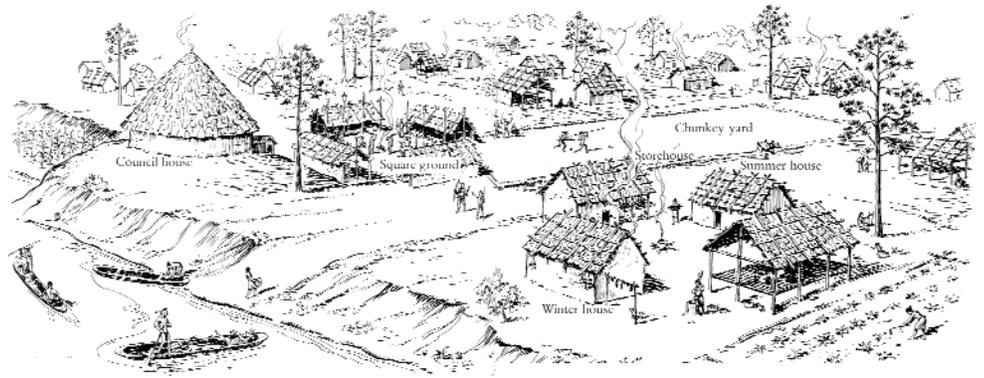


THE CREEK NATION



The Creek nation was formed when several small tribes reorganized themselves after many of their people died from diseases brought over by the Europeans. These people were called the Creek Indians because they liked to live near streams and creeks. They were an agricultural tribe and they liked the soft, fertile soil that was found in river valleys because it was easy to dig and plant in it.

The Creek nation lived primarily in Alabama and Georgia. The Creeks that lived in Georgia made up a much smaller number than those who lived in Alabama. The Creeks that lived in Georgia were located primarily along the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers and are known as the Lower Creeks. The Creeks lived in villages called *Italwas*.

Every Creek town had a ceremonial or political center where meetings would take place. The center of town was surrounded by the homes of the people living there. These homes were usually made from logs and

plastered with clay on the outside. The towns were divided by clans. The Creek clans included the Wind, Bird, Alligator and Bear clans. Although people belonged to different clans, they still united under their common Creek heritage.

The men and women had different roles in town. Women grew crops like corn, beans and squash. The men fished and hunted bear, deer, turkey, and buffalo. Men were also involved in the political ceremonies of the town.

The town square also served as a playing field for games like chunkey and stickball. Chunkey was a game played with two people. The players carry eight foot poles that are flat at both ends and chase after the smooth stone that one player rolled down the field. The point of the game was to throw the pole as close to the disk as possible.

By 1836, the Creeks were forced off their lands in Alabama and Georgia and went to what is now Oklahoma.

Let's Review

1. Where did the Creek Indians live? _____
2. Name two games played by the Creek Indians? _____
3. When were the Creek Indians forced off their land? _____