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The Story of Territorial Kansas

Worksheet 4: Native Territory

Before Europeans settled in America, these lands were home to many Native American tribes. As the United States government acquired more and more land, life began to change dramatically for the Indians.

In 1825, federal government policy forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River, to unsettled lands. They were moved to make room for American settlers. Over thirty tribes were moved to the land that would become Kansas, known as Indian Territory. They dislocated other tribes, such as the Kansa, Osage, and Pawnee, who had been here for hundreds of years already. The Native Americans were told that the land would belong to them forever.

To aid the Indians, missionaries settled with the relocated Indian tribes. They set up schools hoping to convert the Native Americans to a new way of life. Some Indians didn't want to change from their traditional ways while others accepted help from the missionaries.

In 1854 Kansas Territory opened for settlement and the Native Americans were once again forced to move. Indian nations left their reservations in Kansas for land in Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. By the 1870s large numbers of Native Americans were removed from Kansas.

Today four Indian reservations remain in Kansas—the Iowa, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and Sac and Fox. Native Americans of various tribal affiliations also reside in the cities and towns of the state.

Complete the Timeline Activity

Read the story to find the historic events that occurred at the dates listed on the timeline. Write your answers below each date to create a timeline of Native American history in Kansas.

1600	1825	1854	1870	Present
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

