



## The Trail of Tears

*Joseph Bruchac , Diana Magnuson (Illustrator)*

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Recounts how the Cherokees, after fighting to keep their land in the nineteenth century, were forced to leave and travel 1200 miles to a new settlement in Oklahoma, a terrible journey known as the Trail of Tears.

## The Trail of Tears Details

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ISBN : 9780679890522

Author : Joseph Bruchac , Diana Magnuson (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The Trail of Tears for online ebook

### **Emily Harris says**

For my social studies book I chose The Trail of Tears, by Joseph Bruchac and Illustrated by Diana Magnuson. This book is best for 4th graders, I think it would be too long for children under this grade level. The curriculum connection in this book is social studies because it is talking about a time in history that happened. There may be a little content concern because the book talks about how the white settlers would invade the Native American's homes. This book tells about the true stories and tough times the Cherokee people went through. It gives real history about what the Native Americans went through and it tells about the treaties that were signed as well.

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### **Lauren says**

This book is a detailed account of the Trail of Tears and the Cherokee tribe with illustrations and pictures that keep children interested. History of the European settlements, history and information about the Cherokee and Sequoyah's alphabet are included.

Names and dates are included: John Ross (Chief of Cherokee Nation- Kentucky, Virginia, N./S. Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee), Sequoyah, Thomas Jefferson, gold rush in GA, John Quincy Adams, the Treaty of New Echota, Civil War, Cherokee people today.

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### **Karen says**

Read this before going on our road trip. This brought out the "caring" about history in my kids. We had so many thought provoking discussions over the several days that we spread out reading this book. I would definitely recommend to spread out the readings even though you can read it in one sitting. The impact of hearing the story of the Cherokees will always be felt...krb 8/12/17

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### **Ebookwormy1 says**

This book is filled with problems that make it undesirable for our use. I'm not denying that North American Indians, as well as tribal people all over the world suffered under the advancement of colonialism. However, the clash of cultures and the injustices suffered are far from the unique victim hood claimed. This account doesn't get at the real issues inherent in culture clashes, nor does it make it more understandable for kids.

"What we know as Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, and North Carolina were all once Cherokee land." pg 9 This gives the impression that each state in it's entirety was included in Cherokee nation, whereas in fact, it was PARTS of Virginia, West Virginia, North & South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, not the entire states. This is especially glaring when there is a map below. It seems written to magnify the amount of land involved, nor is there any discussion of the significant challenges in labeling native american land boundaries prior to European intrusion.

"Then the American Revolution was fought between the British and the American colonists. When the war was over, American settlers wanted the land owned by Cherokees" page 12. No mention that the Cherokee sided with the British in the Revolutionary War, nor that losing land is common when nations/ cultures lose a war.

"The Cherokee Nation wanted to live at peace with the United States" page 13. Okay, so we are telling it from the Cherokee perspective. But, no mention is made of the French & Indian War or other conflicts in which Indians took an aggressive role against Americans. Again, I am not saying their was no dispute over the land, but this title is only presenting the Indian side in a way framed "Cherokee as victims."

Pages 13-15 detail the creation of the Cherokee alphabet. "No other person in human history had ever created a new alphabet all alone" page 15. At reading this, I laughed out loud. First of all, the fact that the Cherokee and other Indian tribes DID NOT have written language shows part of the cultural inequity that was being fought out between the Americans and the Indians. Secondly, if the illustrations are to be believed, the Cherokee alphabet uses all sorts of western characters, so it wasn't "created... all alone." Third, we just finished reading "Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille" about his challenges in creating an alphabet for the blind (an alphabet with characters entirely unique). Finally, Christian missionaries all over the world have written down alphabets for and translated literature of tribal people. Hawaii immediately comes to mind, and one can check Wycliffe Bible Translators or New Tribes Missions for more information.

Later sections of the book about struggles within the Cherokee community seem more concerned with accuracy, though still laden with victim language.

I'm disappointed in this book. What is accurate? What is not? My intuition is that in order to use this book, I would have to do a ton of my own research to balance out the perspective and I don't have time for that. I would love to see a work like Paul Robert Walker's "Remember the Alamo" that documents the numerous cultural tensions that lead to the Alamo battle and teases out legend from history by examining what we know and what we don't know about these significant events from our past. "Remember the Alamo" documents the lost battle and pays tribute to those lost in a far more satisfying presentation. In this vein, John Ross is presented in The Trail of Tears as a heroic person from the Cherokee Nation, and I would like to know more about him and how he interacted with the cultural pressures of his time.

