

## **STANDARD USI.8c**

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**The student will apply social science skills to understand westward expansion and reform in America from 1801 to 1861 by**  
**c) explaining the impact of westward expansion on American Indians;**

### **Essential Understandings**

American Indians clashed with United States settlers and the United States government during westward expansion.

### **Essential Knowledge**

#### **Impact on American Indians**

The discovery of gold on American Indian land in the southern United States eventually led to the removal of the Cherokee Indians in Georgia.

- The American Indian Removal Act authorized the federal government to negotiate treaties with eastern tribes exchanging their lands for land in the West.
- *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* (1831), the Cherokee sought to “restrain the state of Georgia from the execution of certain laws of that state...go directly to seize” the land.
- “Trail of Tears”—As part of the American Indian removal policy, the Cherokee nation and other tribes were forced to give up their lands east of the Mississippi River and to relocate to an area in present-day Oklahoma.