

## Assessing with Primary Sources

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.RI.6.1- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### Library of Congress Resources:



President Jackson's Message to Congress "On Indian Removal", December 6, 1830

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=010/llrd010.db&recNum=438>

Specific Pages Used:

[http://www.nps.gov/museum/tmc/MANZ/handouts/Andrew\\_Jackson\\_Annual\\_Message.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/museum/tmc/MANZ/handouts/Andrew_Jackson_Annual_Message.pdf)

### Topic Background:

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."

Excerpted from : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_Removal\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Removal_Act)

### Source(s) Used:

This source is an excerpt from Andrew Jackson's speech to the Congress where he talks about how important the consequences of a speedy removal of Indians will be to the United States.

### Answer Key:

Question 1 – A

Question 2 – A & B

### Andrew Jackson's Speech

"It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important tribes have accepted the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress, and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes also to seek the same obvious advantages. The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north and Louisiana on the south to the settlement of the whites it will incalculably strengthen the southwestern frontier and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasions without remote aid. It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

According to the article, how can consequences of a speedy removal of Indians be important to the united states? ( CC. 1)

- A. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of General and State Government, on account of Indians.
- B. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites
- C. It will free Indians from the power of states
- D. It enables Indians to pursue happiness in their own way

How can a speedy removal of Indians be important to the individual States? ( CC.1)

- A. It will free the whole state of Mississippi as well as the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy.
- B. It will enable these states to advance in population, wealth and power
- C. It will let Indians be an interesting, civilized, and Christian community
- D. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters.