become known as Australia's “Stolen Generations,” must then elude the authorities on a dangerous 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. Check it out!



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A division of the Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina.