

Summary: Age of Jackson

A New Kind of President

The first six Presidents of the United States were wealthy and well educated. In 1828, Andrew Jackson became President. He grew up poor in Carolina. Then he took the Wilderness Trail to Tennessee. He became a lawyer, politician, and business owner. He was the first President to come from a state west of the original 13 colonies.

Citizens who lived in the territories were given suffrage when the territories became states. Women and African Americans still could not vote. Jackson supported the new voters. They liked his campaign. Their votes helped to elect him President.

As President, Jackson took the side of farmers, working people, and frontier settlers. He thought the national bank only helped rich people. The poor were not allowed to borrow money from the national bank. Jackson ordered the government to take its money out of the national bank and put it into state banks.

Territorial Expansion

As settlers came to the frontier, conflicts increased with American Indians there. Jackson believed the Indians slowed the growth of the United States. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. This law forced American Indians living east of the Mississippi River to leave their homes and businesses and move west of the Mississippi River. In the Southeast, the Indians had to move to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. The Cherokee Indians objected. Cherokee Indian Chief John Ross took their case to the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that it was against the law to force the Cherokee to move. Jackson ignored the ruling. In 1838, the U.S. Army forced the Cherokee to travel 1,000 miles to Indian Territory. About one-fourth of the Cherokee died during this journey called the Trail of Tears. The army also tried to force the Seminole Indians to leave Florida. Chief Osceola led their resistance. He was put in jail and died. Indians continued the struggle to keep their homes.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

suffrage *noun*, the right to vote

campaign *noun*, a series of actions taken toward a goal

ruling *noun*, an official decision

Trail of Tears *noun*, the heartbreaking journey forcing the Cherokee to make the 1,000-mile trip to Indian Territory



After You Read

REVIEW What types of people did Jackson want to help? Circle words that describe the people he supported.

REVIEW What did John Ross do to fight against removal? Highlight the sentence that tells what action he took.