Background: *You are* ***Catherine Beecher****, a prominent educator and writer. You have published a letter in the Christian Advocate and Journal calling on American women to stand up against the Indian Removal Act even though women have few political rights.*

**To President Jackson and the caring ladies of the United States**:

The present problems among Indian nations in the United States demand the immediate attention of anyone who claims to be kind. The Indians were here first and helped the early settlers. Many Indians have fought in wars to help protect our nation. The United States has already taken and purchased much of their land but promised to respect Indians’ right to keep the remaining territory. If we make them leave their land now, we would have lied to them. It is our moral duty to defend the Indians’ rights.

Americans have become powerful while the Indians have mostly faded away. We should protect them as if they were our children. We asked them to be “civilized” and they have made remarkable progress. In fact, the Civilization Program has been successful. For example, the Cherokees wrote their own constitution and read the Bible in their own language. They have made progress in education and industry. There is no reason to remove the Indians from their homeland.

If the United States ignores its treaties with the Indians, they will be driven west and their way of life will be destroyed forever. The good Christian women of this nation must try to stop Indian Removal. Women are not able to vote or be elected to an office, but women can feel for the Indians and demand that the United States do the right thing. So I, Catherine Beecher, say to you, let every woman who hears this stand up and stop this tragedy from happening.

Guiding Questions

1. Who is Catherine Beecher?
2. What problems are the Indians having and who does she blame?
3. Why does she think removal is wrong?
4. What does she think the United States should do about the Indians?