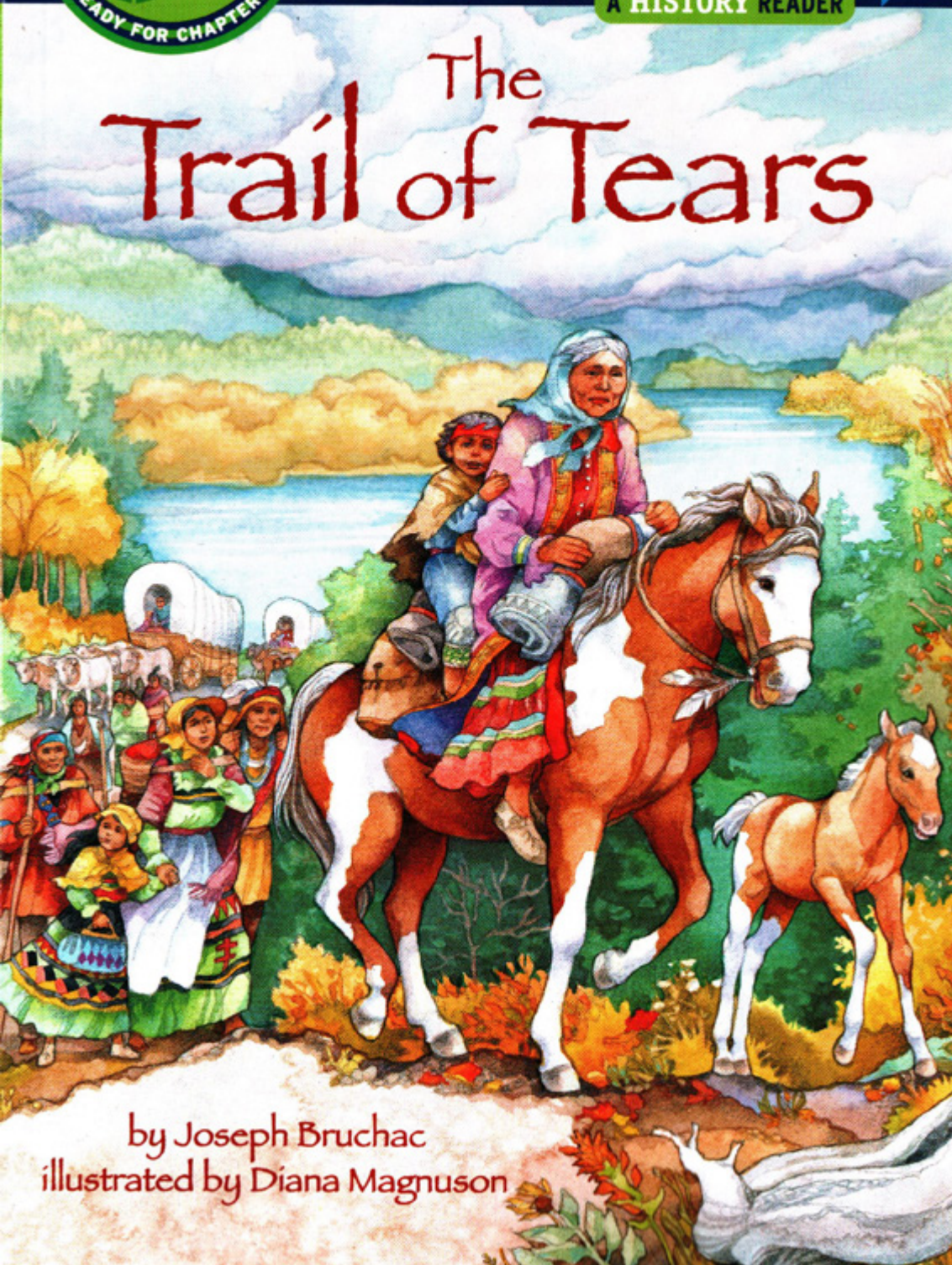




STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

# The Trail of Tears



by Joseph Bruchac  
illustrated by Diana Magnuson

## Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fascinating world of non-fiction! Here you will find natural science, biography, history, sports . . . and more.

**STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** include a huge selection of high-interest topics to engage young readers. No child can resist finding out about such topics as:

- Animals, both fuzzy and fierce
- Brave, bold, and brainy people
- Wild weather, such as twisters
- Life in the time of ice mummies or the Age of Dinosaurs
- Supersized trucks that leap into the air

Why should children read non-fiction? The benefits are enormous. First, children build their vocabularies, encountering words that may not come up in ordinary conversation but are needed to increase reading comprehension.

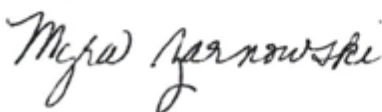
Second, non-fiction introduces children to a writing style that supports learning. When explaining new concepts, non-fiction writers often compare one thing with another. Comparisons make learning easy and fun.

Third, children build their store of background information. Context helps readers make important content connections, whether they are reading about history, biography, or natural science.

Last but not least, non-fiction books raise questions and motivate children to find answers.

The Common Core State Standards call on us to prepare children for college and careers by teaching them to read, write, and discuss non-fiction. **STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** can help children meet this goal while enjoying informative, age-appropriate books.

Happy reading!



Myra Zarnowski  
Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education  
Queens College, City University of New York

Look for an F&P Text Level on the back of every book.



## Learning to Read, Step by Step!



### **Ready to Read** Preschool–Kindergarten

- big type and easy words
- rhyme and rhythm
- picture clues

For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



### **Reading with Help** Preschool–Grade 1

- basic vocabulary
- short sentences
- simple stories

For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



### **Reading on Your Own** Grades 1–3

- engaging characters
- easy-to-follow plots
- popular topics

For children who are ready to read on their own.



### **Reading Paragraphs** Grades 2–3

- challenging vocabulary
- short paragraphs
- exciting stories

For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



### **Ready for Chapters** Grades 2–4

- chapters
- longer paragraphs
- full-color art

For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

**STEP INTO READING®** is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides; children will progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading. The F&P Text Level on the back cover serves as another tool to help you choose the right book for your child.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

*To those who remember and to the memory of  
Gogisgi/Carroll Arnett, Cherokee poet and teacher,  
who first showed that trail to me*

*Ktsi wliwini, great thanks, to my many Aniyunwiya friends  
and teachers over the years. Thank you for your patience  
with me. I am especially grateful to those Cherokee writers  
and storytellers who read this manuscript in its early stages  
and offered such good advice. In particular, I want to  
acknowledge my dear friends Geary Hobson, Gayle Ross,  
Murv Jacob, Marilou Awiakta, and Robert Conley.  
Wado, wado. The Principal People will survive.  
—J.B.*

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*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Bruchac, Joseph, 1942- .

The Trail of Tears / by Joseph Bruchac ; illustrated by Diana Magnuson.

p. cm. — (Step into reading. A step 5 book)

Summary: Recounts how the Cherokees, after fighting to keep their land in the nineteenth century, were forced to leave and travel 1,200 miles to a new settlement in Oklahoma, a terrible journey known as the Trail of Tears.

ISBN 978-0-679-89052-2 (trade) — ISBN 978-0-679-99052-9 (lib. bdg.) —

ISBN 978-0-385-37473-6 (ebook)

1. Trail of Tears, 1838- —Juvenile literature.

2. Cherokee Indians—History—19th century—Juvenile literature.

3. Cherokee Indians—Relocation—Juvenile literature.

I. Magnuson, Diana, ill. II. Title. III. Series: Step into reading. Step 5 book.

E99.C5 B888 2003 975.0049755—dc21 2002014929

Printed in the United States of America 34 33

This book has been officially leveled by using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.

Random House Children's Books supports the First Amendment and celebrates the right to read.



