We Shall Remain: Trail of Tears (PBS Documentary)

Chapter One, A Civilized Life ( John Ross- Preserving the Cherokee Nation)

1. Compare the Cherokee nation of John Ridge’s youth to that of 1805. What forces threatened his people?
2. What was the U.S. government policy of “civilization” and how was it introduced to the Cherokees?
3. John Ross was a mixed-blood Cherokee. Describe the various types of people that entered his family’s store.

Chapter Two, Among the White People

1. What was Major Ridge’s hope for the future?
2. Where were John Ridge and Elias Boudinot sent to be educated? What did the assimilated John Ridge tell President James Monroe in his essay?
3. What did John Ridge do to win over Sarah’s parents and what was the community response in Cornwall to their marriage?

**Chapter Three, Cherokee Nation on the Rise**

1. What pressures did John Ross see threatening the Cherokee Nation? What was his reaction to these pressures?
2. Who among the Cherokees owned slaves?
3. How did the lives of traditional Cherokees differ from that of the Ridge family?

1. What did Sequoyah do that no one had ever done before
2. In the 1820s how did the Cherokee nation rise and prosper?
3. What were some of the elements of the Cherokee constitution that John Ross authored in 1827?

**Chapter Four, "I Ask You, Shall Red Men Live?" (Andrew Jackson and the Indian Removal Bill)**

1. What was President Andrew Jackson’s first priority and how did he accomplish it?
2. What happened after the Indian Removal Bill passed? How did the state of Georgia respond?
3. Newly elected as Principal Chief, John Ross rewrote the blood law. What was its purpose?
4. The Cherokees filed more than a dozen suits in federal court; two made it to the Supreme Court. What was the question at the center of those two cases?
5. What happened in Worcester v. Georgia? Which Chief Justice of the Supreme Court wrote the opinion?
6. John Ridge visited Andrew Jackson at the White House and asked the president if he would force Georgia to comply with the Supreme Court order. What was Jackson’s reply?

Chapter Five, The Scent of Blood (Rift among Cherokees)

1. What choice did the Ridges make that set them against John Ross?

Chapter Six, Two Years to Leave (Ridge faction signs treaty; Ross petitions to overturn it)

1. What treaty did the Ridge faction negotiate in defiance of Chief Ross and the National Council? Why did they do this?
2. Ross presented to the Senate a petition to overturn the treaty. What happened to it on the Senate floor?

Chapter Seven, Trail of Tears (The forced migration, revenge, death and loss)

1. When the majority of Cherokee would not leave their land after the removal deadline passed, how did the U.S. and Georgia governments respond?
2. What does Russell G. Townsend say is a “stain...upon our national honor”?
3. What ultimately happened to many members of the Ridge faction?