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**Source:** Theda Perdue and Michael Green, *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History and Documents*, 2005.

**Note:** The Cherokee Nation included the northwest corner of the territory claimed by Georgia and thereby blocked Georgia's access to the Tennessee River, which emptied into the Ohio and Mississippi. Georgia's full potential could never be reached until it could tap that vast inland market. Wilson Lumpkin, governor between 1831 and 1835, became an enthusiast for the construction of railroads to link the agricultural heartland of the state to the river network of the north and west. But nothing could be done as long as the Cherokees remained in place.

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### Document Analysis

1. In 1835, who owned the land in northwest Georgia?
2. Why did Governor Wilson Lumpkin want to build a railroad in northwest Georgia?
3. How does the Tennessee River connect to the Gulf of Mexico?
4. Why would access to the Tennessee River be important for the farmers of Georgia?
5. How does this document help answer question, The Trail of Tears: Why were the Cherokees removed?