

The Presidency of Andrew Jackson

In 1828, Andrew Jackson won the presidential election by a landslide and became the nation's seventh president. He was seen as the people's president. He received 178 electoral votes to John Quincy Adams's 83. Jackson wasted no time in putting his mark on the presidency. Jackson claimed that the old corrupt politicians had to go. He removed almost the entire old regime and replaced them with people he chose. In 1828, however, his wife Rachel died and Jackson became depressed.

Jackson believed in the national government and its ability to impose tariffs (taxes on imports or exports). South Carolina attempted to nullify the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 that the federal government imposed. South Carolina, like much of the south, was angry that the tariffs would result in higher prices on goods that weren't manufactured in the south. Jackson, in his typical style, threatened to send in federal troops to enforce compliance with the law. Henry Clay's Compromise of 1833 prevented final confrontation.

In 1832, Andrew Jackson took measures to take away the federal charter of the Second Bank of the United States. Jackson believed the bank was unconstitutional, too powerful, exposed the nation's finances to foreign interests, favored northeastern states, and was corrupt. Eventually, Jackson succeeded in this endeavor, and the bank's charter was revoked. Hundreds of state and local banks took over the national bank's lending functions.

Andrew Jackson is perhaps best known for his Indian removal programs. In 1830, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized Congress to purchase Indian lands in the east in exchange for unsettled land in the west. Jackson's actions were particularly popular in the south, as gold had been discovered on Cherokee lands in Georgia. Jackson pressured Cherokee leaders to sign a removal treaty (known as the Treaty of New Echota) that was surely rejected by most Cherokee people. The treaty, which was enforced by Martin Van Buren (the next president), resulted in the removal of the Cherokee Indians from their native lands via the Trail of Tears. The Cherokee were forced to walk hundreds of miles from Georgia to present-day Oklahoma. Thousands died along the way. In all, more than 45,000 Indians were "removed" during Jackson's administration.

Andrew Jackson retired to his mansion in Tennessee after his second term. He died on June 8, 1845, at the Hermitage.

- 1. Andrew Jackson won the presidential election of 1828 by a landslide. Which of the following would be another way to state this?**
 - A. Andrew Jackson barely won the election of 1828.
 - B. Andrew Jackson won the election of 1828.
 - C. Andrew Jackson easily won the election of 1828.

D. Andrew Jackson was lucky to win the election of 1828.

2. Jackson believed...

- A. in the second Bank of the United States.
- B. that South Carolina should be able to nullify tariffs.
- C. in the government's power to issue tariffs.
- D. in bringing the war back to England.

3. Why did South Carolina try to nullify the tariffs?

- A. Goods produced in the South were taxed
- B. Goods produced outside of the South became more expensive
- C. Goods produced outside of the South became less expensive
- D. Andrew Jackson threatened to send troops to South Carolina

4. What could be the title of the third paragraph?

- A. The History of the Second Bank of the United States
- B. Jackson Takes on the Big Bank
- C. 1832
- D. The Two Terms of Andrew Jackson

5. Which of the following WAS NOT true about Andrew Jackson's Indian removal programs?

- A. They were popular in the South
- B. They resulted in the "removal" of the Cherokee
- C. Tens of thousands of Indians were moved from their native lands
- D. The Treaty of New Echota was likely accepted by most Cherokee people

6. Who enforced the Treaty of New Echota?

- A. Andrew Jackson
- B. The president after Andrew Jackson
- C. The Cherokee Nation
- D. Georgia

7. The passage above does not include...

- A. information about Jackson's childhood
- B. information about the Election of 1828
- C. information about how Jackson revoked the charter of the Second Bank of New York
- D. information about Jackson's response to the attempted nullification of tariffs by South Carolina.