While this work closes with a feeble rebuke about broken promises of the white people and an equally feeble tribute to the Cherokee, I came away thinking that literacy, education and technology would have made a crucial difference in the Cherokee ability to document their history, fight the US government, push back the settlers and resist the injustice to which they were subjected.

Remember the Alamo, Walker, 2007  
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### **Timothy says**

The book is related to my text-set topic of Native Americans as it was re-telling the story of the Native Americans as they were forced to move west. We best know this story as the "Trail of Tears."

Genre: Historical non-fiction

This was a very good read for kids in elementary school. I think the ages it was recommended for will find it appropriate. From what I know the book seemed historically accurate! I really enjoyed how the author noted at the beginning of the book that Cherokee writers and storytellers helped with the book! That gives it a lot of credit. This book makes children question the teachings that we have grown to know. I'm glad this story was catered to 2nd-4th graders. It definitely was age-appropriate regarding language and interests. The story could be easily understood. This was a story that included a rich, thick plot, where we saw more problems than resolutions. The Native-Americans in this story found no real resolution as the White men forced them out of their homes. The characters in the book display real and convincing characters because the characters were real people.

I really enjoyed how each illustration matched seamlessly to the words on each page. I feel that is very important in a children's picture book. The description and the pictures were sequenced accordingly and were extremely accurate! I think the story would definitely hold a child's interest as not only was there plenty of conflict (which is most of the time interesting), but it was a true story. Each picture was detailed as they helped to tell the story.

The story consisted of mostly White and Cherokee people. This story will help children understand the brutality that the Native-Americans endured. It will definitely make you think. Most of us only think of the watered down content that schools teach in elementary school. I believed the Cherokee Nation was represented well as the author Joseph Bruchac not only spent a lot of time with Native Americans, but he was one as well. This is an important aspect of this book. The characters were not over-simplified as they seemed very genuine. The story was narrated and we didn't get to see the language use of the Native-Americans. The characters came from a variety of backgrounds to include the differences between the Native-Americans themselves which helps to explain the diversity within the cultural group.

I'd recommend this book as I learned some things myself!

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### **Amelia says**

#### **Must read for everyone**

Great details & age appropriate. It had things I didn't even know. Highly recommend. I will be giving these out the next Holiday.

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### **Wendy Watkins says**

I followed along with my second grader as he read this chapter book. We finished it in only 2 readings, so it was easy for him to understand and keep interested.

We have spent the last few months teaching him about our family's Cherokee heritage, and he just completed a social studies fair project on John Ross and the Trail of Tears. This book had just the right amount of history mixed with story telling.

We visited the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum last week, and he was excited when the book mentioned Sequoyah and his daughter. He stopped reading and wanted to talk about them.

The most difficult part was convincing him that those things really happened. His innocent mind had a hard

time understanding, even after spending so much time on his school project. I saw the moment it finally clicked about halfway through this book when he paused, and I could see sadness in his eyes. Many of the resources we have been looking at, even those for children, had too much content to keep an interest. There are some very graphic animated clips on YouTube that I did not allow him to see at this age. As soon as the book was over, he asked if we could download more of the Step Into Reading History Readers.

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### **McKenna Banks says**

This is a nonfiction step into reading book about the history of Native American Indians. It talks about why the Indians were forced to move, who made the decisions, and what the Indians felt about it. I really liked this book. It is for grades two to four as it was a pretty lengthy picture book. It sums up the entire history of native americans. I could use this book as an independent reader or in a unit on native americans.

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### **Xyqs says**

A history reader series. Fun to read and easy for young readers.

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### **Jim Sibigtroth says**

OK but it really bothers me that America treated an entire indigenous people so badly. Imagine what they could have accomplished if we could have lived with them and learned from them instead of exiling them to reservations.

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### **Heather Gray says**

Type of book- picture

literary genre- non- fiction

Awards- none

Summary- This is the story of the Cherokee Indians and how gold was discovered on their land and after failed attempts to work with the government to stay on their land, they were forced off it and forced to move to other states like Oklahoma in the middle of a winter with only \$82 dollars worth and very little resources to make it through the winter. Many of these people died along the way from starvation, cold, and sicknesses.

