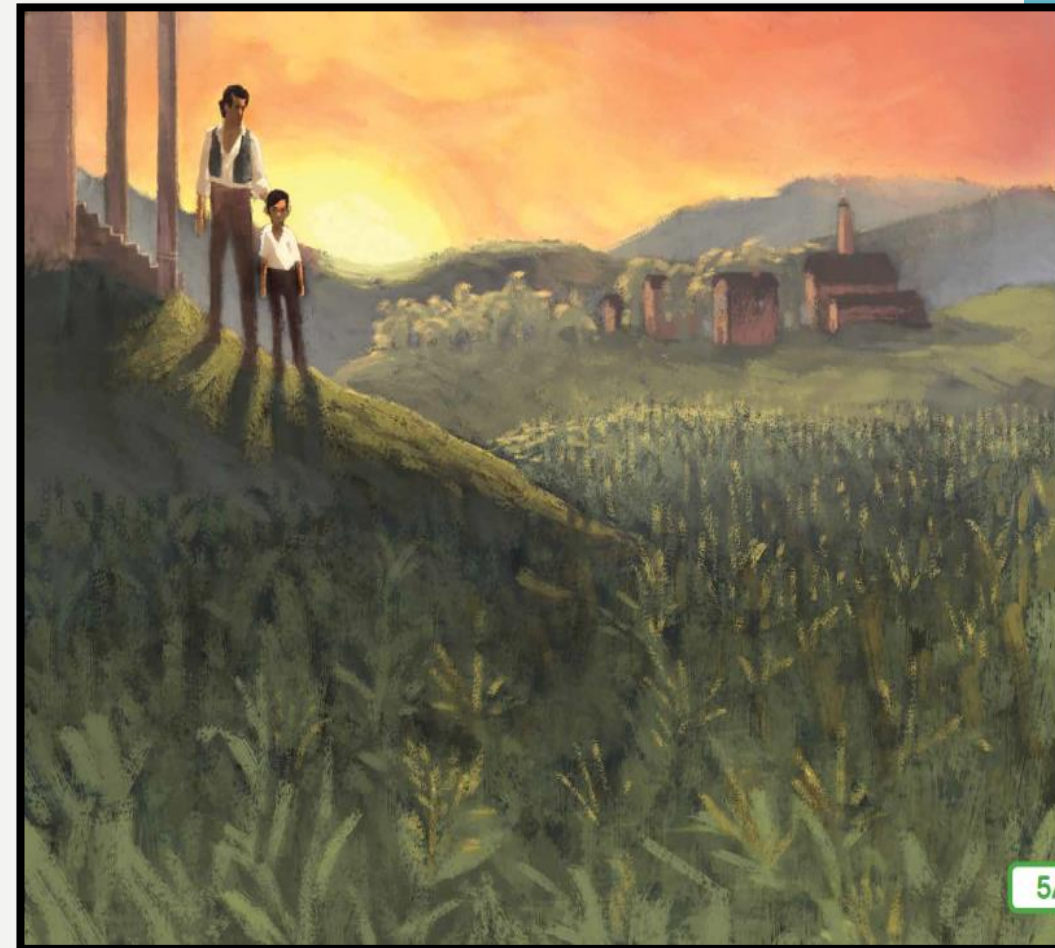


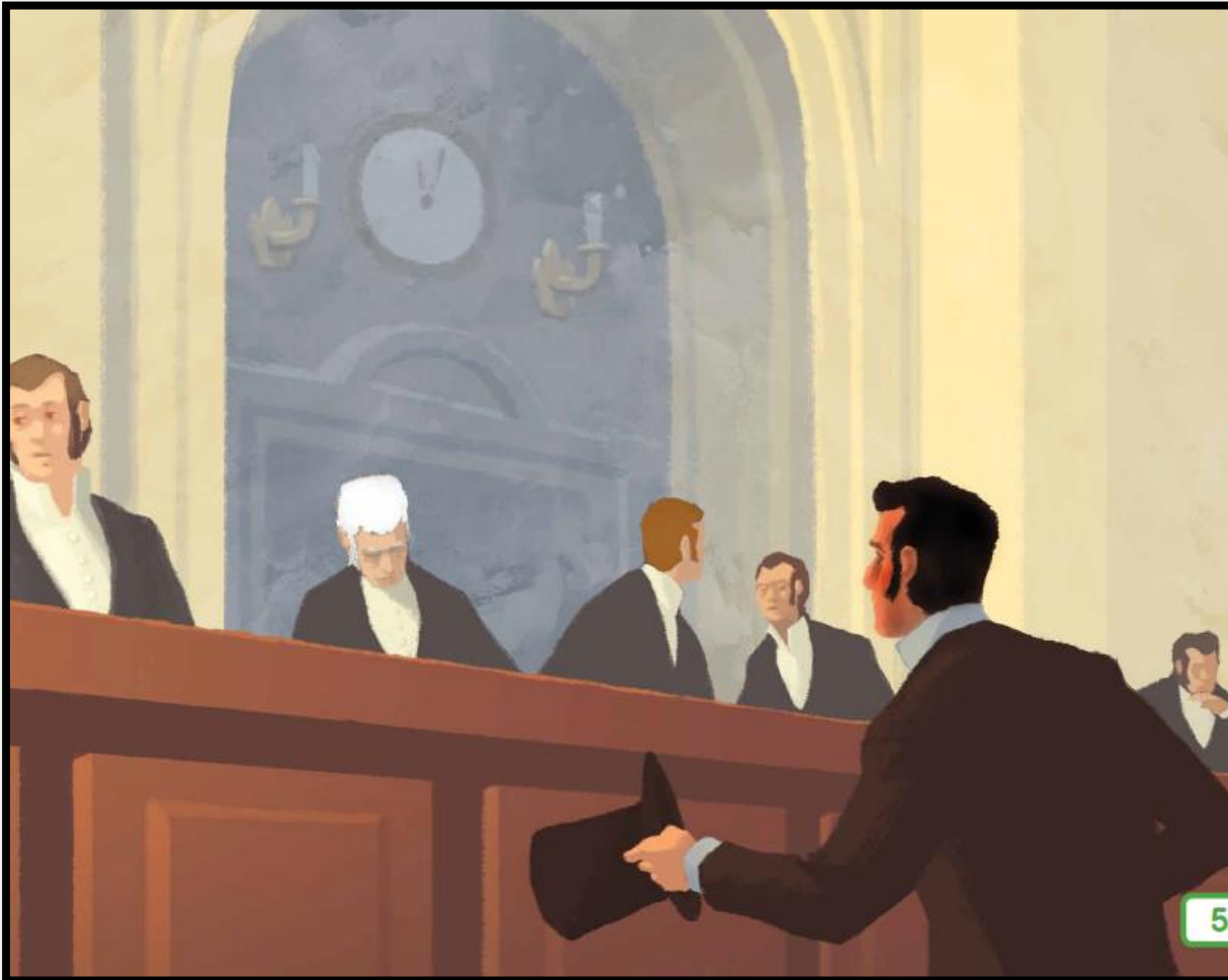
Looking out over his field of waving corn, John Ross smiled. He told his son, “This will be the best harvest of corn we have ever had, and the other crops are just as fine. Life is good here, and one day, all that your mother and I have built will be yours.” John Ross was a leader of the Cherokee. He was rich and successful, and had close friends among both his Cherokee and his white neighbors in Georgia. John Ross should have felt very happy with his life.

But on that sunny morning in 1830, standing with his son looking out over his cornfield, John Ross knew there was a possibility his son would never own the farm he worked so hard to