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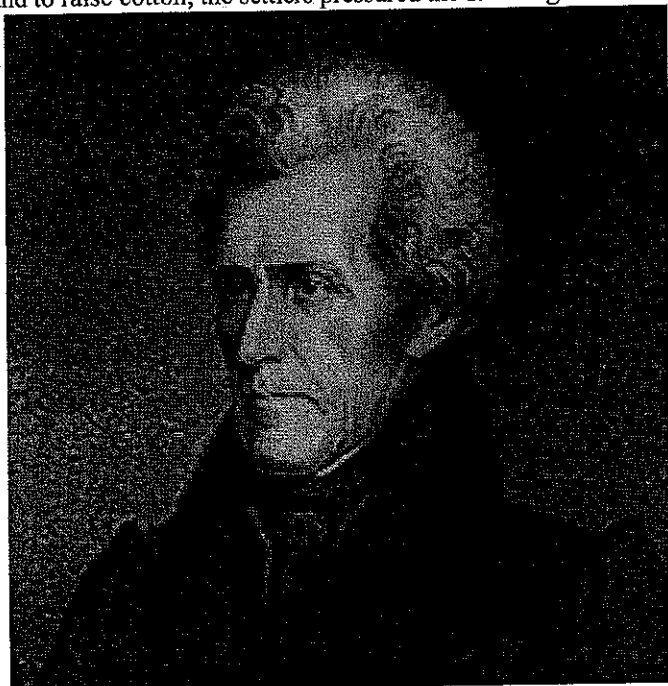
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Background info.

Content Summary:

### Indian Removal Act

Early in the 19th century, while the rapidly-growing United States expanded into the lower South, white settlers faced what they considered an obstacle. This area was home to the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chicasaw and Seminole nations. These Indian nations, in the view of the settlers and many other white Americans, were standing in the way of progress. Eager for land to raise cotton, the settlers pressured the federal government to acquire Indian territory.



Andrew Jackson, from Tennessee, was a forceful proponent of Indian removal. In 1814 he commanded the U.S. military forces that defeated a faction of the Creek nation. In their defeat, the Creeks lost 22 million acres of land in southern Georgia and central Alabama. The U.S. acquired more land in 1818 when, spurred in part by the motivation to punish the Seminoles for their practice of harboring fugitive slaves, Jackson's troops invaded Spanish Florida.

From 1814 to 1824, Jackson was instrumental in negotiating nine out of eleven treaties which divested the southern tribes of their eastern lands in exchange for lands in the west. The tribes agreed to the treaties for strategic reasons. They wanted to appease the government in the hopes of retaining some of their land, and they wanted to protect themselves from white harassment. As a result of the treaties, the United States gained control over three-quarters of Alabama and Florida, as well as parts of Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky and North Carolina. This was a period of voluntary Indian migration, however, and only a small number of Creeks, Cherokee

and Choctaws actually moved to the new lands.

In 1823 the Supreme Court handed down a decision which stated that Indians could occupy lands within the United States, but could not hold title to those lands. This was because their "right of occupancy" was subordinate to the United States' "right of discovery." In response to the great threat this posed, the Creeks, Cherokee, and Chicasaw instituted policies of restricting land sales to the government. They wanted to protect what remained of their land before it was too late.

Although the five Indian nations had made earlier attempts at resistance, many of their strategies were non-violent. One method was to adopt Anglo-American practices such as large-scale farming, Western education, and slave-holding. This earned the nations the designation of the "Five Civilized Tribes." They adopted this policy of assimilation in an attempt to coexist with settlers and ward off hostility. But it only made whites jealous and resentful.

Senate.gov (n.d) Andrew Jackson portrait. Retrieved April 17, 2009 from <http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/graphic/large/AndrewJackson.jpg>.

