The Long Walk

40 years ago in 1864, the Yano and the Mescalero Apache were forced by the United States to march over 400 miles and placed in a concentration camp.
Never were the Diné informed of where they were going, why they were being relocated, or how long the journey would take to get there. Stories would be handed down from the ancestors who survived. Stories such as the following heart breaking account...

TRAIL OF TEARS

In June 1838, the first group of Cherokee Indians, led by the Cherokee Council, were forced to leave their land in Georgia. They were given a short time to pack up their belongings and leave. The Cherokee were forced to travel on foot, often with no food or shelter. Many died along the way. The Cherokees consisted of over 15,000 people who were forced to walk 1,200 miles to what is now Oklahoma. The journey was known as the Trail of Tears. It was a difficult and heartbreaking time for the Cherokee people. They were forced to leave their homes and communities, and many died along the way.
**THE TRAIL OF TEARS**

When and Where: Between the years of 1838-1839 it was a forced migration based solely on discrimination by Andrew Jackson’s Indian Removal Policy. The Cherokee nation was forced from their homes east of the Mississippi river to land in present-day Oklahoma. However, the path of the migration went through the following present day states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, and Missouri.

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"I must learn about the birds and the rocks and the trees from books instead of daily interaction with them. This is what the White Man says I must do. And I have no choice but to obey."

—Way-Ough-Gishig (John Ross)

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Carlisle Indian Industrial School, ca. 1890
Before their land got taken away the Cherokees tried to live a life like normal, but now they were forced to move their land even more. The Cherokees had many rights taken away.

The American settlers wanted the land the Cherokees had but once and now found some new land to take the Cherokees land. Andrew Jackson told the Cherokees they will come and take the land in 2 years.

A group led around the American men on their way to Cherokee land to take the land. 7,000 soldiers were on their way to the Cherokee land in the spring of 1838. This would be a bad day for the Cherokee.

The Trail Of Tears began and the American settlers took the Cherokee out of the land to reservations. Since the Cherokee were out of the land the US got the land of the Cherokees.

CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL PROCESS

- The school taught them that they should take Native Americans of any age to be given education.
- The school hired a barber to cut the Native Americans hair.
- The Native Americans then were expected to wear military uniforms.
- School hired a photographer to take pictures of them before and after.
- They spent half the day in academic classes and the other half in trading classes.
Transfer the savage-born infant to the surroundings of civilization, and he will grow to possess a civilized language and habit.

COL. RICHARD H. PRATT, FOUNDER, CARLISLE SCHOOL

Life at Boarding School
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION “code talkers” are shown on the island of Maui, Hawaiian Islands, in 1945, shortly after their return from the invasion of Iwo Jima. They were taking a refresher course in communications before returning to combat, but the war ended soon after this picture was taken. The photograph belongs to Albert Smith of Rehoboth, who is in the picture. Navajo code talkers will be special guests Saturday night in Chicago at the final banquet of the 22nd annual reunion of the Fourth Marine Division Association.
General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area, on an inspection trip of American battle-fronts, met representatives of five different American Indian tribes in one United States Army unit. Left to right: S/Sgt. Virgil Brown (Pima) Phoenix, Arizona; First Sergeant Virgil F. Nowell (Pawnee) of Pawnee, Oklahoma; S/Sgt. Alvin J. Vilcan (Chitimachia) of Charenton, La.; General MacArthur; Sgt. Byron L. Tsiquine (Navajo) of Fort Defiance, Arizona; Sgt. Larry L. Dokin (Navajo) of Copper Mine, Arizona.

(U.S. SIGNAL CORPS PHOTO)
The Original Choctaw Code Talkers (1918)

Solomon Lewis, Mitchell Bobb, Ben Carterby, Robert Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Pete Maytubby, James Edwards, Calvin Wilson
Nihizaad, Nihidziil dóó Nihisihasin
OUR LANGUAGE, OUR STRENGTH AND OUR HOPE

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY
AUGUST 14, 2015
Veterans Memorial Park
Window Rock, Arizona