Introduction

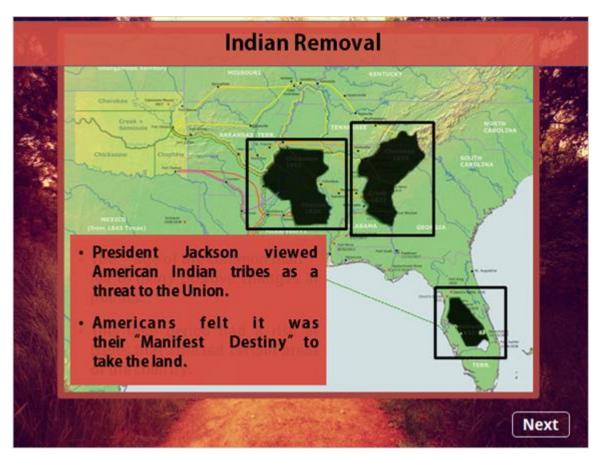


As a result of westward migration, the settlers were constantly involved in conflicts with Native Americans. Conflict became so common that many Native Americans were forcibly removed from their homelands. The Native Americans were forced to march away from their homes to follow the "Trail of Tears." In this interactivity, explore the relocation of Native Americans. Click *Start* to begin.



Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s Topic 4 Content: Trail of Tears Notes

Indian Removal



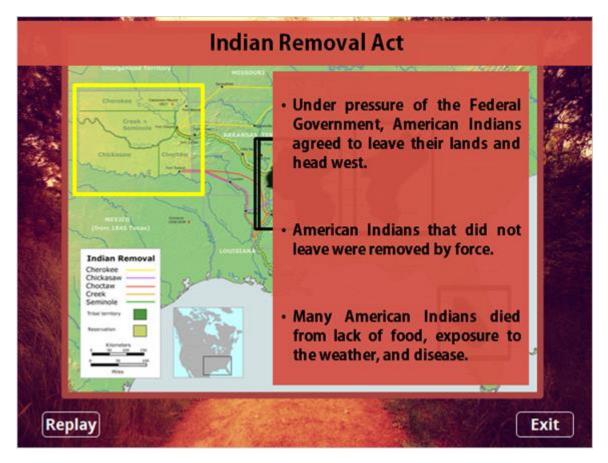
The "age of the common man", ushered in by President Jackson, was marked by many positive changes to politics in America. This time period, however, was also marked by an increase in issues that greatly affected certain sections of the country. At the start of President Jackson's term, there were many American Indian tribes that resided on large tracts of land in the Southern states. The Seminole Tribes resided in Florida. The Cherokee and Creek occupied a large area of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The Chickasaw and Choctaw existed in Mississippi and Arkansas.

President Jackson saw these tribes as a threat to the Union, even though many like the Cherokee had taken on many of the white American customs and lifestyles. In addition, many Americans believed it was their "Manifest Destiny" to take the land from the American Indians.



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Indian Removal Act



Through legislation called the Indian Removal Act, Jackson's administration began a series of operations to remove American Indians from their land to new lands, which were all west of the Mississippi River and mostly in what is today Oklahoma. Under the pressure of the Federal Government and fear of continued violence, American Indian tribes sometimes signed treaties with the United States, agreeing to leave their native lands and head further west. Other times American Indians were removed from their native lands by force. The removals were not well planned, leading to many American Indian deaths from lack of food, exposure to the weather, and disease.

