

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.

Farmers, frontier settlers, and working men who lived on the territories were given suffrage when the territories became states. Women and African Americans could not vote. Only white men who had land or money could vote. Jackson supported the new voters. They liked his campaign. Their votes helped to elect him President.

As President, Jackson supported working people. He thought the bank only helped rich people and that 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.

Indian Removal Act

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. 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



After You Read

REVIEW What types of people did Jackson want to help? Circle words that describe the people who voted for Jackson.

REVIEW What did the Cherokee do to fight against removal? Underline the sentence that tells what Indian chief John Ross did to fight the Indian Removal Act.