

Trail of Tears in Southern Illinois: Corroborating GIS Maps and Primary Sources

Grade Level:	Middle and High School
Standards:	CCSS.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
Sources Used:	Complete Butrick journal available at: http://www.illinoishistory.com/butrick.html Natural Springs article available at: http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/people/mjwetzelspoilhp/ Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Map “TOT_Curriculum” available with the ArcGIS Explorer mobile app or as a desktop version at: http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=49a93d78d5754333b921decc642dfdf2 Color versions of Maps 1-4 are also available www.educatingwithevidence.siu.edu

Introduction:

The U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act in the early 1830s, initiating a series of actions that led to the forced migration of people from five different indigenous nations in southeastern portions of the U.S. to “Indian Territory” (present-day Oklahoma). In this activity, students compare (or corroborate) information from maps and primary sources as they examine what happened along the route now known as the “Trail of Tears.”

Source Information:

Map 1. Trail of Tears, 1838-39 – General map of national Trail of Tears routes and Major Rivers for **question 2**.

Map 2. Southern Illinois Trail of Tears – Regional map of the Illinois route of the Trail of Tears and campsites recorded in the journal of Rev. Daniel Butrick for **questions 2, 3 and 4**.

Map 3. Trail of Tears - Affected Nations, 1832-1839 - National map of Native American Nations affected by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 for **questions 5, 6 and 7**.

Map 4. Water Sources and Distance Traveled – Regional map of the Illinois route of the Trail of Tears with the location of campsites and natural springs accessible within a five-mile radius of the trail indicated for **questions 8, 10 and 12**.

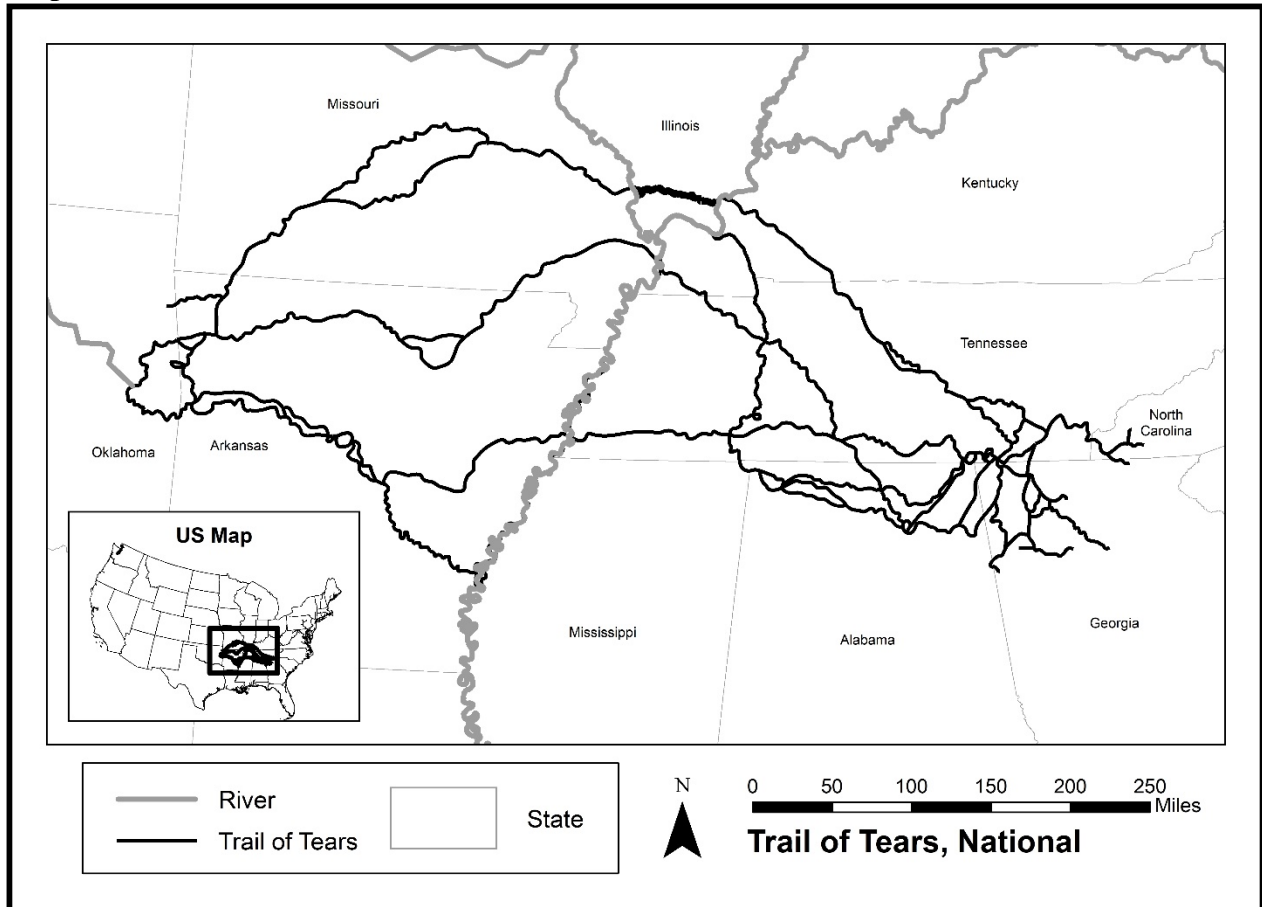
** Students can complete all of the exercises by zooming in and out with the interactive GIS map:*
<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=49a93d78d5754333b921decc642dfdf2>