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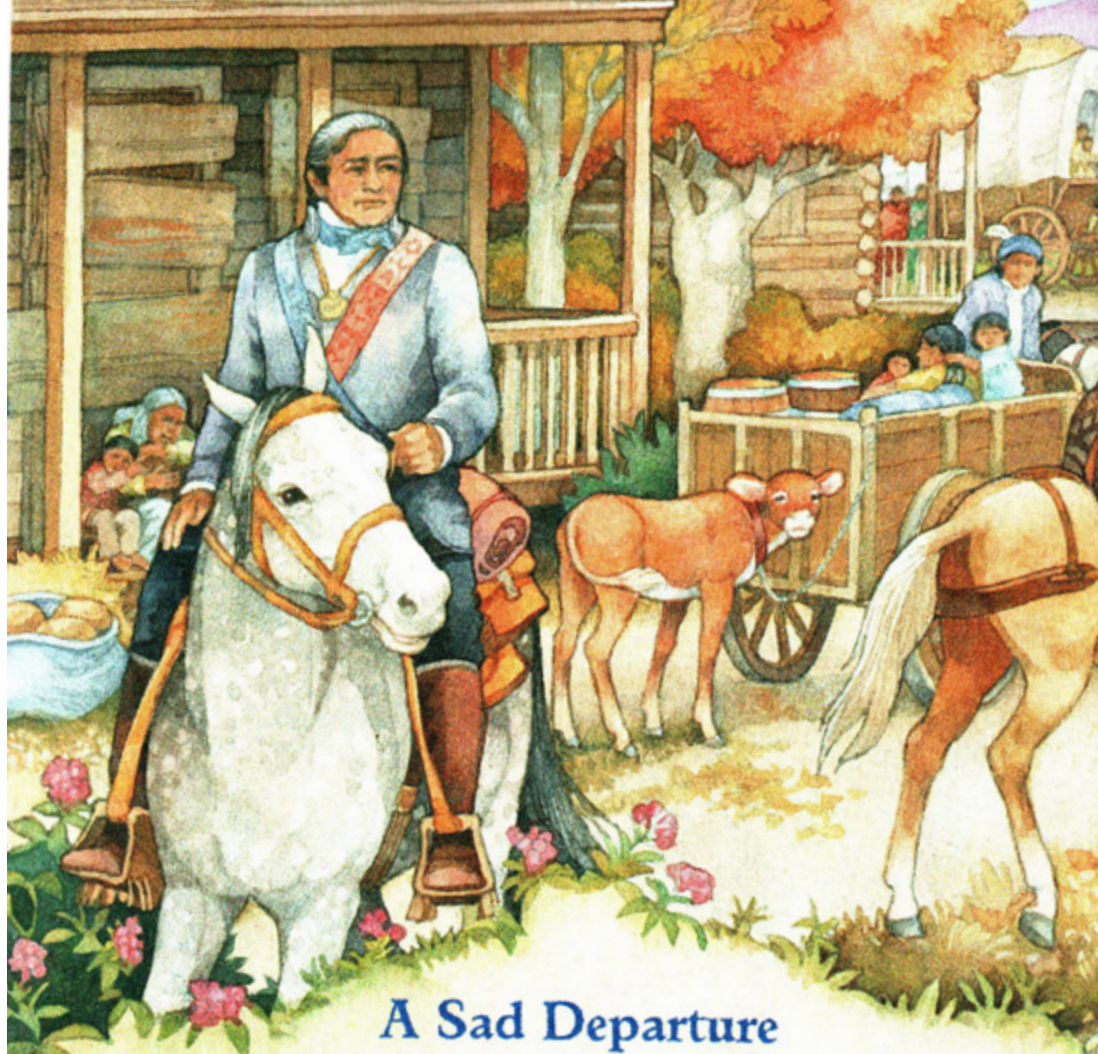
A HISTORY READER

# The Trail of Tears



By Joseph Bruchac  
Illustrated by Diana Magnuson

Random House  New York



## A Sad Departure

It is October 1, 1838. John Ross, the chief of the great Cherokee Nation, is looking at his Tennessee home for the last time. Hundreds of horse-drawn wagons are lined up along the Hiwassee River. All around him, other Cherokees have finished packing their belongings. It is time to go.



