

Creek

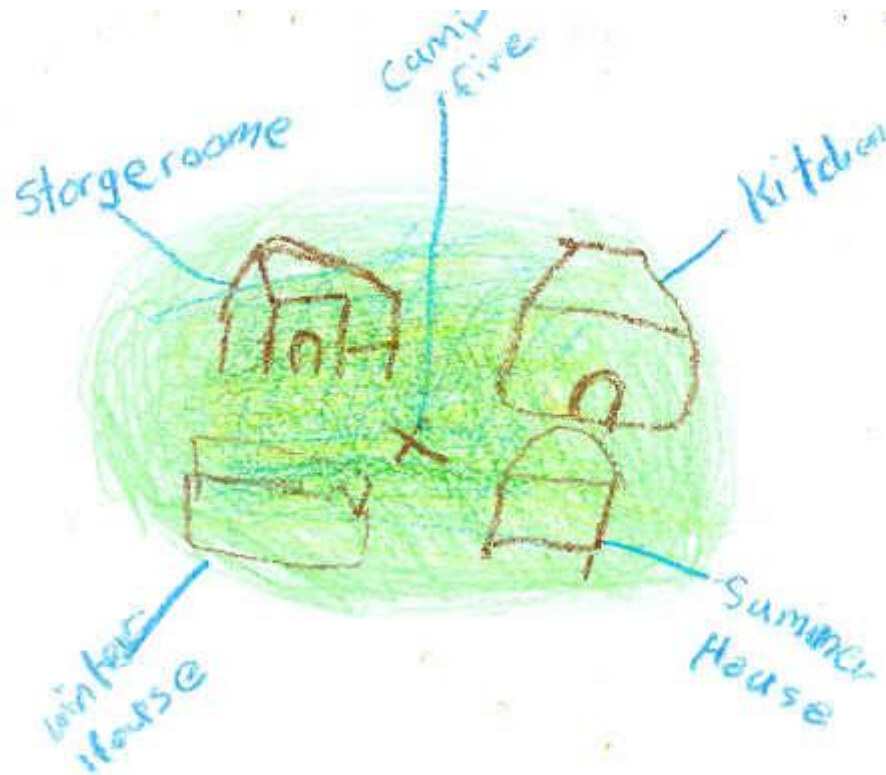
By **MARISELA**



The Creeks rebelled, but suffered yet another crushing blow in the Creek War, at the end of which they were defeated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (1814). The United States' price for peace was more land – 22 million additional acres of Creek territory. Then in 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act by whose terms the Creeks were moved west of the Mississippi River. Within ten years, all Creeks had been forced off the lands where they lived for centuries. This is the story of the Creeks.



Creeks villages reflected the Creeks style of life. When the Creeks were not at war, their life revolved around farming, hunting, fishing, and game playing. At the center of each village was a playing field. Around the field, the Creeks built their houses and council buildings. Beyond the houses were great planting fields. The playing field in the center of the village was used for special festivals such as the Green Corn Ceremony and for games. In the center of the field stood a 40-foot tall pole.



Games were almost as important to Creeks life as farming, hunting, and fishing. The location of the playing fields attests to the significance Creeks attached to games. Games were hardly ever just frivolous play. Most of them taught the Creeks valuables, life-sustaining skills, and they were practiced for real combats. Sometimes the games were almost as bloody as the actual battles. One stickball game was even called “the little brother of war”. It was a team sport similar to our modern game of Lacrosse. Every player carried two sticks, each 2-3 feet long with a deerskin pocket at one end. The game was played with a ball made of animal hair rolled up tightly and wrapped in deerskin.

