**Indian Removal Think Aloud**

**Perspectives Summary for Teacher**

|  |
| --- |
| **Andrew Jackson:*** Tried to teach Indians to live like whites but it didn’t work.
* Indians used the land mostly to hunt & not to build cities or big farms.
* If Indians move out west, the white settlers won’t bother them.
* Indians make their own laws & do not follow the same laws as Americans.
* Wants Indians to become good, civilized Christians but Indians prefer to live as hunters on large pieces of land.
 |
| **Lewis Cass: (For Removal)*** Believes the Indians are savages.
* Civilization program failed because Indians refused to farm & become Christians.
* Remove will make Indians safe & secure.
* Removing Indians will also provide more land for incoming white settlers so that economic progress can be made.
* Living on lands & continuing to remain uncivilized will result in the destruction of Indians.
 | **John Ross: (Against Removal)*** Main Cherokee chief.
* Opposed Indian Removal.
* Cherokees have a right to keep their land.
* Moving would destroy their culture.
* They would never be safe on the new western lands.
* Survival is a primary concern – Indians must do whatever it takes to survive.
 |
| **Elias Boudinot: (For Removal)*** Member of an important Cherokee family; educated by whites.
* Felt that U.S. would not protect the Indians & therefore must sign treaty, give up land, & move west.
* Settlers would continue to steal land, arrest Indians without reason, force Indians to follow white laws, ignore contracts.
* Relocation would be new beginning.
 | **Catherine Beecher: (Against Removal)*** