

Georgia

Stories Weekly

MY GEORGIA

GRADE 2



Creek and Cherokee Nations

Before Europeans came to Georgia long ago, the Creek and Cherokee tribes lived in Georgia. Their way of life was different from how we live today.

The Creek and Cherokee lived in different areas of Georgia. They used the resources they found in nature to help them survive. How are you different from the tribes who lived in Georgia many years ago? Are there ways you are the same? Look inside to find out!

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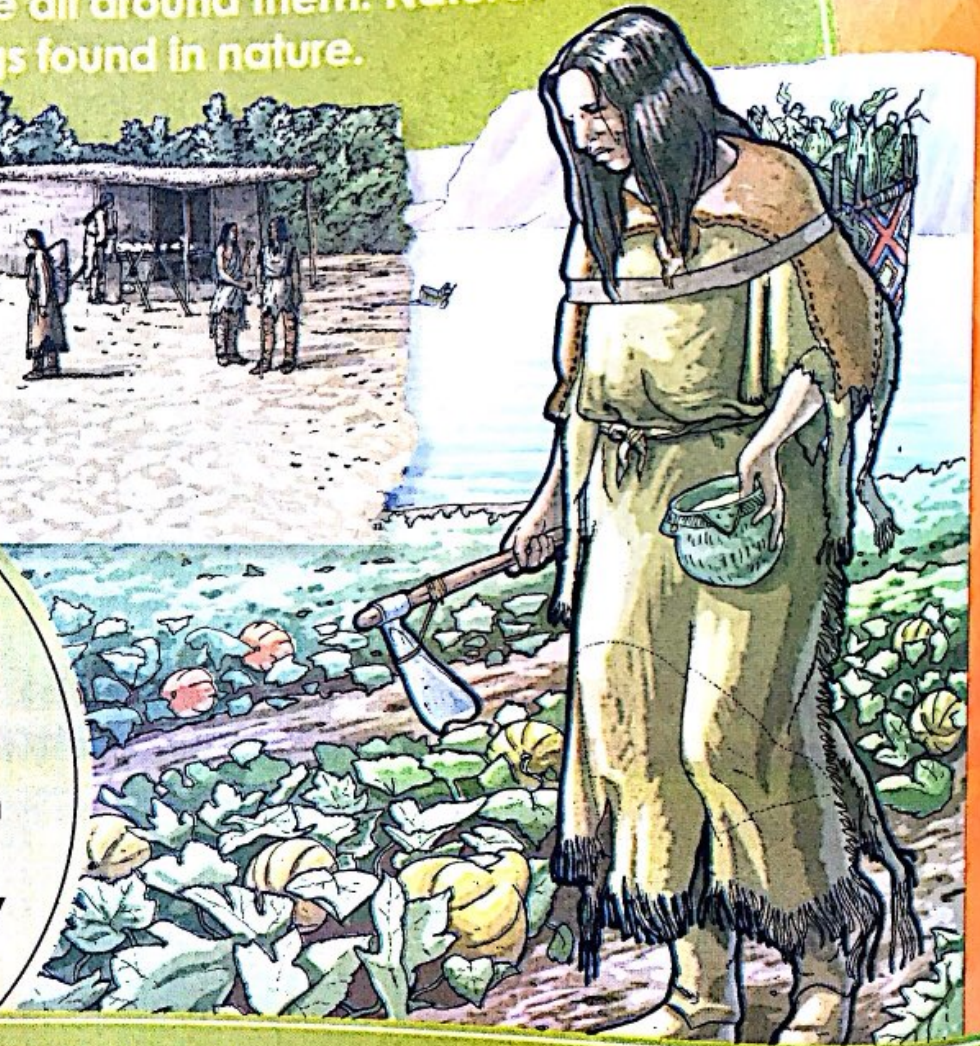
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Creek and Cherokee Nations

The Creek and Cherokee in Georgia used the natural resources that were all around them. Natural resources are things found in nature.



They made the frames for their houses of wattle—twigs and branches woven together. Then they covered the frame with sticky clay or mud called daub.