Natural Springs – Description of natural springs from the Illinois Natural History Survey website.

Butrick Diary – Reverend Daniel S. Butrick traveled with a group of Cherokee people traveling the northernmost route of the Trail of Tears from May 19, 1838 to April 1, 1839 and passed through southernmost Illinois during that winter. (Some grammatical errors have been corrected to support screen-reader technologies.)

The Trail of Tears Maps

Map 1. Trail of Tears, 1838-39

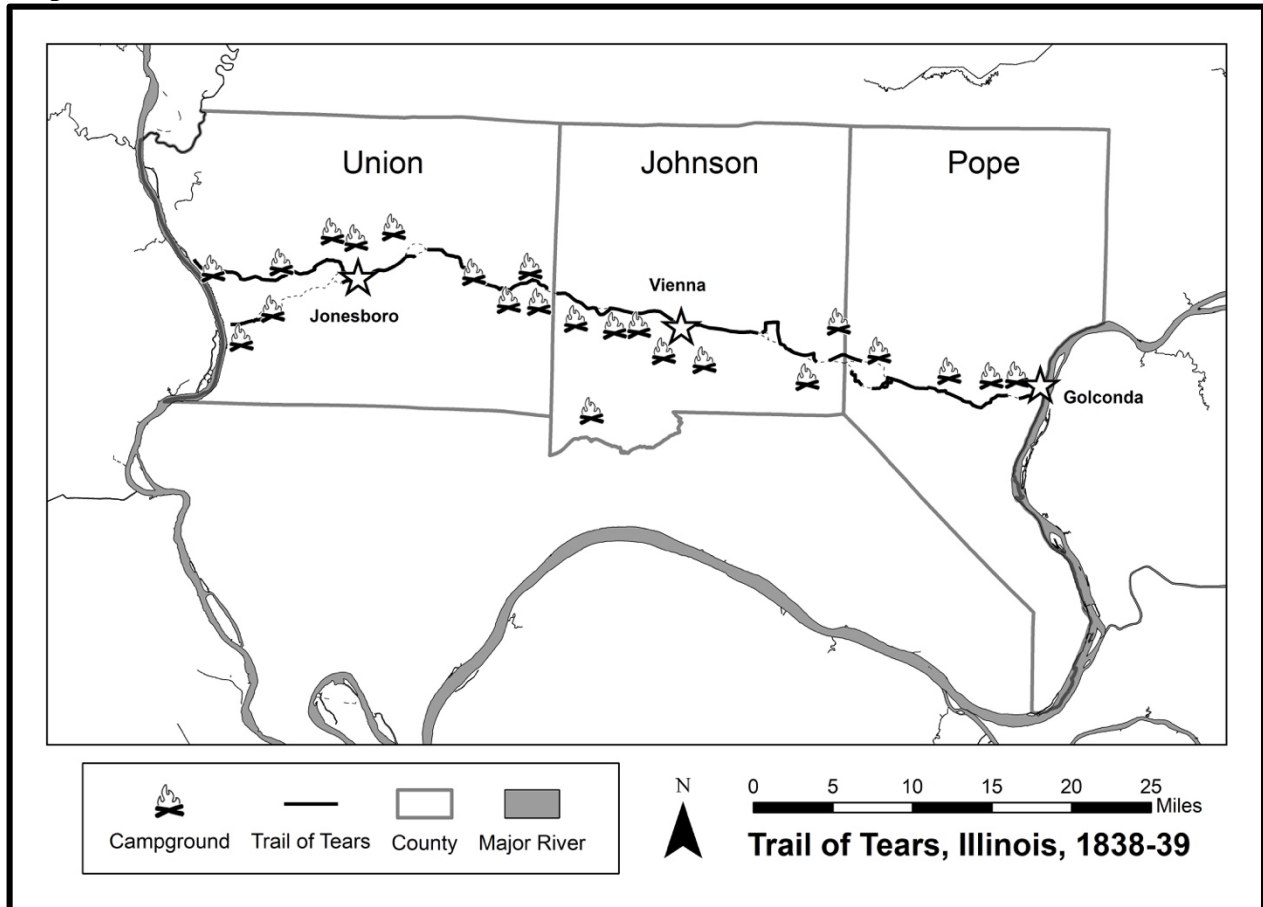


Directions - Complete each portion of the map as follows:

- Trace state boundaries in green
- Trace northernmost route that goes through Southern Illinois Trail of Tears in red
- Trace remaining Trail of Tears routes in pink
- Trace and identify rivers in blue

The Trail of Tears Maps

Map 2: Southern Illinois Trail of Tears

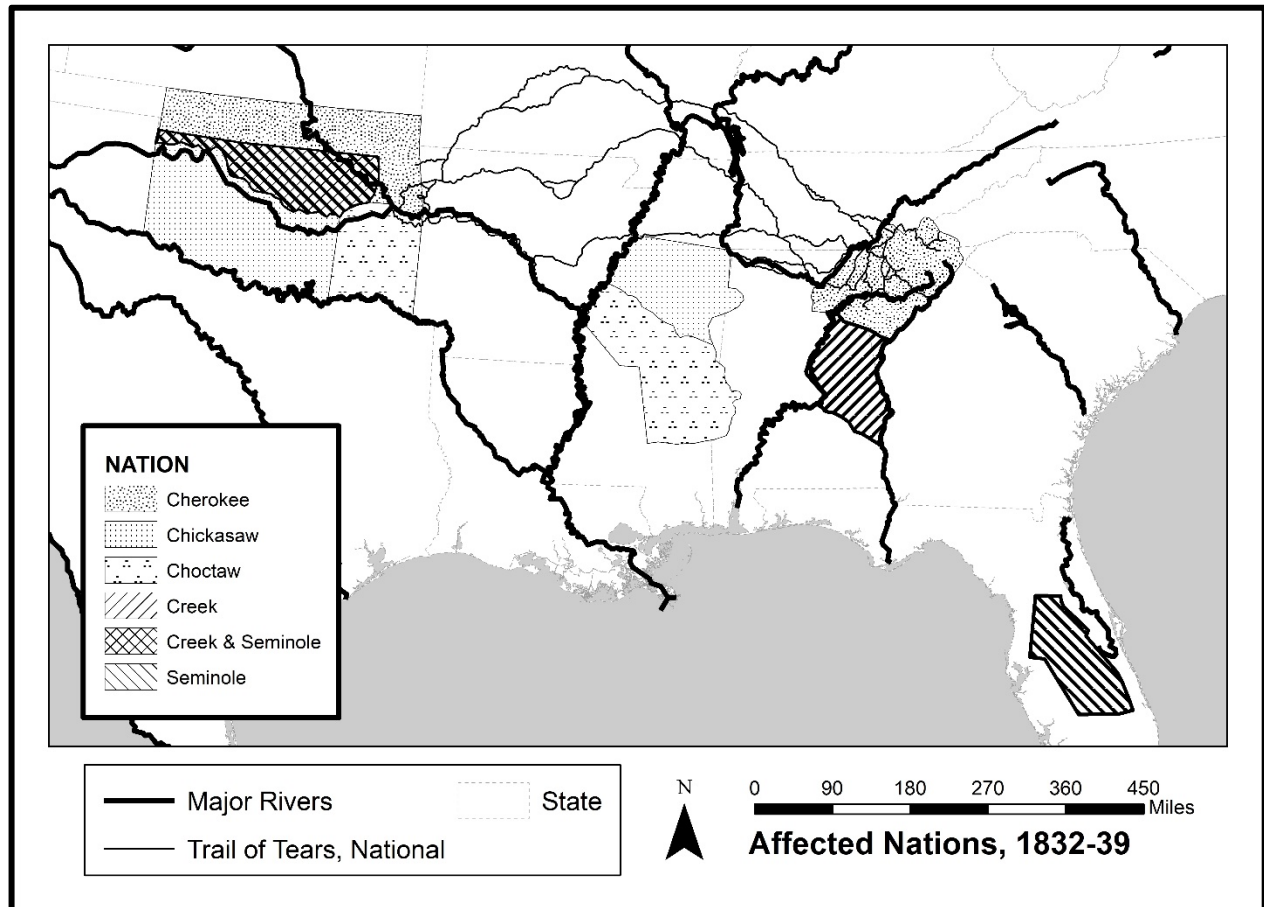


Directions – Complete each portion of the map as follows:

