

Primary Source

# *Cherokee Phoenix* on Farming Methods

*As Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia increased pressure on the Cherokees to move west of the Mississippi, the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper published essays and letters that defended Native Americans' rights and opposed removal. The following excerpt is taken from a Cherokee Phoenix editorial printed in April 1830, while Congress was debating the Indian Removal Act. The editorial rejects the notion that the Southern tribes were savage or uncivilized.*

Whoever really believes that the Cherokees subsist on game, is most wretchedly deceived, and is grossly ignorant of existing facts. *The Cherokees do not live upon the chase*, but upon the fruits of the earth produced by their labour. We should like to see any person point to a single family in this nation who obtain their clothing and provisions by hunting. *We know of no one.* We do not wish to be understood as saying that they do not hunt—they do hunt some, probably, about as much as white people do in new countries, but they no more depend upon this occupation for living than new settlers do. Game has been nearly extinct for the last thirty years, and even previous to that, when the Cherokees depended upon the chase for subsistence, they were obliged to obtain their full supply of meat and skins out of what is now the limits of this nation. Cut off the last vestige of game in these woods, and you cannot starve the Cherokees—they have plenty of corn, and domestic animals, and they raise their own cotton, and manufacture their own clothing.

**Source:** *Cherokee Phoenix*, April 21, 1830.