Other attempts involved ceding portions of their land to the United States with a view to retaining control over at least part of their territory, or of the

new territory they received in exchange. Some Indian nations simply refused to leave their land -- the Creeks and the Seminoles even waged war to protect their territory. The First Seminole War lasted from 1817 to 1818. The Seminoles were aided by fugitive slaves who had found protection among them and had been living with them for years. The presence of the fugitives enraged white planters and fueled their desire to defeat the Seminoles.

The Cherokee used legal means in their attempt to safeguard their rights. They sought protection from land-hungry white

belongings, and as they left, whites looted their homes. Then began the march known as the Trail of Tears, in which 4,000 Cherokee people died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands.

By 1837, the Jackson administration had removed 46,000 Native American people from their land east of the Mississippi, and had secured treaties which led to the removal of a slightly larger number. Most members of the five southeastern nations had been relocated west, opening 25 million acres of land to white settlement and to slavery.

PBS.org (1998) *Indian Removal*.  
Africans in America. Retrieved April 15, 2009  
from  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2959.html>

Written Document Analysis Worksheet

Do Not write on

1.	<p>TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Check one):</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Newspaper                      <input type="radio"/> Map                      <input type="radio"/> Advertisement  <input type="radio"/> Letter                                      <input type="radio"/> Telegram                      <input type="radio"/> Congressional Record  <input type="radio"/> Patent                                      <input type="radio"/> Press Release                      <input type="radio"/> Census Report  <input type="radio"/> Memorandum                      <input type="radio"/> Report                      <input type="radio"/> Other </p>
2.	<p>UNIQUE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more):</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead                      <input type="checkbox"/> Notations  <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten                                      <input type="checkbox"/> "RECEIVED" stamp  <input type="checkbox"/> Typed    <input type="checkbox"/> Other  <input type="checkbox"/> Seals </p>
3.	<p>DATE(S) OF DOCUMENT:</p>
4.	<p>AUTHOR (OR CREATOR) OF THE DOCUMENT:</p> <p>POSITION (TITLE):</p>
5.	<p>FOR WHAT AUDIENCE WAS THE DOCUMENT WRITTEN?</p>
6.	<p>DOCUMENT INFORMATION (There are many possible ways to answer A-E.)</p> <p>A. List three things the author said that you think are important:</p> <p>B. Why do you think this document was written?</p> <p>C. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.</p> <p>D. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written.</p> <p>E. Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document:</p>

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## Letter describing new cotton lands

Fredrick Norcom to James C. Johnston, January 24, 1836

From Vicksburg, Mississippi to Edenton, North Carolina

I have met with I suppose from 50 to 100 men who (many of them are entirely destitute of a common education) five years since could not get credit for a pair of shoes, now worth 100,000 to a million of dollars -- I have seen a great number who came here rich, and now immensely rich; I have not seen but one single soul, nor have I heard of 3, who have failed -- and these were all merchants, who without much Capital went to speculating in Cotton --. It is in truth the only country I ever read or heard of, where a poor man could in 2 or 3 years without any aid, become wealthy -- A few days of labour & lying out in the woods enabled them to find out a good body of land, & not having the money to enter it for themselves, they would sell their information to those who were too idle, or too rich to undergo the fatigue of hunting for it; by this means they would obtain money enough to enter one section, then two, & so on; soon sell that for ten or twenty times as much as they gave for it, and sometimes would absolutely make what is considered in the old States a fortune in 5 or 6 months....

At Pontotoc in the Chickasaw Nation, there was 4 to 5 millions of dollars lying last summer to be employed in land; at the sales in December at Columbus, there was more than 5 millions, how much at the other land offices I have not heard.

