

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Table of Contents

	Pages
1. Content Essay	2-3
2. Elementary Activity	4-5
3. Middle/High School Activity	6-7
4. Primary Source: Map and Discharge Papers	8-9

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Essential Question: What were the causes and consequences of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend?

Following Tennessee's admission to the Union in 1796, settlement in middle and western Tennessee increased. The increase in white settlers led to tensions with the Creeks who lived in a loose confederation of towns along the rivers of Georgia and Alabama. In 1811, the Shawnee leader, Tecumseh visited the southeastern tribes as part of his plan to build an alliance of tribes to stop the spread of white settlements. While the southern Creeks were uninterested in Tecumseh's plan, many people in the northern towns supported it. In 1812, "War Hawks" in Congress, including Tennessee representative Felix Grundy, urged Congress to declare war on Great Britain. A few warriors joined Tecumseh and the British in fighting the Americans at the beginning of the War of 1812.

The War of 1812 triggered a civil war in the Creek towns. The Creeks friendly to the United States were known as the White Stick Creeks and those hostile to the United States were known as the Red Sticks. When members of the Mississippi militia attacked the Red Stick Creeks in 1813, they retaliated by killing 250 settlers at Fort Mims, located just north of Mobile, Alabama. The Fort Mims Massacre as it was called caused the civil war to expand into a larger conflict between the Creeks and forces from Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi.

Andrew Jackson was selected to lead Tennessee's **volunteer** militia. He was first ordered to New Orleans, but was stopped in Natchez. On the march back to Nashville, Jackson earned the nickname "Old Hickory" by marching alongside his men. Following the Fort Mims Massacre, Jackson took his army south into Creek territory. By December of 1813, most of Jackson's volunteer force was ready to return home. They believed that their one year enlistment would soon expire. However, Jackson's thoughts differed. The conflict eventually led to a number of men being court-martialed, but the volunteers returned home. Jackson's expedition was saved by the arrival of 900 new recruits in January of 1814.

By March, the Red Sticks had taken refuge in the **Horseshoe Bend** of the Tallapoosa River. On March 27, Jackson launched a two pronged assault. A force of American, Creek and Cherokee warriors crossed the river downstream to attack the Red Stick village from the rear. At the same time Jackson's force attacked the barricade using first artillery fire and then a frontal assault. Young **Sam Houston** took part in the charge and was seriously wounded. Red Sticks who tried to escape across the river were gunned down by the Americans on the opposite shore. Approximately, 800 Red Stick Creeks were killed and 350 women and children made prisoners of the White Sticks and Cherokee allies. Jackson's force had 49 men killed and 154 wounded. The Creek War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Fort Jackson on August 9, 1814. Jackson forced the Creeks to cede 23 million acres of land to the United States government. The White Sticks who had fought as allies of Jackson were furious that they too had their lands taken from

them. Junaluska, the Cherokee chief who saved Jackson's life during the battle later said, "If I had known that Jackson would drive us from our home, I would have killed him at the Horseshoe."

Sources: "The War of 1812 and Indian Wars." *The Volunteer State Goes to War: A Salute to Tennessee Veterans*, Tennessee State Library and Archives, n.d., Web. 26 June 2014. <<http://sharetn.gov.tnsosfiles.com/tsla/exhibits/veterans/index.htm>>

Jensen, Ove. "Battle of Horseshoe Bend." *Alabama Humanities Foundation*. 2013. Web. 26 June 2014. <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1044>>

Morgan, Robert. *Lions of the West*. Chapel Hill NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2011. Print.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Complete the cause and effect chart below using information from the reading.

Western Expansion

Causes

Tecumseh

Fort Mims Massacre

Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Effects

Short-term

(Immediate results of battle)

Long-term

(Permanent changes)

Many people claimed that Tennessee earned its nickname the "Volunteer State" because so many men volunteered to fight in the War of 1812.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend Key

Complete the cause and effect chart below using information from the reading.

Western Expansion
As settlers expanded west, conflict with Native Americans increased

Causes

Fort Mims Massacre
Mississippi militia attacked Red Stick Creeks who retaliated by killing 250 settlers at Fort Mims, Alabama

Tecumseh
Tecumseh a Shawnee leader encouraged the Creeks to fight the U.S. leading to a Creek civil war

Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Effects

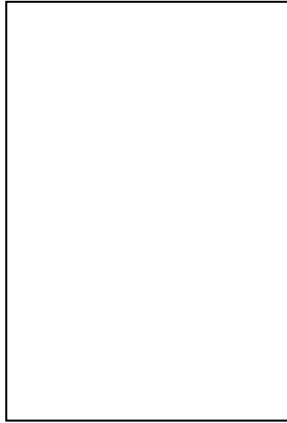
Short-term
(Immediate results of battle)
800 Red Stick Creeks killed, 350 prisoners; Jackson wins only loses 49 men