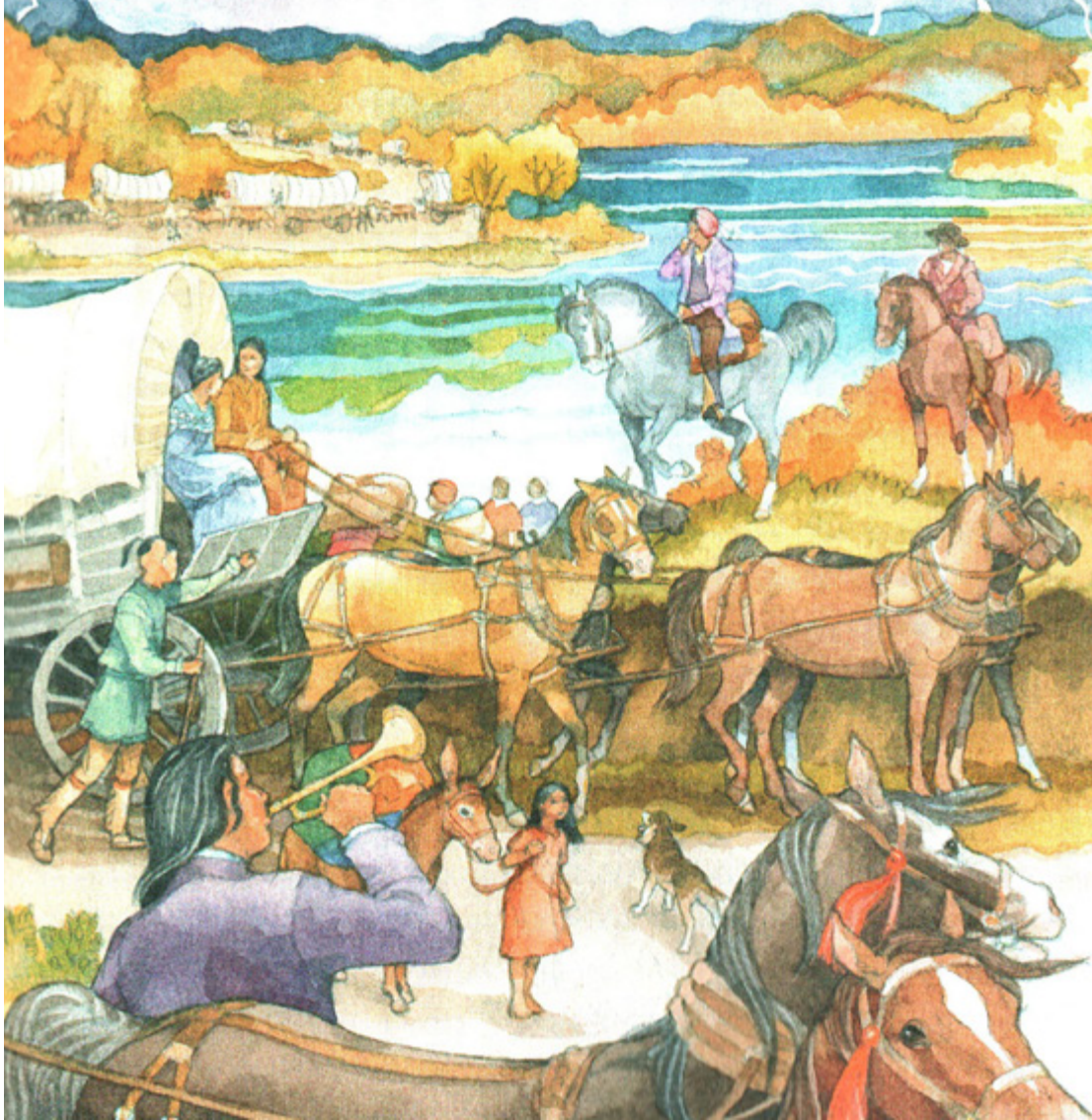
John Ross is worried. His people do not have enough food or blankets. Many of them are ill. All of them are filled with sorrow. John Ross thinks of all they are leaving behind. He remembers the schools and houses and farms the Cherokees built. He and his people do not want to leave their homes. But they have no choice. The 17,000 people of the Cherokee Nation must go west.

