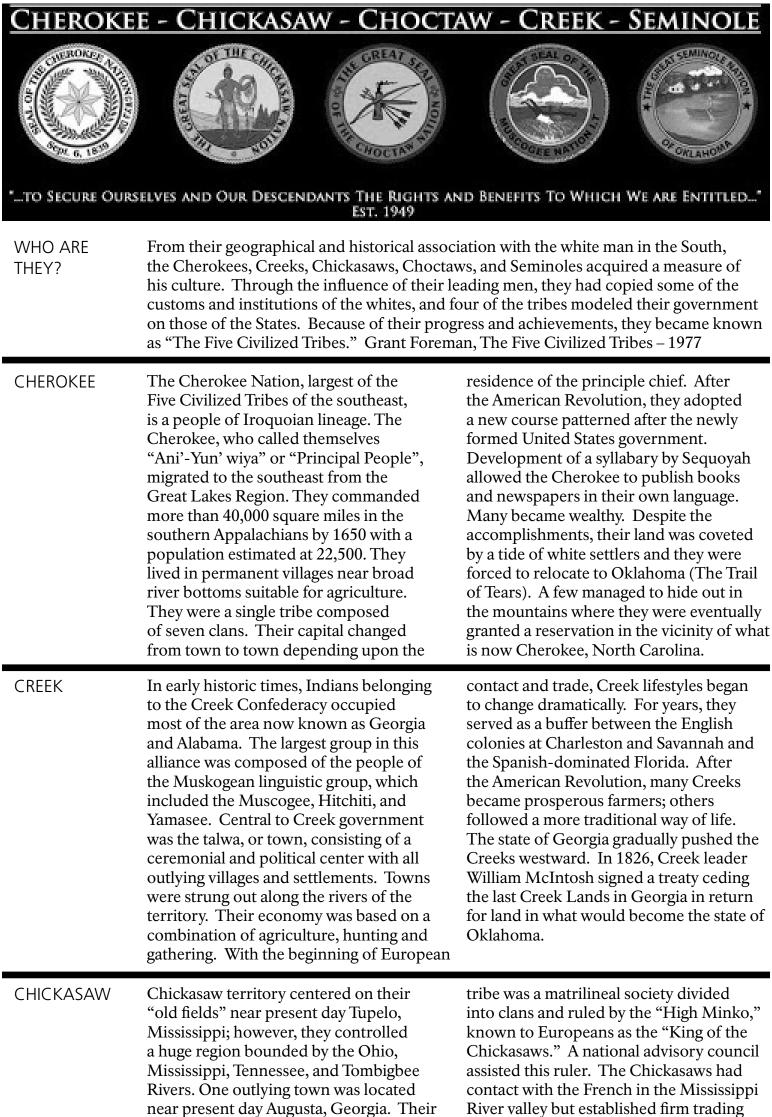
Ocmulgee Mounds

National Park Service U.S. Department of Interior

Ocmulgee Mounds NHP



The Five Civilized Tribes



CHICKASAW (CONTINUED)	ties in the late 1600's with the English traders from South Carolina. They gained renown as the fiercest fighters of the south and were almost constantly engaged in conflicts with the Choctaws, Creeks, Cherokees, and even the Shawnee and Iroquois to the north. The Chickasaws	also battled with French traders on the Mississippi River. They began their westward emigration in 1822, and by 1834 they were gone from the old south. Their tribe is located in what is now the state of Oklahoma.
CHOCTAW	Tribal legends say this group originated at Nanih Waiya Mound in east central Mississippi. Historically, they centered on this area reaching east into the Tombigbee River lands of Alabama, along the boundary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Their villages formed the basis of three great districts, each ruled by a chief, which together constituted the Choctaw Nation. Like other southeastern Indians, their society was based on matrilineal clans. They celebrated the "Busk" (Green Corn Ceremony) and held large ball games. They were the most intensive farmers of the south and were noted for their peaceful	character and friendly disposition. Due to the nearby French settlements and trading posts along the lower Mississippi River, the Choctaws were influenced by them and were in a buffer situation during the British-French contest for control in the region until 1763. Later, under British and American domination, they gradually emigrated west of the Mississippi, and by 1834 had located in present day Oklahoma. However, one band of Choctaws managed to remain in their homeland, despite tremendous opposition and hardship. This group currently lives on a reservation near Philadelphia, Mississippi.
SEMINOLES	The term "seminole" in the Muscogean language means "those who have gone away." Most of the Seminoles were a branch who separated from the Lower Creek settlements in the 1700's. These Muscogee, Hitchiti, and probably, Yamassee and Yuchi people were joined by remnants of the native tribes of Florida who had survived European diseases, the Spanish mission system, and devastating raids by the British and their Indian allies. The Seminole readily accepted other people among them, including adopted whites and runaway slaves from the American colonies. By doing so, many African clothing styles, words and stories	made their way into Seminole life and added a unique flavor to Seminole culture. They were gradually pushed southward by European settlement. Their resistance to treaties forcing the removal of the Seminole from Florida resulted in two major wars. Andrew Jackson terminated the first Seminole War. The last war, led by Osceola, lasted from 1835 until 1842. Some of the Seminole retreated deep into the Everglades region and were never wholly defeated. Others were removed to present-day state of Oklahoma where many still live on lands adjacent to their close relatives of the Muscogee (Creeks).