Long-term
(Permanent changes)
Jackson forces Creeks to cede 23 million acres of land in Treaty of Fort Jackson

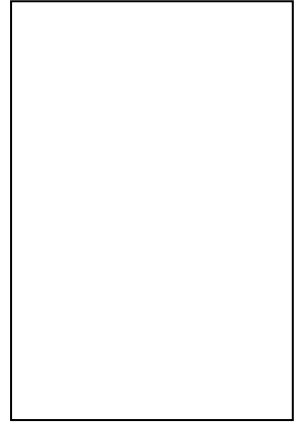
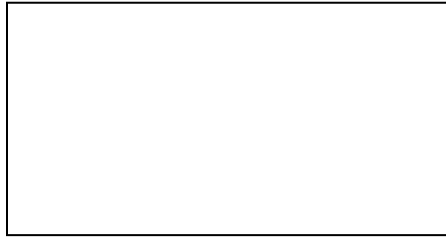
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The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Complete the cause and effect chart below using information from the reading.



Causes



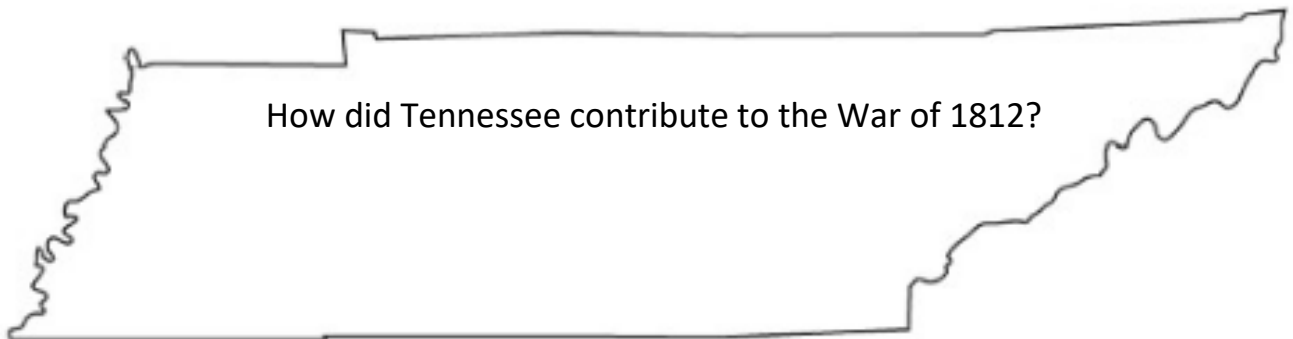
Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Effects

Short-term



Long-term



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Effects

Short-term
(Immediate results of battle)
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Long-term
(Permanent changes)
Jackson forces Creeks to cede 23 million acres of land in Treaty of Fort Jackson

How did Tennessee contribute to the War of 1812?
Gain land; keep Creeks from uniting with British

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY

B. B.

I do hereby certify that *Samuel Beard*
John Malla *Capt*
 in the first Regiment of TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS, was in the service of the United
 States in the Creek Nation, under the command of Major General Andrew Jackson, from the
 26th day of September 1813, until the 28th day of December 1813; and has performed his
 duty faithfully, as a good Soldier, and is hereby honorably discharged the service. Given
 under my hand and seal this *20th* day of *Nov* 1814
John Malla
John Malla

Source: "Discharge Papers." The Volunteer State Goes to
 War: A Salute to Tennessee Veterans. Tennessee State
 Library and Archives. n.d. 26 June 2014. Web.
[http://share.tn.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/images/1812/Cre
 ek_War_Discharge.jpg](http://share.tn.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/images/1812/Cre

 ek_War_Discharge.jpg)

Battle of Schofield's Bend.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 1 Coffee Cavalry - | 9 Regulars | 15 Emuck/au - old battle ground - |
| 2 Cherokeees - | 10 Waggon Pack horses } wounded in center | 16 New Spucan. burnt before - |
| 3 Indian Village - | 11 Col. Copeland | 17 High Hills - |
| 4 High Grounds - | 12 E. Ten. Militia | 0. That angle at which Montgomery fell - |
| 5 Breast Works - | 13 Col. Cheatham | |
| 6 Island - | 14 Rear Guard | |
| 7 Advanced guard - | | |
| 8 Hill & Artillery | | |



Source: "Horseshoe Bend Map." *The Volunteer State Goes to War: A Salute to Tennessee Veterans*. Tennessee State Library and Archives. n.d. 26 June 2014. Web.
http://share.tn.gov/tsla/exhibits/veterans/images/1812/Horseshoe_Bend_Map.jpg