AMERICANS
Indians are in this country's DNA and have shaped it from the beginning.
Indians everywhere
Images matter
HI-YU APPLES
Calumet
TRAIL
RANCHERIA
Santa Fe
COWBOYS & INDIANS COOKIES

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American Indian or Native American?
Throughout the exhibition you'll notice these terms. Both are acceptable. Many prefer Native, Indigenous, or, better yet, the name of their specific nation. This exhibition mainly uses Indian.
NATIVE AMERICAN
GAME OF TEN LITTLE INDIANS
ARROW MOTEL
MASSASOIT COFFEE
THE SLEEPY EYE MILLS
SLEEPY EYE CREAM

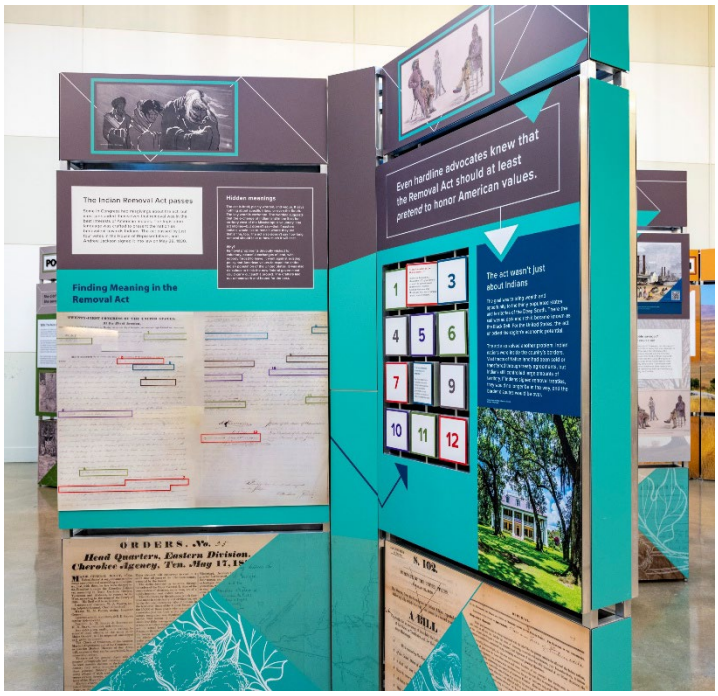
THANKSGIVING
It was no picnic.
You think you know the story, but ...
EXIT

THE BATTLE
POCAHONTAS
She didn't save John Smith. She saved America.
TRAIL of TEARS
Indians are in this country's DNA and have shaped it from the beginning.
Indians everywhere
HI-YU APPLES
AME

POCAHONTAS
She didn't save John Smith. She saved America.
1616: The face of America
Jamestown
Presenting Pocahontas
The brief life of Pocahontas
1613
Face of the New World
Pride and prejudice
Savior of Virginia, founder of America

Pocahontas
Famous for 400 years and counting
There's no one else like Pocahontas in American history. No other Indian is seen as one of the nation's founders. Since its beginning, the country has been fascinated, conflicted, and shaped by her.
Each generation of Americans has looked to Pocahontas for inspiration. During the Civil War, some Virginians fought for the Confederacy under a flag which included her image. Abolitionists wrote anti-slavery tracts in her name. Counties, towns, and parks are named in her honor. Military vessels have sailed under her name. And Pocahontas is among the few women honored in the U.S. Capitol rotunda.
1787
1809
1862
1887
1916
1858
2007
1957
1996
2019
1995
2014
1885
2017
"Hate Indians? Why should he or anybody else hate Indians? I admire Indians. ... When I think of Pocahontas, I am ready to love Indians."
The legend of Pocahontas
"Pocahontas, the Kings most deare and well-beloved daughter, being but a child of twelve or thirteene yeares of age ... at the minute of my execution, she hazarded the beating out of her owne braines to save mine ..."
—John Smith, The Generall Historie of Virginia, 1624

TRAIL of TEARS
Not what you think.
Not even close.
1830: Democracy at a crossroads
Fifty years after the American Revolution, the United States passed the Indian Removal Act. One result was the forced relocation of the Cherokee in 1838, which became known as the Trail of Tears.
The act imagined the United States without Indians. It proposed that those living inside the country's boundaries should leave. It promised them payment and new land west of the Mississippi.
Supporters argued that it was humanitarian. Opponents said it betrayed democratic values. The logistics took decades. The effort cost millions of dollars and thousands of Indian lives. It also reshaped the country.
Removal was nearly forgotten for generations. The nation is still coming to terms with what happened and what it means.
A BILL
The Indian Removal Act remains one of the boldest and most staggering laws in American history.
A new country
Nations within a nation


