

SUPPORT MATERIALS FOR USE WITH STUDENTS  
**STUDENT BACKGROUND ESSAY**  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & VOCABULARY

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

After watching the [American Indian Textiles](#) video and reading the background essay **About American Indian Textiles**, consider these questions:

1. What have you learned about how the Native peoples of Kentucky created textiles? What else would you like to learn? How could you find answers to your questions?
2. Did you recognize the names of any of the plants used for fibers or for dyeing textiles? Which ones? What do you know about these plants and how they were used? How could you find out more? (If you wish, you might watch the [Natural Resources](#) video segment to refresh your memory).
3. What do you know about the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Trail of Tears (see map below)? What else would you like to learn? How could you find answers to your questions?
4. What is a compelling question related to the forced emigration of Eastern Woodlands peoples from their homelands? What research would help you to answer it? What sources might you use? (A compelling question is one that does not have an easy answer; one that is open to interpretation and invites students to pursue inquiry and develop a claim backed-up by facts and evidence).
5. What is a skill that you have learned from an older person in your family or community? How did they learn the skill?
6. Watch the [Cultural Reflections](#) video segment. What did Mr. Kingfisher learn from his elders? Where did they learn this skill?
7. Is it important to pass on traditional skills? Why or why not?
8. What is a compelling question related to cultural traditions? What research would help you to answer it? What sources might you use?

## VOCABULARY

**artifact:** objects made or modified by humans

**perishables:** objects that decay over time; typically made from organic materials, like plants and animals

**textiles:** objects woven from two distinct sets of elements (cordage or yarn) – a warp and weft

**fiber:** a single piece of plant material or animal fur. It is usually long, with a roughly round cross-section. A fiber is often twisted with other fibers to make yarn or thread.

**bast fibers:** flexible fibers obtained from the stems of plants

**cordage/yarn:** bundles of twisted fiber, usually plied together

**plied yarn:** two or more bundles of twisted fiber that are then twisted together, usually in the direction opposite to their initial twist

**twining:** a weaving technique in which the weaver twists two yarns together (wefts) around a third perpendicular yarn (warp)

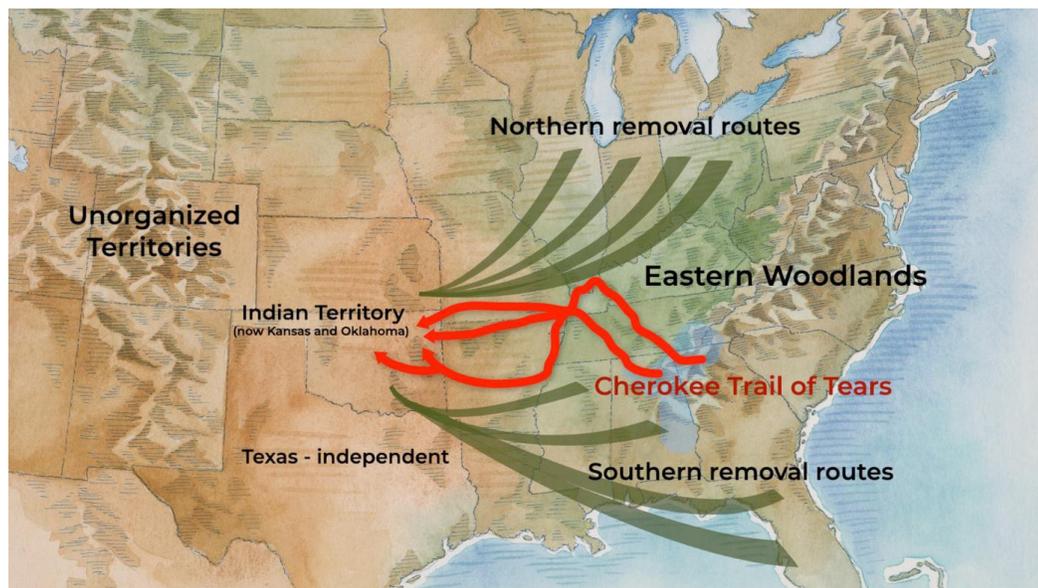
**plaiting:** a weaving technique in which the weaver passes yarns over and under each other

**twill pattern:** a plaiting technique where a pattern is created by changing the number of times yarns pass over and under each other

**warp:** vertical elements in a textile

**weft:** horizontal elements in a textile

## Removal of Eastern Woodlands American Indians Map



*Map from the American Indian Textiles video, illustrating the routes by which the federal government removed Native peoples from their homelands westward to Indian Territory.*