- Trace Trail of Tears routes in red
- Trace the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in blue and label them correctly

The Trail of Tears Maps

Map 3: Trail of Tears: Affected Nations, 1832-1839

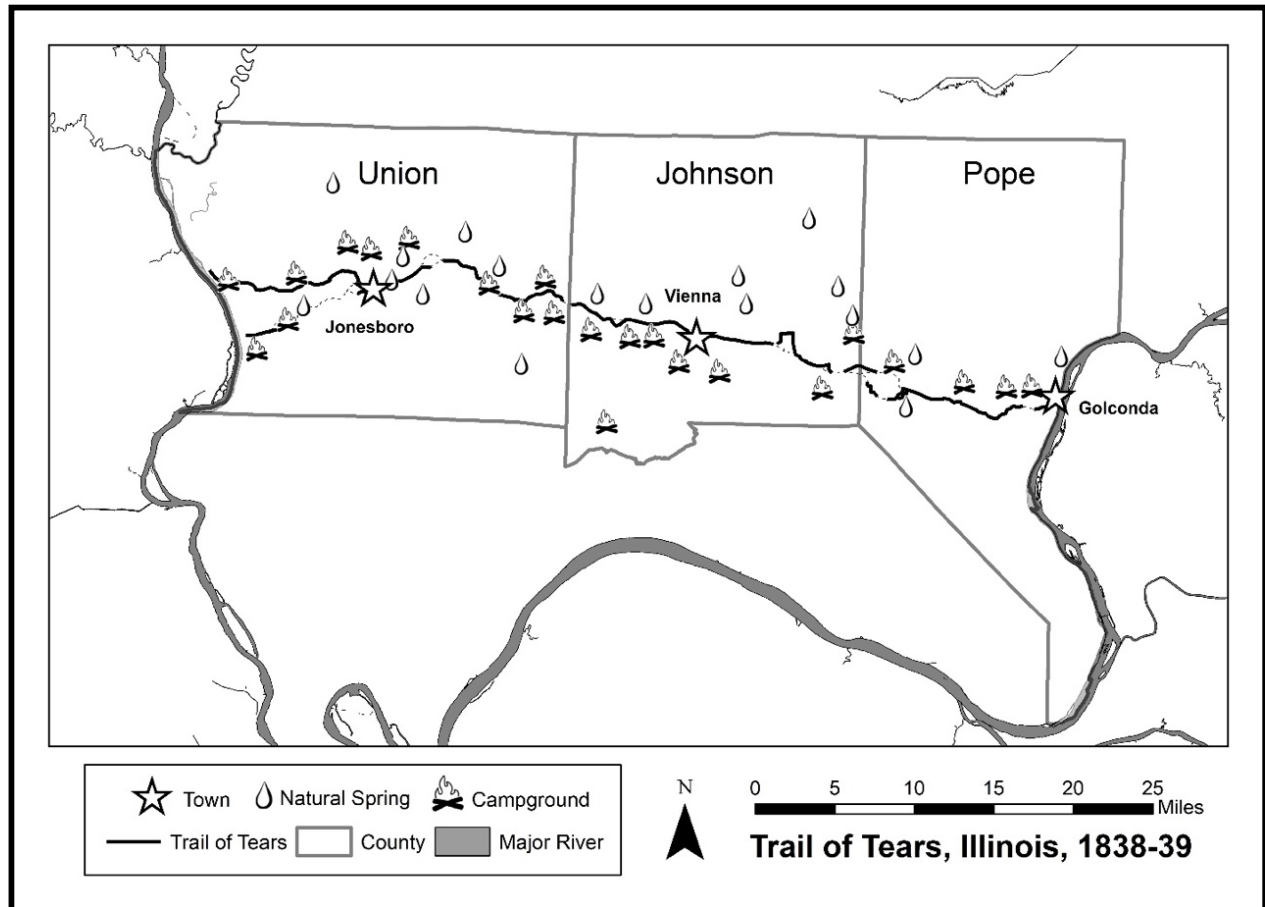


Directions – Complete each portion of the map as follows:

