



Worcester v. Georgia:

Legal Question(s) this case helped answer:

Does a state have the power to pass laws concerning sovereign Indian nations?

Background/Summary of Court Case:

Worcester v. Georgia began on February 20th of 1832, after small amounts of gold was discovered in Georgia. As the United States expanded west, white settlers wanted Native American land. In 1832, seventh president Andrew Jackson passed the Indian Removal Act. This law gave the federal government permission to forcefully remove Native Americans from their land.

The court case Worcester v. Georgia was filed by a man named Worcester who claimed that his family's forced removal was a violation of his constitutional rights. He believed the state of Georgia over-stepped their boundaries, for they did not have the power to enforce the law within the Native land. Worcester v. Georgia was decided on March 3rd of 1832 by the United States Supreme Court.



Importance of the Case:

In 1832 Andrew Jackson passed the Indian Removal Act. This act led to the forced removal of Native Americans from their homeland. The Cherokee Indian tribe took their case to the Supreme Court.



The Supreme Court ruled that that the Cherokees were a sovereign nation and had rights to their lands. Andrew Jackson forced the Cherokees to be removed anyway. This force removal of the Native Americans from their homeland was called the Trail of Tears.