

# Summary: The Chickasaw, Shawnee, and Creek

## The Chickasaw

The Chickasaw came from settlements in other states. They claimed the land in West and Middle Tennessee for hunting. At first, they did not make a settlement but lived in hunting camps. The Chickasaw used more than just the meat of the animals they hunted. They used animal bones, skin, and fur to make tools, clothes, and boots.

Each Chickasaw family had two houses. A summer house had walls of woven mats. The mats let breezes inside that made the house cool. Their winter house had thick walls that kept the cold winter air out.

The Chickasaw had a council house for meetings and religious ceremonies. They used the open space outside the council house for games. One ball game they played was like lacrosse. The Chickasaw named the game “brother to war” because it was played as a way to settle disagreements between towns.

## The Shawnee and Creek

The Shawnee met their needs by hunting on land claimed in Middle Tennessee. They hunted deer, bear, and turkey. But, the Cherokee and the Chickasaw also claimed Middle Tennessee. Often there would be a conflict over which American Indian group owned the land. When the groups met, their conflicts could turn into fights.

The Shawnee built homes called longhouses. Their villages had a council house that was used for meetings and ceremonies. One of the most important Shawnee ceremonies was the Bread Dance. In the spring, the Bread Dance celebrated women for their farming. In the fall, the Bread Dance honored men’s successful hunts.

The Creek Indians lived near the place where Chattanooga is today. They hunted animals and gathered fruit, roots, nuts, and herbs. The Creek Indians also grew pumpkins, corn, squash, and beans.

Today, the Chickasaw, Shawnee, and Creek have their own governments. These American Indian groups work to protect their land and people.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**settlement** *noun*, a small community of people living in a new place

**conflict** *noun*, a disagreement



### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why did the Chickasaw claim land in Tennessee? Draw a box around the sentence that answers the question.

**REVIEW** Where in Tennessee did the Creek live? Highlight the sentence that tells where the Creek Indians settled in Tennessee.