- a. Color Chickasaw area green
- b. Color Choctaw land orange
- c. Color Cherokee land brown
- d. Color Creek area purple
- e. Color Seminole land yellow
- f. Trace Trail of Tears routes in red
- g. Trace rivers blue

The Trail of Tears Maps

Map 4. Water Sources and Distance Traveled



Directions – Complete each portion of the map as follows:

- Trace the trail in red
- Color droplets that represent natural springs purple
- Trace the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in blue and label them correctly
- Mark a line across the trail every 5 miles

Natural Springs

Along with their associated seeps and outflow brooks, springs provide a unique habitat for endemic species (organisms restricted to a localized area) of animals and plants because they usually provide a nearly constant physical and chemical environment. Until recently, little emphasis in Illinois had been given to the study of springs, particularly from the perspective of species richness and endemism in relation to water quality. Past studies of springs generally focused on a selected taxonomic group, but provided minimal water quality information other than water temperature, dissolved oxygen, hydrogen ion concentration (as pH) and alkalinity. Aquatic macroinvertebrates of temperate, cold water areas are dominated by either a non-insectan community (Turbellaria, Annelida, Amphipoda, Isopoda, Gastropoda) or an aquatic insect community (Odonata, Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, aquatic Diptera, Trichoptera, and aquatic Coleoptera). Faunal dominance by non-insect species appears in hard water limestone springs with a pH >7.0 and alkalinity above 25 mg/L (as CaCO₃). Aquatic insects appear to dominate the fauna in both acidic and soft water springs - those with a pH <7.0, and those with an alkalinity below 25 mg/L, respectively. Both types of springs occur in Illinois, providing an opportunity to evaluate the species richness and endemism of aquatic macroinvertebrates in relation to water quality.

Excerpted from: <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/people/mjwetzels/spoilhp/>

Butrick's Diary Entries: Weather Conditions

Monday. [January 14th]

Mr. Hicks detachment started today, and passed us about one mile. Some of his wagons however had been unable to get up on account of the mud. Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment came up within about a mile of us, excepting some wagons mired down in the mud.

Wednesday. [December 26th]

The moving is exceptionally cold. Rode to the encampment, one mile, and found our dear Cherokees comfortable in their tents. Saw Mr. Taylor — he says they will remain today where they are. It is said the detachment now at the Mississippi are stopped by floating ice, and Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment is stopped by the same means at the Ohio R. After breakfast my dear wife accompanied me to the camps, where we put down our tent, prepared wood for the night, but on returning for our carryall found it would be done to sleep in, and therefore we were obliged again to sleep at the house.

Butrick's Diary Entries: Campsites

Saturday. [December 15]

Early in the morning the detachment started for the river, and commenced crossing about 10 o'clock. The weather was pleasant and still, affording us a favorable opportunity for crossing the River. As we were now passing out of a slave state into a free, we reflected on the pleasure of landing where all were in a measure equal and free. But we had scarcely landed when we were met with volleys of oaths from every quarter. I turned to one boat to make a few purchases but heard such awful profaneness within, that I quickly turned away to another. On entering it I had scarcely time to speak to the owner behind the counter, before I was obliged to hear from his unhallowed lips the same infernal language. I told him the cause of my turning from the other boat, and my regret at being compelled to hear the same from his mouth, and urged him to desist from such a practice. On going up from the boats into the village, called Golconda, it seemed to be made up chiefly of groceries, and little boys in the streets had already learned to lisp the infernal language. I almost longed to be back in the still, quiet towns of Kentucky. I would but think of the unhappy fate of Mr. Lovejoy, who fell a victim of the principles of slavery, in a state of nominal freedom. Those of us who crossed first went on to the place designated for camping about a mile and a half from the river. I immediately commenced gathering wood for the Sabbath. Having done this & commenced making preparation for supper, we were told by a white man living near, that that was not the place for camping, but we must go beyond the next plantation. We therefore harnessed & leaving our fire & wood went on with other wagons to the place specified. Here we found a man of Wafford's detachment still on the ground drunk. That company left here this morning. We now again selected a place for our tent & and put it up, and gathered wood for the Sabbath. My dear wife had also made her tea, when word came that we must not camp there, as the owner would not allow the Cherokees to cut or burn any wood. Mrs. Taylor also who was yet behind wished the detachment to farther & camp on public land. It was now nearly dark Saturday night and we were quite tired and hungry, yet we could only prepare for another encampment, about a mile distant. We had now time to prepare wood, but found dry bushes ... (?) near our tent, so as to answer our purpose for the night.