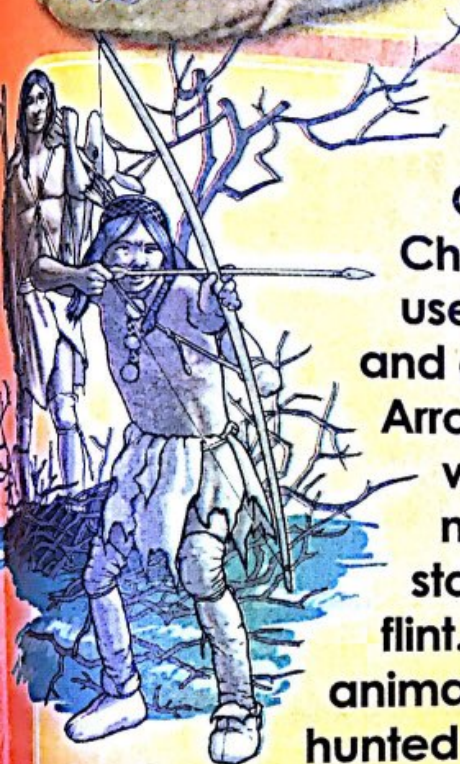


Many people had two homes next to each other. The round winter houses were sunk into the earth a little bit to help them stay warm in the winter. They had thicker walls. Summer houses were built on poles. They had straw, mud or bark on the outside.

The Cherokee and Creek women were farmers. They grew corn, beans and squash. The men fished and hunted deer, turkeys, rabbits and bears. The women gathered berries, nuts and other wild plants.



Women made clothing. They wove plants to make skirts and used bird feathers to make capes. They made leggings and moccasins (shoes) from animal hides.



The Creeks and Cherokee used bows and arrows. Arrowheads were made of a stone called flint. Small animals were hunted with blowguns that shot darts. Sometimes the darts were poisonous.



Creeks and Cherokee mothers and their brothers taught the children and made sure they behaved. Uncles taught nephews to hunt.

American Indians lived all over Georgia. Color the areas where the Cherokee and Creeks lived to match the map key below.

- Cherokee
- Creeks



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The Creek and Cherokee Today and Yesterday

When European settlers arrived in Georgia, life changed for the Creek and Cherokee. Some members of the tribes adopted European ways of living. They would trade with settlers. Some began to use guns instead of bows and arrows. The Creek and Cherokee sometimes fought with settlers. Sadly, many Creek and Cherokee died from European diseases.

Let's read to see how life in Georgia today is like life long ago. We'll also learn how life is different than it was long ago.

Comparing Life Long Ago and Life Today

How is your life like the life of the Creek and Cherokee who lived in Georgia long ago?



Georgia has soil that is good for growing crops.

The Creek and Cherokee grew corn, beans and squash. This was an important source of food.

Today, people in Georgia use the good soil to grow cotton to make clothes. We also grow blueberries, peanuts and pecans.

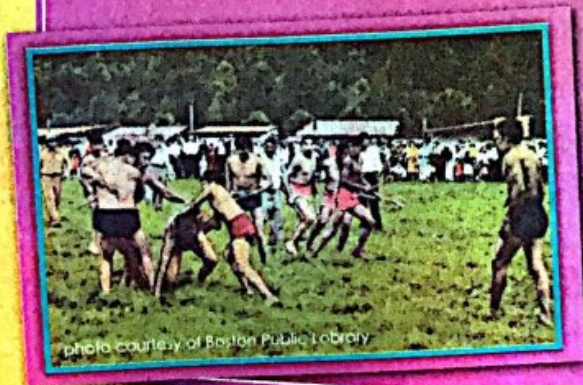


Cherokee people loved to play a game called stickball. They often played other tribes, and sometimes there were up to 300 members on a

team! The goal was about 28 feet high! The Cherokee and Creek still play stickball today.



Today, we also play a game called lacrosse that is similar to stickball. In lacrosse, players use small nets to throw balls very fast.





The Green Corn Festival was a time for the Creek and Cherokee to celebrate a good harvest. The celebration happened when the first corn turned ripe. For a few days, people danced and played stickball.

Today, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving in November. We gather with family to honor the Pilgrims and American Indians and their good harvest.



Long ago, the Creek and Cherokee lived all over Georgia and other U.S. states. Today, most Creek and Cherokee live in areas called reservations. Most Cherokee live in Oklahoma.



How did this change? Settlers often treated the Creek and Cherokee badly. They fought with them and moved them from their tribal homes.