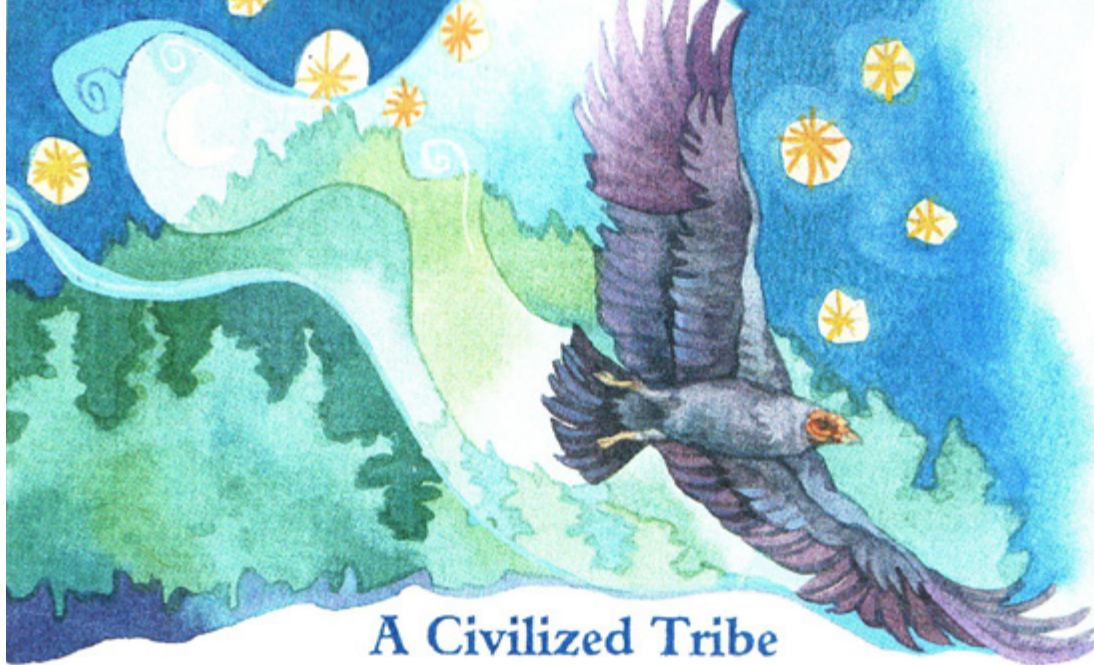
John Ross climbs on a wagon. The people gather around him as he says a short prayer in Cherokee. "We ask for God's guidance on our journey," he says. "Amen," say the people in reply.





A bugle is sounded. The drivers urge their teams forward. Suddenly, a roll of thunder is heard. A black cloud appears in the western sky. Many Cherokees shake their heads. They fear it is an omen of bad luck. Their long journey will be a hard one.