The Indian Removal Act passes
Hidden meanings
Finding Meaning in the Removal Act
Even hardline advocates knew that the Removal Act should at least pretend to honor American values.
The act wasn't just about Indians
1
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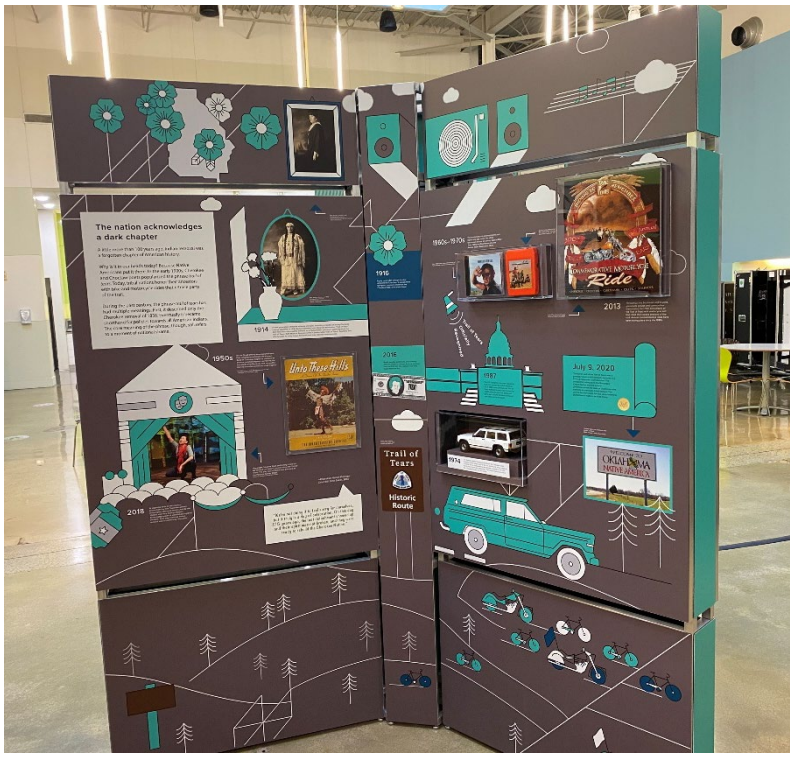
ORDERS. No.
Head Quarters, Eastern Division, Cherokee Agency, Tenn. May 17, 18
S. 102.
A BILL

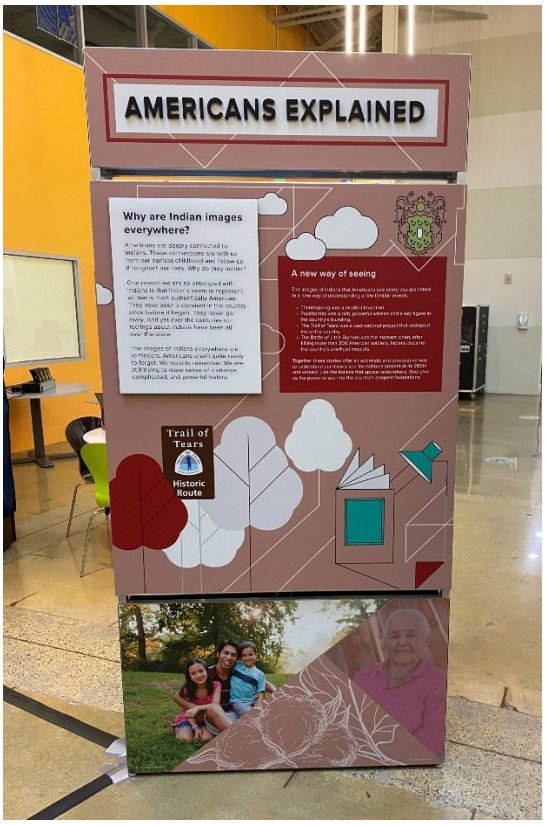
BRUTAL
BUSINESS
new vision for the cou
TRAIL OF TEARS
Not civilized enough
Ride
2013
July 8, 2020


The nation acknowledges a dark chapter
1914
1950s
Unto These Hills
2018
1916
1960s–1970s
Trail of Tears
Historic Route
1974
1987
2016
Indian Child Welfare Act
July 9, 2020
2013
Ride

HE BATTLE
OF
LITTLE BIGHORN
? It's complicated.
Why has this country so vividly remembered a lost battle for more than a century?
Smithsonian
EXHIBI
DEVELOP
DESIGN
The Pahe Sapa
Wóchʼąąʼ: A Lakota way of life
Generosity, fortitude, bravery, wisdom

The Battle of Little Bighorn through Native eyes
A shock to the nation
The making of a stereotype
Why remember a lost battle?
THE MASSACRE.
How the News of It Was Received in Heaven.
THE DAILY CRITIC
TRIBUNE EXTRA

The Battle of Little Bighorn through Native eyes
The making of a stereotype
Why remember a lost battle?
The Battle of Little Bighorn marks the moment when Plains Indians, once a feared enemy, became a symbol of the country itself.
Wild west


AMERICANS EXPLAINED
Why are Indian images everywhere?
A new way of seeing
Trail of Tears
Historic Route

"Mail" a postcard!