1. *Cherokee Nation - cherokee.org + history*

“Today, the Cherokee Nation is the largest tribe in the United States with more than 450,000 tribal citizens worldwide. More than 141,000 Cherokee Nation citizens reside within the tribe’s reservation boundaries in northeastern Oklahoma.”

“Successive treaties with the British Crown and the United States reduced the Cherokee Nation’s original territory until, by 1817, the remaining Cherokee lands covered an area consisting of southwestern North Carolina, southeastern Tennessee, northeastern Alabama and northern Georgia. Pressure to relinquish even more land within the Nation’s diminished territory was unrelenting. In 1817, enticed by agents of the United States, some residents of Cherokee towns in what is now far northwestern South Carolina and northern Georgia abandoned what remained of the Cherokee homelands and voluntarily opted to migrate west of the Mississippi. These Cherokees migrated first to lands located in what is now Arkansas and then, in 1828, farther west to a reservation established by treaty for the Cherokee Nation in what is today eastern Oklahoma.”

“Because the vast majority of Cherokee people refused to voluntarily abandon their ancestral homelands despite the Treaty of New Echota, the United States, in 1838, deployed troops under General Winfield Scott to forcibly round up the Cherokee people into relocation camps and from there remove them overland to the Reservation west of the Mississippi on what would come to be known as the Trail of Tears. Some 4,000 Cherokees who were forcibly removed from their homes (about one-fourth of the population) perished in camps or along the Trail of Tears.”

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2. *Access Genealogy - Cherokee DNA*

“The American Society of Human Genetics has not certified any DNA test markers to be associated with a particular Southeastern American Indian tribe. The technique for creating indigenous DNA markers is to sample a statistically reliable number of “ethnically pure” members of a tribe than average their DNA profiles. Since the people who met the first European explorers on the shores of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific are genetically not the same people calling themselves Native Americans today, it is a very difficult task. Virtually, no citizen of a federally recognized Southeastern tribe could maintain their membership, if it was based solely on the DNA profiles of pre-Spanish Conquest individuals.”

“Several commercial DNA labs for years have been trying to identify a pattern of DNA markers that would prove Cherokee ancestry. The reason is that perhaps over a million Americans claim Cherokee ancestry. There is big money to be had in people who think that their great-grandmother was a Cherokee Princess.”