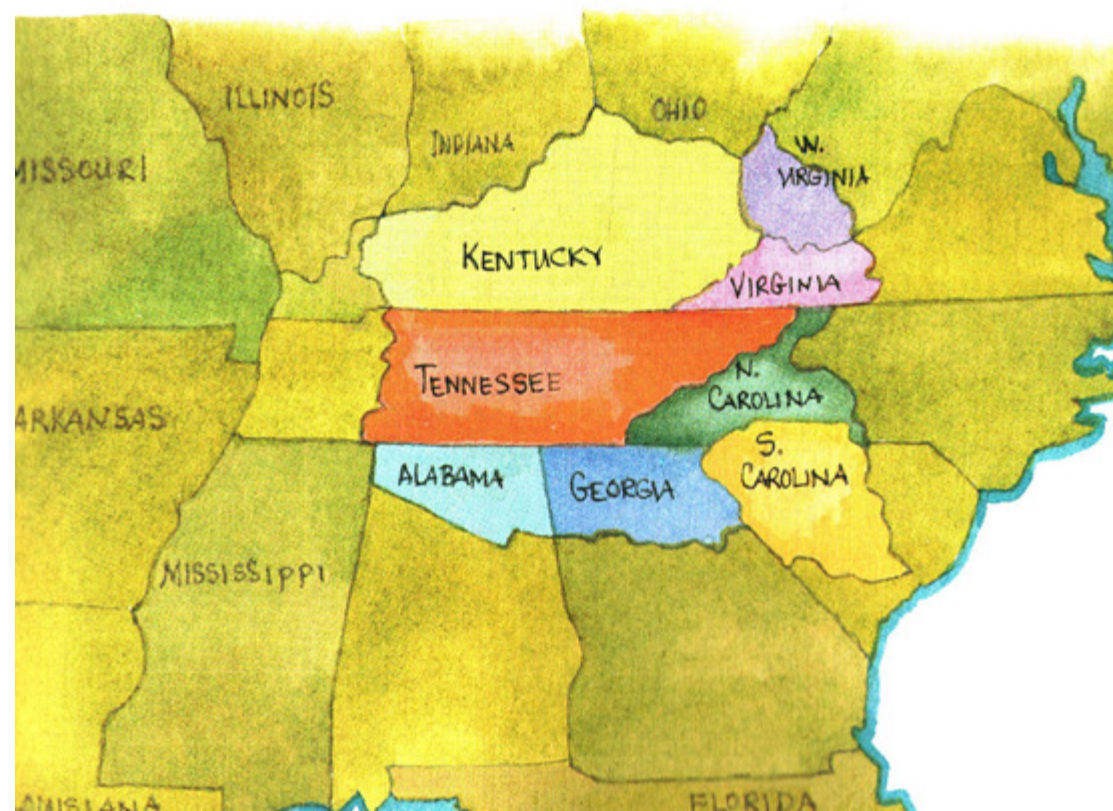
## A Civilized Tribe

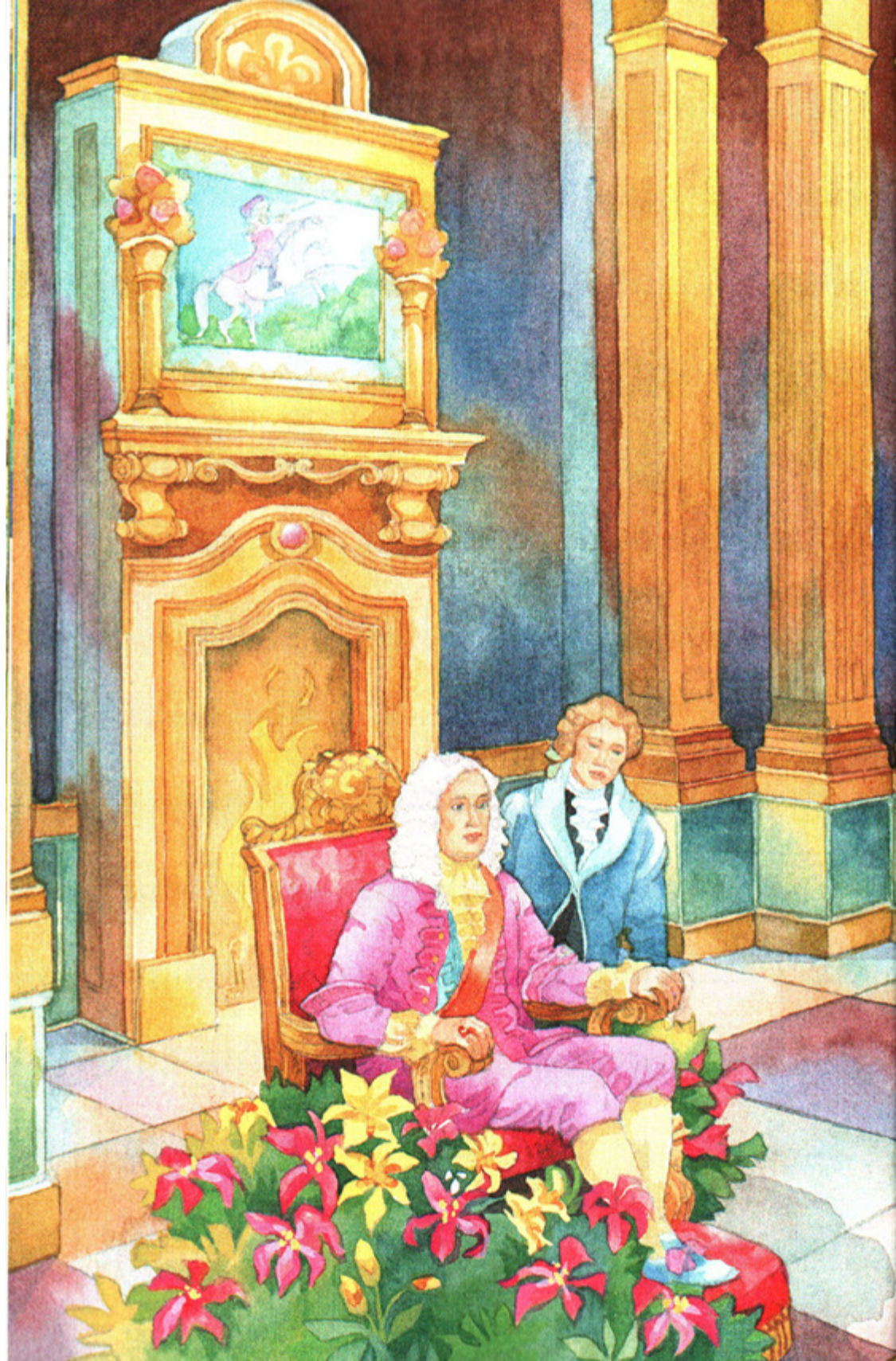
Who are the Cherokees and why must they go west?

The Cherokees were living in America long before the first white colonists arrived. Their oldest stories tell how earth was shaped by the flight of the Great Buzzard. He flew low over the new land to dry it with his wings, pushing down the valleys and lifting up the hills and peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains. Then two people emerged from the earth. They were Kanati and Selu, the first man and woman. All Cherokees are their children.

This story shows how connected the Cherokees feel to their land. It is a part of them.

What we know as Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, and North Carolina were all once Cherokee land. Each Cherokee town had its own leaders, chosen by the people. They proudly called themselves *Ani'-Yun'wiya*—"the Principal People." (The name Cherokee comes from *jilagi*—a Creek Indian word meaning "People of Different Speech.")





