

President Andrew Jackson Thinks Aloud

The United States has a problem. The people of the United States and the Indians are starting to get in each other's way. Since George Washington was president, we have tried to civilize the Indians and teach them to live like white people but it doesn't seem to be working. We want them to become good Christians, but the Indians prefer to follow their own beliefs and to hunt and farm as they please.

The Indians live on lands that could be used by white citizens of the United States. It is hard to stop fighting between the whites and the Indians when they both want the same land. The Indians use the land mostly to hunt and don't really build cities or big farms. Whites want to use this land for farming and cotton production. This would put many people to work and help them earn money. But bad fighting has broken out between the white settlers and Indians. The Indians could move out West where they will not be bothered by the white settlers but it would be hard for them to leave the lands their tribes have been on for hundreds of years. The Indians could be safer out in the West, but their way of life might also be lost forever. It would be hard for them to start over, but it would also be hard for them to stay in the East where whites are moving onto their lands.

The Indians do not believe they are a part of the United States. Indians make their own laws and rules and do not follow the same laws as Americans. Indians currently live right next to white Americans. It is becoming harder to keep these people separate. If the Indians do not want to mix with Americans and do not want to share their lands, they may have to move west just to survive. I need to come up with a solution to this problem because I am the people's leader and they want me to make a decision that will solve this problem. Should we let Indians stay on the lands they have always lived on, or should we remove them to new lands so that white settlers can have their lands? *Is Indian Removal the best solution for the problems between whites and Indians?* I must decide.

Guiding Questions:

1. What is Andrew Jackson's problem?
2. Why would the Indians want to stay on their lands?
3. Why would the white settlers want the Indians to move out west?
4. Why is this a hard decision for Andrew Jackson?