

The Long Journey (FK 3.4)

A long time ago, there was a group of people called the Cherokee. They lived on their land for many years. The Cherokee were skilled at growing food. They planted corn, beans, and squash. They also hunted animals like buffalo and deer. The Cherokee knew how to take care of the land and their families.



One day, gold was found on their land. Many new people wanted this land. They thought they could become rich by finding gold. The government told the Cherokee they had to leave. This made the Cherokee very sad. They loved their home and did not want to leave.

The Cherokee had to walk a long way to a new place. It was almost 1,000 miles away. The journey was very hard. They had to travel through forests, rivers, and mountains. Many people got sick along the way. Some did not make it. This journey

was called the Trail of Tears. It was a painful time for the Cherokee.

As they walked, the Cherokee felt tired and hungry. They carried what they could on their backs. Some people had only a few clothes and little food. They sang songs to lift their spirits. They told stories to keep their hearts strong. Even though they were sad, they tried to stay hopeful.

The new land was different. The Cherokee could not hunt buffalo like before. The buffalo were gone. There were not enough trees or rivers for them to fish. The Cherokee had to learn new ways to live. They had to adapt to their new home. They planted different crops and tried new ways to find food.

Many other tribes also had to leave their homes. They were sent to places called reservations. These were special areas for them to live. Life was not the same for them anymore. They missed their old homes and the land they loved.



Even though it was hard, the Cherokee and other tribes stayed strong. They kept their stories and traditions alive. They taught their children about their history. They shared their culture through songs, dances, and crafts. They wanted to make sure their children would remember their roots.

Today, we remember the Trail of Tears. We learn about the strength of the Cherokee and other tribes. It is important to remember their stories and honor their journey. Schools teach these stories so that everyone can understand the past. We must listen and learn to make a better future for all.

The Cherokee showed great bravery during their long journey. They faced many challenges but never forgot who they were. Their spirit is still alive today. We can all learn from their strength and resilience. By remembering their journey, we honor their past and celebrate their culture.