Critiques- I liked this book because it did a very good job describing the events that led up to the trail of tears and the migration itself, however, it was very long and could have been condensed.

Prompts- Why were they forced to move? How would you have felt if you had to leave your homes? What would you buy with your money the government gave you if you had to march? Why did many people die? Craft elements for a lesson plan- I used this book to talk about the Trail of Tears during my Cherokee and Creek Indian unit.

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## **Lauren Anglin says**

1) Book summary, in your own words (3 pts)

This book tells the story of the trail of tears in a way that is very clear and understandable. It gets you away from a lecture out of a textbook and makes learning social studies more enjoyable.

2) Grade level, interest level, lexile (1 pt)

5th grade

3) Appropriate classroom use (subject area) (1 pt)

social studies

4) Individual students who might benefit from reading (1 pt)

Struggling learners having a hard time understanding that the trail of tears was

5) Small group use (literaturecircles) (1 pt)

none

6) Whole class use (read aloud) (1 pt)

read aloud during a lesson about the trail of tears

7) Related books in genre/subject or content area (1 pt)

none

8) Multimedia connections (audio book, movie) available (1 pt)

none

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## **Koorihime-sama says**

*I OWN A SINGLE COPY.*

*BOUGHT AT AMAZON.COM.*

Review/Rating:

*3 out of 5*

Through simple explanation, the author explains the history behind the Trail of Tears and the challenges that the Cherokee Nation faced during this time period. Chief of the Cherokee Nation, John Ross, and his people (17,000) must leave their homes and go west. During this trying time period and journey, a lot of deaths and hardships will befall them.

The information given is pretty much interesting, which one of the reasons why I like the book, and even some of it that I don't even remember. The hardships that they are faced and the history facts are not really watered down, but phrased in a way that won't have your kids ask questions you wouldn't really want to answer when they are still kind of young. If your kids doesn't understand that we have done bad things in the past, you might have some explaining to do. Now some of the interesting information they give are about Cherokee legends of how their people came to be, the legend of the Cherokee Rose, which is thought to come from the Trail of Tears, the Cherokee written language and the newspaper, and some other pieces of information. Basically, it is kind of like a miniature history book with fun and interesting information, but I wouldn't count on it for tests and things like that. Why? Because most schools depend on their history books for making tests. It's also great if you want to give a head start for your kids about the subject before they

start on it in school. Another reason why I like this book is because of the illustrations inside the book. They are some pretty, and I liked looking at some of them. :D

The only thing I didn't like the book is the fact that it is non-fiction and why mostly boring in some of the parts, which is the main reason why I rated this book a 3 out of 5. I would have liked the book better if they had a little bit more non-fiction in it like the Dear America books (you know towards the end with all the images and explanations). However, it is a good little book that will tell your kids about the Trail of Tears before they learn it in school.

I would recommend this book for kids who are having difficult time learning about the Trail of Tears and need a little bit easy way of explaining the basics of what happened during that time. However, I wouldn't depend solely on it for their school projects. I would recommend this book for kids who are having difficult time learning about the Trail of Tears and need a little bit easy way of explaining the basics of what happened during that time. However, I wouldn't depend solely on it for their school projects. Also, make sure you read it with them because some of the words they will have trouble with like the Cherokee language, some state names, some of the names, and that's pretty much it. But, it is pretty much easy to understand.

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### **Leticia Martinez says**

This book was the book I selected for the Historical Fiction book selection. It is on a reading level for children in second grade through forth grade. I selected this book because it talks about the Cherokee Nation back in 1838 and how they were the first settlers in this country and they had to leave their territory. Also, I find it easy to read, the story matches the illustrations, but it gives a narrow history story.

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### **Adam Clavey says**

The Trail of Tears tell the historical account of Indian removal in America. The book focuses on John Ross and his work in fighting against Indian removal. This book is good because it is accurate and tell the story without bias. This book is able to take a hard issue and make is digestible for children. I would have students between grades two and four read this book. This book reveals some of the darker history of America but also tells the a story of hope and how the Cherokees flourished against opposition.

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