

ANSWERS—THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830

Guiding Questions	Notes	Source of Information
<p>Prior to the Indian Removal Act: Were Native Americans being removed from their ancestral lands prior to the Indian Removal Act? Why were tribes being removed?</p>	<p><i>As the United States expanded west, Native American tribes forced to give up their lands. This began as early as 1802 and 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase and continued for the next 90 years. There were various reasons for removal of Native Americans—fertile land was needed by settlers, gold was discovered, and states wanted land for various purposes.</i></p>	<p>Oklahoma Historical Society U.S. Office of the Historian</p>
<p>The Indian Removal Act of 1830: What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act of 1830? What were Jackson’s reasons for supporting the Indian Removal Act?</p>	<p><i>The purpose of the Indian Removal Act was to have the federal government negotiate treaties that would remove tribes from the southeastern states and relocate them in Indian Territory. Jackson said that Indian removal would replace “savage hunters” with civilized settlers. States could then advance more rapidly in wealth and power without the Native American tribes.</i></p>	<p>U.S. Office of the Historian Jackson’s message to Congress December 1830.</p>
<p>Response: How did various tribal leaders respond to removal?</p>	<p><i>There were different responses to removal by different tribal leaders. Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee leader, at first opposed the removal of Cherokees but felt like it was safer in the end to remove them rather than fight the government. Congressman Edward Everett opposed the removal of tribes on moral grounds. He argued that the American people will look back with regret. John Ross, another Cherokee leader, said that the government treated the tribes like dogs and that their lands had been torn apart from them.</i></p>	<p>Jackson’s message to Congress U.S. Office of the Historian</p>
<p>Additional Facts: Add any interesting or surprising facts found during your research.</p>	<p><i>Answers will vary. Jackson describes Native Americans as “savages” and that white settlers were civilized and Christian. Tribes sometimes gave up small parts of their lands trying to appease the white settlers not to take more. During Jackson’s presidency there were over 70 removal treaties signed.</i></p>	<p>Jackson’s message to Congress U.S. Office of the Historian</p>