


Andrew Jackson



The Common Man's President

Background


- A militiaman in the American Revolution when he was 13 years old
- Poor farmer from Tennessee ("down to Earth", just like a "regular Joe")
- Hero of the "Battle of New Orleans"



Presidential Election 'o 1824

Regional Differences within the United States led to a fierce fight over the presidency.


All Candidates were Democratic Republican



Election of 1824

- John Quincy Adams - New England
- William Crawford - South
- Henry Clay - West
- Andrew Jackson - Military Hero



Jackson won the Popular vote, but no one won the electoral majority



Election of 1824


- The Constitution says when this happens, the House of Representatives gets to choose the new president...
- Which other presidential election was sent to the House?

Election of 1824

- Because of this election, the party splits into two separate parties:
 - Jackson leads Democrats
 - Adams leads Republicans


Why is this important today?




This is the beginning of our modern Political Parties

Election of 1824

- Henry Clay was out of the running, so he threw his support to John Q Adams who then won.



Adams then named Clay his Secretary of State, and Jackson supporters claimed that Adams had made a deal with Clay.



J.Q. Adams

(Pres. #6)

- JQ has one presidency
- JQ does a poor job

• Focus: Jackson uses the four years to gain support.



Jackson is not a good loser!

He felt that the election had been stolen from him and worked to gain the presidency in 1828.



The New Democratic Party:

- Against control of government by the wealthy
- Represented the interests of the Common-man
- Promoted the concept of "Majority-rules"



Jacksonian Democracy

- spread political power to all the people
- Ended the idea of government controlled by an educated elite



Jackson's Background

- First president not from a wealthy Massachusetts or Virginia family.
- Fought in the Revolutionary War and was taken prisoner; his experience left him with a lifelong hatred of the British



Jackson's Background

- After the war, he moved to the Tennessee frontier, where he built a successful law practice.
- During the War of 1812, he earned the nickname "Old Hickory" for being as tough as hickory.



Jackson's Background

• Shortly after the election of 1828, his wife, Rachel, died of a heart attack. He believed that mean campaign attacks on her reputation had killed her. She never lived in the White House.



Jackson is elected in 1828

- As "the common man's president," he invites the people to come to the White House for his inauguration party.
- The "great unwashed" show up and completely trash the White House



The Spoils System

- The uptight, rich people were appalled, but Jackson loved it...the people finally felt included



Jackson promoted the spoils system which gave Government jobs to his political supporters.


Native Americans



Indian Removal Act
Law requiring native Americans to move West or submit to State laws

The Indian Removal Act

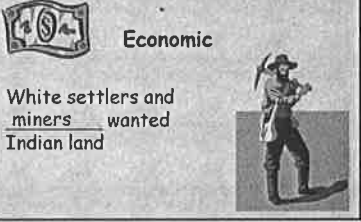
- Jackson believed Native Americans should either adopt white customs and become citizens, or move west, out of the United States.



Reasons we moved the Indians West

Economic

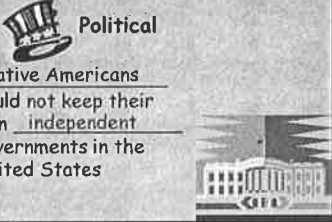
White settlers and miners wanted Indian land



Reasons we moved the Indians West

Political

Native Americans could not keep their own independent governments in the United States



Reasons we moved the Indians West

Social

White settlers thought the natives were "uncivilized"

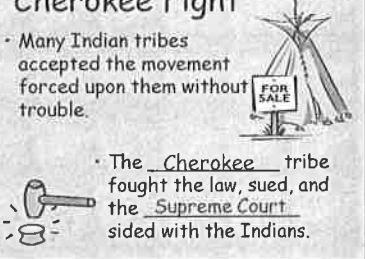


Indian Removal Routes



Cherokee Fight

- Many Indian tribes accepted the movement forced upon them without trouble.
- The Cherokee tribe fought the law, sued, and the Supreme Court sided with the Indians.



Cherokee Fight

Jackson, however, ignored the ruling and moved them anyway.

- Jackson was quoted as saying "John Marshall (the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) has made his decision, now let him enforce it!"

Trail of Tears

Journey taken by the Cherokee from Tennessee to Indian Territory (aka Oklahoma)

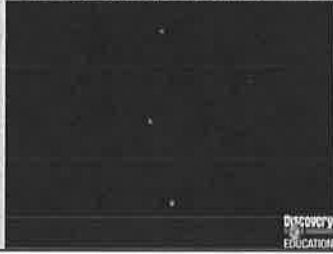


Trail of Tears



- The Cherokee people called this journey the "Trail of Tears" because of its devastating effects on the tribe.

Trail of Tears



Trail of Tears

- The Indians faced disease, starvation, and exhaustion on the forced march.
- Out of the 15,000 Cherokee more than 4,000 died.



Bank of the United States

- The Bank of the U.S. was established by Alexander Hamilton as part of his plan to get the U.S. out of debt from the American Revolution (50 years before).



\$ Bank of the United States \$

- The bank held government money, issued currency, and made loans.
- The problem was the bank was privately owned and operated by citizens, not government employees.

Bank of the United States

- The bank and its citizens were setting federal economic (money) policy to suit their own needs, not considering the entire population of the United States.

Bank of the United States

- The bank was also loaning money to members of Congress in exchange for votes on specific laws.

Jackson saw the bank as a monster of corruption.

Bank of U.S.

He set out to destroy it before it harmed us.



Bank of U.S.

- He moved all the Federal money from that bank into many smaller banks around the U.S. and the Bank of the United States eventually went out of business.



Bank of the U.S.

- Although Jackson won the battle, the economy of the United States suffered a depression as a result.

*Depression: long lasting economic downturn



How did the bank's death affect the U.S.?

- As the government withdrew funds from the bank, it began a severe tightening of money.

- Inflation: General increase in prices and fall in the purchase value of money.



How did the bank's death affect the U.S.?

- The bank restricted loans, and started calling in debts because it needed cash to pay the government for the money it wanted back.



How did the bank's death affect the U.S.?

- The resulting panic caused widespread loss of jobs, and ground industry to a halt.



VOCAB

Assimilate: adopt the ways of another culture

Conquered Subjects: peoples of land acquired by force of arms

Indian Removal Act: Law that relocated Native Americans to reservations in the west

Depression: long lasting economic downturn

Tariff: Toll (or tax) on imported goods

Spoils System: giving government jobs to political backers

Inflation: Increase in prices but fall in the value of money

