

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read and analyze each document below, answering the analysis questions that follow.

Historical Context: The Indian Removal Act was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830, authorizing the president to grant unsettled lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for Indian lands within existing state borders. A few tribes went peacefully, but many resisted the relocation policy. During the fall and winter of 1838 and 1839, the Cherokees were forcibly moved west by the United States government. Approximately 4,000 Cherokees died on this forced march, which became known as the "Trail of Tears."

Document A: Excerpt from President Andrew Jackson's "Message to Congress on Indian Removal" (December 6, 1830)

1	It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the <i>benevolent</i> policy of the
2	Government... in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is
3	approaching to a happy <i>consummation</i> . Two important tribes have accepted the <i>provision</i>
4	made for their removal at the last session of Congress, and it is believed that their
5	example will induce the remaining tribes also to seek the same obvious advantages.
6	
7	The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to
8	individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The <i>pecuniary</i> advantages which it
9	promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations [...]
10	
11	It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them
12	from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and
13	under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening
14	their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the
15	Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits
	and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.
Vocabulary: <i>Benevolent</i> : well-meaning, charitable <i>Consummation</i> : reaching completion <i>Provision</i> : something provided, supplied <i>Pecuniary</i> : relating to money	

Analysis Questions

1. In lines 3-4, President Jackson states that two tribes have already accepted the resettlement terms. Why may these Native American groups have agreed to leave their land?

2. Why does Andrew Jackson say the resettlement of the Native Americans in the west will benefit the tribes? Cite specific examples from the text.

Document C: Eyewitness Account of Cherokee Removal from Evan Jones, a Baptist missionary to the Cherokees (July 10, 1838)

1	The overthrow of the Cherokee Nation is completed. The whole population are made
2	prisoners. The work of war in time of peace was commenced in the Georgia part of the
3	nation and was executed in most cases in unfeeling and brutal manner In that state,
4	in many cases, the Indians were not allowed to gather up their clothes, not even to take
5	away a little money they might have. All was left to the spoiler. . . . They were driven
6	before the soldiers, through mud and water, with whooping and hallowing like droves of
	cattle.
7	No regard was paid to the condition of helpless females. Several infants were born on
8	the open road under the most revolting circumstances...they were dragged from their
9	homes without change of clothing and marched one hundred and twenty or thirty miles
10	through heat and dust and rain and mud, in many cases bare-footed, lodged on the hard
11	ground, destitute of shelter from dews and rains.

Analysis Question

1. Compare this source with Documents A and B. How is the reality of Native American removal different from Andrew Jackson's assurances? Cite specific evidence from documents A, B, and C.

Document D: Map of the Trail of Tears



Analysis Question

1. The Native Americans traveled west by foot, covered wagons, horseback, or boat. Using the map and your knowledge of U.S. geography, what do you think this journey would have been like for them? Use specific evidence from the map to support your claims.

Document E: Excerpt from address of a council of Cherokees to the U.S. Government (July 1830)

1	We are aware, that some persons suppose it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the
2	Mississippi. We think otherwise. Our people universally think otherwise.... there is probably not
3	an adult person in the Cherokee nation, who would think it best to remove...
4	We wish to remain on the land of our fathers...we see nothing but ruin before us. The country
5	west of the Arkansas territory is unknown to us. From what we can learn of it, we have no
6	<i>prepossessions</i> in its favor. All the inviting parts of it, as we believe, are preoccupied by various
7	Indian nations...They would regard us as intruders, and look upon us with an evil eye... All our
8	neighbors, in case of our removal, though crowded into our near vicinity, would speak a language
9	totally different from ours, and practice different customs...Were the country to which we are
10	urged much better than it is represented to be and were it free from the objections which we
11	have made to it, still it is not the land of our birth, nor of our affections. It contains neither the
12	scenes of our childhood, nor the graves of our fathers....
Vocabulary: <i>Prepossessions:</i> preconceived opinions, prejudice	

Analysis Questions

1. What are two reasons why the Cherokees are fearful of the new lands they are being forced to occupy? Cite specific evidence from the text.

2. In Document A, Andrew Jackson argues the Native Americans will be able to “pursue happiness” (line 11) in their new territory in the west. Why does the Cherokee council claim that they will be unhappy on this new land, even if it lives up to Jackson’s descriptions?