All the lands obtained from the Choctaw Indians in 1832 have now been offered for sale; the greater part of the choice land of course was taken up the 1st year or two, and that now sells from \$50 - 75 to 100 per acre, according to location -- the 2d rate is selling from 20 to 40 per acre, and the 3d rate of which there is much yet remaining, is selling from 8 to 20 per acre -- you can thus see how easy it was to get rich here -- a little labour would raise \$800 -- that will enter a section of land, to sell that for 10, to \$20,000, and lay that out again and

get in return 10 or 20 for one, is an easy & rapid mode of getting rich.... The demand for all species of property here is great, constant and increasing -- I cannot ascertain what amount of property has been sold in any one county. More than 6,000 Negroes and 10,000 horses & mules have been sold in Yazoo County alone, and from 1st Sept. up to this time (and I am told it so continues until April) there are Negroes by the hundred in every little Log-Village for sale....

I know of no point in the world with 4 times its population which sells so many goods, Negroes & provisions &c and if things go on at this rate long, we must soon have 20,000 population; goods are lying here in store in quantities, waiting for stores to be built, and all species of houses are going up as if by Magic weekly: property bought in the edge of Town twelve months since for \$200 per acre sold for \$4,000 per acre last week --. All species of labour here cost 3 times as much as at Edenton, and as a general rule most every thing costs about 4 times as much as in the old States, except Negroes -- prime man & woman together sell for \$2,000 -- the ordinary mode of selling here is man & wife --.

Frederick Norcom to James C. Johnston, Jan. 24, 1836  
Hayes Collection, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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Title: The Indian Removal Act of 1830  
Author: U.S. Government  
Year Published: 1830

### The Indian Removal Act of 1830

[This was the Jackson-era legislation authorizing the president to transfer Eastern Indian tribes to the western territories promised (falsely) "in perpetuity". The actual relocation culminated in the 1838 "Trail of Tears" forced march, one of the most shameful occurrences in the history of federal domestic policy.]

CHAP. CXLVIII. --An Act to provide for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to cause so much of any territory belonging to the United States west of the river Mississippi, not included in any state or organized territory, and to which the Indian title has been extinguished, as he may judge necessary, to be divided into a suitable number of districts, for the reception of such tribes or nations of Indians as may choose to exchange the lands where they now reside, and remove there; and to cause each of said districts to be so described by natural or artificial marks, as to be easily distinguished from every other.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the President to exchange any or all of such districts, so to be laid off and described, with any tribe or nation within the limits of any of the states or territories, and with which the United States have existing treaties, for the whole or any part or portion of the territory claimed and occupied by such tribe or nation, within the bounds of any one or more of the states or territories, where the land claimed and occupied by the Indians, is owned by the United States, or the United States are bound to the state within which it lies to extinguish the Indian claim thereto.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That in the making of any such exchange or exchanges, it shall and may be lawful for the President solemnly to assure the tribe or nation with which the exchange is made, that the United States will forever secure and guaranty to them, and their heirs or successors, the country so exchanged with them; and if they prefer it, that the United States will cause a patent or grant to be made and executed to them for the same: Provided always, That such lands shall revert to the United States, if the Indians become extinct, or abandon the same.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That if, upon any of the lands now occupied by the Indians, and to be exchanged for, there should be such improvements as add value to the land claimed by any individual or individuals of such tribes or nations, it shall and may be lawful for the President to cause such value to be ascertained by appraisement or otherwise, and to cause such ascertained value to be paid to the person or persons rightfully claiming such improvements. And upon the payment of such valuation, the improvements so valued and paid for, shall pass to the United States, and possession shall not afterwards be permitted to any of the same tribe.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That upon the making of any such exchange as is contemplated by this act, it shall and may be lawful for the President to cause such aid and assistance to be furnished to the emigrants as may be necessary and proper to enable them to remove to, and settle in, the country for which they may have exchanged; and also, to give them such aid and assistance as may be necessary for their support and subsistence for the first year after their removal.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the President to cause such tribe or nation to be protected, at their new residence, against all interruption or disturbance from any other tribe or nation of Indians, or from any other person or persons whatever.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the President to have the same superintendence and care over any tribe or nation in the country to which they may remove, as contemplated by this act, that he is now authorized to have over them at their present places of residence.

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