get and keep. Some white people were jealous of the land and businesses the Cherokee owned. They wanted land and businesses, too. They began asking, “Why don’t the Cherokee move? Our government can offer them land farther west, and we will keep their farms and businesses here for ourselves.”

The Trail of Tears



Many of the Cherokee were worried. They did not want to leave their homes, and they were afraid that the U.S. government might force them to leave. John Ross tried many different ways to talk to the U.S. government and pleaded with them not to **relocate** the Cherokee. The government didn't listen.



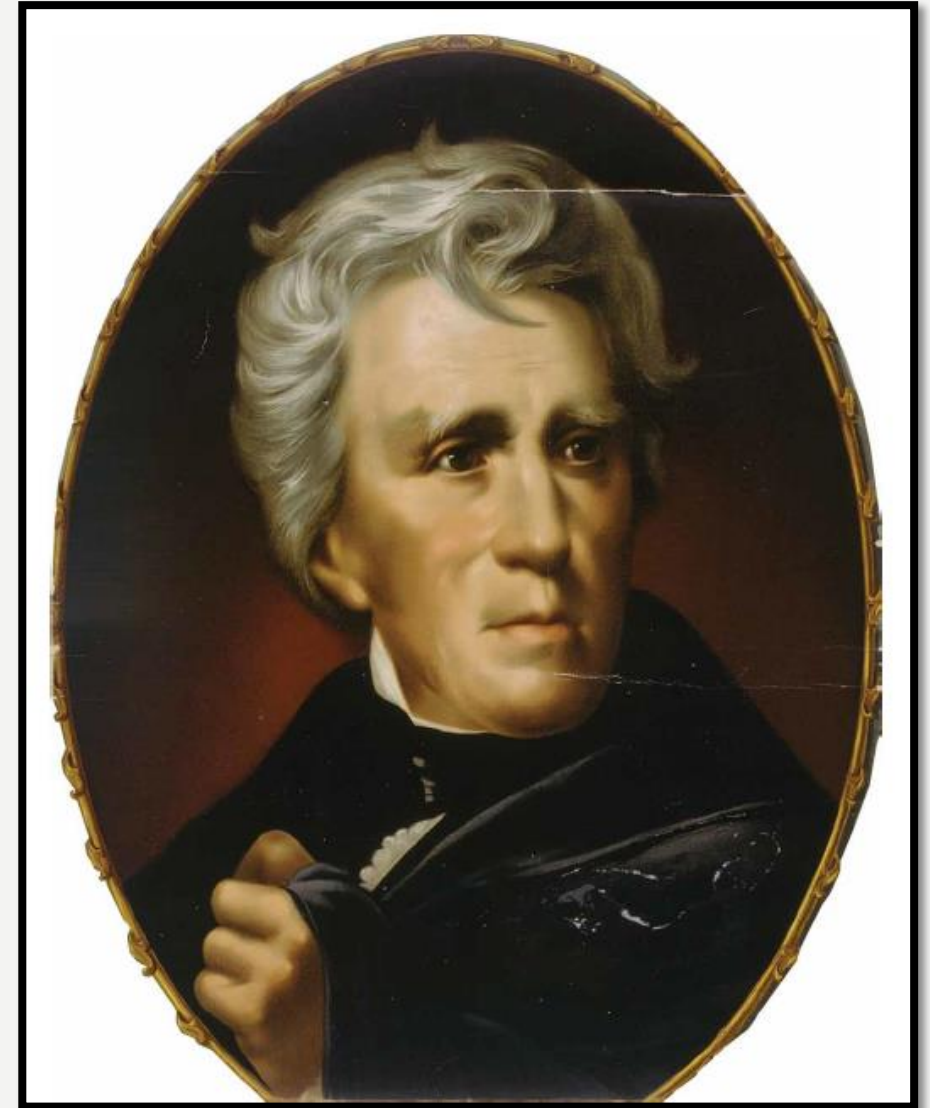
I can identify the main idea of the read aloud *The Trail of Tears*

Yo puedo identificar la idea principal de la lectura El Sendero de Lágrimas

Two years prior, in 1828, an army general named Andrew Jackson had been elected president of the United States. President Jackson was on the side of those settlers who wanted to take Native American land. President Jackson **insisted** that Native Americans move west to what was called “Indian Territory.” He sent soldiers to make them go.

Hoping to avoid another war, U.S. government leaders told the Cherokee, “If you will move to the Indian Territory, we will pay you five million dollars to share among yourselves. You can use this to build a new life.” There had already been many wars between Native American tribes and the U.S. government. In many of these wars, the Native Americans lost, and the U.S. government took their land without paying them for it.

I can identify the main idea of the read aloud *The Trail of Tears*
Yo puedo identificar la idea principal de la lectura El Sendero de Lágrimas



The U.S. government had promised to supply the Cherokee with wagons, oxen, horses, and food for the long journey, but there were not enough supplies for all of them. John Ross helped organize the Cherokee to face the problems of a long, difficult journey and a lack of supplies. “We will divide into smaller groups and make sure there is a doctor for each group. We do not have enough food to feed everyone, so we will have to hunt and fish on the way. There are not enough wagons to carry all the children, the old, or the sick. Many of us must walk and carry what we can on our backs.” When the Cherokee set out, there were so many people that the line stretched for three miles.

I can identify the main idea of the read aloud *The Trail of Tears*

Yo puedo identificar la idea principal de la lectura El Sendero de Lágrimas



The road West was difficult. Many Cherokee were sick or injured, but they could not stop to heal. They had to keep walking. It was **miserable**.

Then, partway to the Indian Territory, while in Kentucky in November, the Cherokee **encountered** a horrible winter storm. Through the bitter cold and falling sleet and snow, the Cherokee continued their journey. Many people died, and even after the storm ended, others were too weak to finish the trip. So many Cherokee died on the way that the survivors called this journey the “Trail of Tears,” and it has been called that ever since.

The Trail of Tears and other **forced** movements of Native Americans are some of the saddest events in the history of the United States, but that is why we need to remember them. It’s important to remember the sadder parts of history to prevent them from happening again.

I can identify the main idea of the read aloud *The Trail of Tears*
Yo puedo identificar la idea principal de la lectura El Sendero de Lágrimas



I can identify the main idea of the read aloud *The Trail of Tears*

Yo puedo identificar la idea principal de la lectura El Sendero de Lágrimas

With tremendous courage, and after many years of hard work, the Cherokee built themselves a new life. But most of them, and many other Native Americans who were forced to relocate, never again saw their old homes back in Georgia.



Comprehension Check

I can identify the main
idea of the read aloud *The
Trail of Tears*

*Yo puedo identificar la
idea principal de la
lectura El Sendero de
Lágrimas*

1. *Evaluative* What was the main topic of the read-aloud?
2. *Literal* Where were the Cherokee told to relocate?
3. *Literal* What is the Trail of Tears?
4. *Inferential* Why was the Cherokee forced relocation so difficult and miserable?
5. *Inferential* Many pioneers like the Morgans *chose* to move to the West. However, the Cherokee were *forced* to move. Who insisted that the Cherokee abandon their homes and businesses and move from their lands?
6. *Evaluative* What adjectives could you use to describe the Cherokee's relocation, or their journey from their homes in the East to land farther west?
7. *Evaluative* Why do you think this journey is known as the Trail of Tears?