

# Native American Tribes: Muscogee (Creek)

The Muscogee, or Creek, Native Americans were originally part of the Mississippian culture in Tennessee. The Muscogee would later move south to Georgia and Alabama where they owned a large amount of land. The ancient Muscogee used earth mounds as platforms for buildings in their villages.



Earth mound in Florence, Alabama

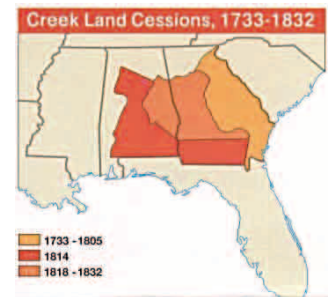


Chief Tomochichi and his nephew in 1733

After the American Revolution, President George Washington established a plan to encourage Native American tribes to adopt European culture and traditions. The Muscogee tribe were the first to follow this plan, followed by the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole. The tribes that became part of the plan were called the “Five Civilized Tribes.”

The early European settlers in the U.S. wanted the Muscogee land, and they used lots of different ways to take that land. Some Muscogee were pressured by the U.S. government into giving away large portions of their land in a series of agreements, called cessions. In 1830, the U.S. passed the

Indian Removal Act, which required that many Native American tribes to exchange their native lands for land in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The Muscogee signed the Treaty of Cusseta, where they gave up all lands east of the Mississippi River, in 1832. They were forced to march hundreds of miles to new Indian Territory in 1834, facing disease, starvation and exposure to the elements. Over 4,000 Native Americans, including many Muscogee, died before reaching the new territory. As a result of this devastation, this dark period of U.S. history is called the Trail of Tears. Today, there are about 71,000 Muscogee members. Most live in Oklahoma, although there are some Muscogee who live in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.



## Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about the Muscogee. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

20 15 13 15 3 8 9 3 8 9

### Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	

## Q&A

Where do the Muscogee live today?

What year was the Trail of Tears?

Who were called the “Five Civilized Tribes”?

What are the agreements called where the Muscogee sold land to the U.S.?