

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Andrew Jackson DBQ**

DBQ stands for Document-Based Question, which is an assignment that provides students with evidence to strengthen a historical essay. This packet contains sources related to the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Your task is to use AT LEAST FOUR of these documents to support your paper's argument.

#### **Essay Question:**

Andrew Jackson's presidency is noted for its dedication to listening to the voices of the common man and for expanding voting rights. For example, Jackson made decisions based on how they would influence the lives of every-day Americans, not the wealthy and powerful. However, President Jackson also oversaw the removal and mistreatment of thousands of Native Americans. Using the documents provided, argue your position for the following question: Was President Andrew Jackson a champion for the common man or a tyrant who abused his power?

## Document 1

	P-- by people		L-- by legislature			
	1816	1820	1824	1828	1832	1836
Massachusetts	L	P	P	P	P	P
New York	L	L	L	P	P	P
Delaware	L	L	L	L	P	P
S. Carolina	L	L	L	L	L	L
Georgia	L	L	L	P	P	P
Vermont	L	L	L	P	P	P
Louisiana	L	L	L	P	P	P
Indiana	L	L	P	P	P	P
Illinois	*	P	P	P	P	P
Alabama	*	L	P	P	P	P
Maine	*	P	P	P	P	P
Missouri	*	L	P	P	P	P

**Note:** States not listed above chose Presidential Electors by the people as of 1816.  
States displaying the (\*) were not yet admitted as states.

Take a look at the chart. It provides information on how electors were selected for presidential elections. Before 1824, how did most states determine who would represent the voters? After 1824? Why was 1824 such an important year? How could this be used to answer the essay question?

Document 4

BORN TO COMMAND



KING ANDREW THE FIRST.

What is the artist telling us about President Jackson? How is he dressed? What is he standing on? What is he holding in his hands? Does this support your paper's argument?

## Document 7

Excerpts from Andrew Jackson's Seventh Annual Message to Congress, December 7, 1835 "

All preceding experiments for the improvement of the Indians have failed. It seems now to be an established fact they cannot live in contact with a civilized community and prosper. Ages of fruitless endeavors have at length brought us to a knowledge of this principle of intercommunication with them. . . .

"No one can doubt the moral duty of the Government of the United States to protect and if possible to preserve and perpetuate the scattered remnants of this race which are left within our borders. In the discharge of this duty an extensive region in the West has been assigned for their permanent residence. It has been divided into districts and allotted among them. . . .

"Such are the arrangements for the physical comfort and for the moral improvement of the Indians. The necessary measures for their political advancement and for their separation from our citizens have not been neglected. The pledge of the United States has been given by Congress that the country destined for the residence of this people shall be forever "secured and guaranteed to them."

What are Jackson's thoughts on the Indian Removal Act? Why does he believe it is necessary? In his opinion, who will benefit from these changes?

## Document 8

Jackson's Bank Veto Message to Congress July 10, 1832

"The present Bank of the United States enjoys an exclusive privilege of banking, almost a monopoly of the foreign and domestic exchange. It appears that more than a fourth part of the stock is held by foreigners and the [rest] is held by a few hundred of our own citizens, chiefly of the riches class. Of the twenty-five directors of this bank, five are chosen by the government and twenty by the citizen stockholders. It is easy to conceive that great evils to our country...might flow from such a concentration of powers in the hands of a few men irresponsible to the people. It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes."

Why is Jackson killing the Bank of the United States? Who will benefit from these changes? How is he destroying the Bank? Is he abusing his power or protecting the common man?