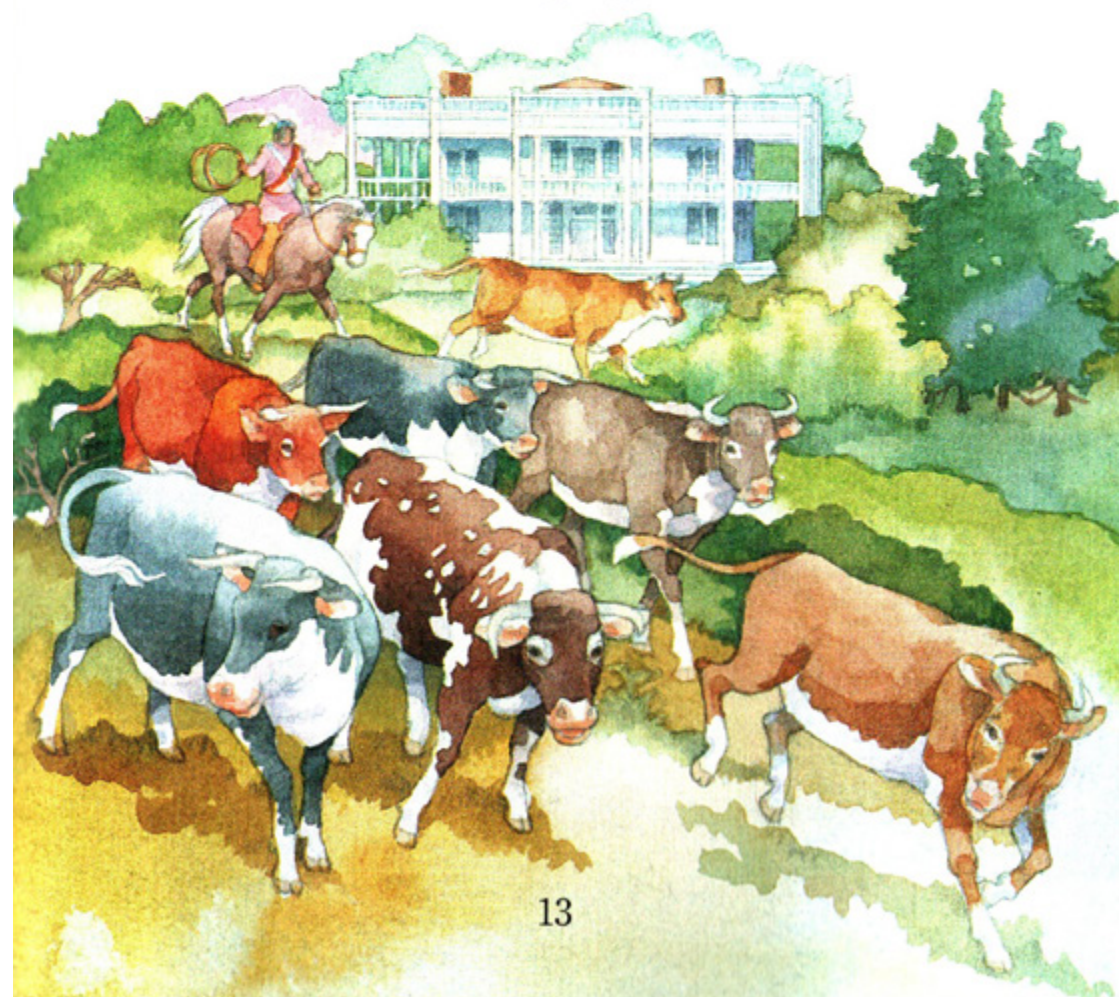
When white settlers first came from Europe, the Cherokees tried to live in peace with them. For over a hundred years, Cherokees traded with English colonists. Some Cherokee leaders even went to England to visit the king.





Then the American Revolution was fought between the British and the American colonists. When the war was over, American settlers wanted the land owned by Cherokees. There was more fighting, this time against the Cherokees. A thousand Cherokee towns were destroyed. The Cherokees gave up some of their land. In return, the United States promised to always protect the Cherokees.

The Cherokee Nation wanted to live in peace with the United States. It moved its capital south to New Echota, Georgia. The Cherokees began to adopt more white ways. Many Cherokees became wealthy. They had plantation houses, sawmills, and large herds of cattle. Some Cherokee men went to schools in New England. The Cherokees even invented a written language all their own.





# STEP INTO READING®



October 1, 1838. John Ross, the chief of the great Cherokee Nation, is looking at his home for the last time. All around him, people are loading wagons for the long journey west. The Cherokee people do not want to leave their land, but they have no choice. Today is their first day on the Trail of Tears.

Are you ready to take the plunge into chapters?

Do you still like books with colorful pictures?

This book is just right for you!

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ISBN 978-0-679-89052-2



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