Wednesday. [January 23rd]

We traveled again five miles, and camped two miles beyond Jonesborough. This is a pleasant little village, and its moral character much better than that of any we have seen in the state. The weather is pleasant & in the middle of the day warm.

Butrick's Diary Entries: Travel Along the Trail

Friday and Saturday. [December 28th and 29th]

It is disturbing to reflect on the situation of the nation. One detachment stopped at the Ohio River, two at the Mississippi, one four miles this side, one 16 miles this side, one 18 miles, and one 13 miles behind us. In all these detachments, comprising about 8,000 souls, there is now a vast amount of sickness, and many deaths. Six have died within a short time in Maj. Browns company, and in this detachment of Mr. Taylors there are more or less afflicted with sickness in almost every tent; and yet all are houseless & homeless in a strange land, and in a cold region, exposed to weather almost unknown in their native country. But they are prisoners. True their own chiefs have directly hold of their hands, yet the U. States officers hold the chiefs with an iron grasp, so that they are obliged to lead the people wording to their directions in executing effectually that Schermerhorn treaty.

Wednesday. [December 19th]

We travelled about six miles and camped. Had a comfortable night.

Friday. [December 21st]

We proceeded six miles to a very pleasant spot, to remain till Monday.

Monday & Tuesday. [December 24th & 25th]

Traveled about 15 miles. Tuesday about noon, the lynch pin came out of one end of the fore axletree, — the wheel came off and the end of the axletree, falling on the frozen ground broke, so that we had much trouble to get on to a wagon maker six miles forward. My dear wife had to walk considerably, & I became quite fatigued.

Monday. [January 21st]

After remaining at this place two weeks today we proceeded on our journey four & half miles, where we camped. Here we had a pleasant night. The elements were still & quiet, and the stars sparkled with peculiar luster; and by means of an old tree fallen long ago & broken by the wind, we were furnished with wood. This was peculiarly grateful because I was unable to chop.

Tuesday. [January 22nd]

Today we traveled about five miles, and stopped where Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment had this morning left their fires all burning. I soon gathered wood ready cut, for the night. Here the company before us left one of their number to be buried by her friends, who stopped for the purpose.



The Trail of Tears in Southern Illinois

1. What evidence from Butrick’s diary entries about **weather conditions** supports the following claim? Be sure to explain why this evidence supports the claim. (CCSS.1)

Claim: Weather provided many challenges for the Cherokee people passing through southern Illinois.

2. What information from the maps support Butrick’s statement that flooding and mud made traveling through southern Illinois difficult? Explain why. (CCSS.7)

3. Based on the map locating campsites and the Butrick’s journal entries about **Campsites**, what is the strongest claim that can be supported with evidence? (CCSS.1)

- a. There are fewer campsite locations in Pope county due to the lack of resources.
- b. There are fewer campsite locations in Pope county due to the lack of rivers.
- c. There are more campsite locations in Union county due to the proximity of the Mississippi River.
- d. There are more campsite locations in Union county because the Cherokee were treated better there than in Pope County.



4. What evidence from the journal entries about Campsites best support the claim you chose in the previous question? (CCSS.1)

5. Based on the map that depicts the three major routes (southern, middle, northern) the Cherokee people used when forced to move west, which route or routes traveled through southern Illinois?

6. Based on the map of the U.S., what nation or nations would have benefited from travel along major rivers? Identify the nation(s) and the river(s) they would have likely traveled.

7. Based on the map of the U.S., what nation or nations would have benefited from travel along the ocean? Identify the nation(s) and the river(s) they would have likely traveled.

8. Based on the map of Cherokee campsites, which of the following statements is the strongest claim? (CCSS.1)

- a. Campsites were located near natural springs
- b. Natural springs were not utilized by the Cherokee
- c. Hunting was more important than natural springs to the Cherokee
- d. Natural springs were not important to the Cherokee because they had access to rivers



9. What evidence from the **Natural Springs** source supports the claim you selected for the previous question? Why? (CCSS.1)

10. Based on the map of Cherokee campsites, what is the average distance between campsites?

11. Based on Butrick's entries about **Travel Along the Trail**, how far did the detachment travel between campsites? What evidence supports your conclusion? (CCSS 2.9-10)

12. Based on the map of Cherokee campsites and the entries about **Travel Along the Trail**, do you think the campsites were occupied by the same or different detachments (groups of Cherokee people)? Why? (CCSS.7)
