

Protecting What Is Sacred Discussion Questions

1. Archaeologists have been digging up the remains of indigenous people for years to better understand their history and cultural practices. Why are Chickasaws opposed to people digging up the remains of their ancestors?
2. If it was important for Chickasaws to protect their ancestors, why did they leave their homelands?
3. Why was it important for the Chickasaws to have a good relationship with the National Park Service and the Natchez Trace Parkway? What was gained?
4. What does the Chickasaw Nation do with human remains and objects they repatriate?
5. What are some of the more important sites on the Natchez Trace? How are they protected?
6. How did the Columbian Exchange affect the Chickasaws and their cultural beliefs?
7. Why did the federal government want to separate Chickasaws from their ancestral lands?
8. What happens when the origin of an object or human remains cannot be determined? Does a Native American tribe still repatriate it?
9. Why did so many Chickasaws live along the Natchez Trace prior to the 1830s?
10. Why do Chickasaw citizens today feel connected to the Mississippian homelands?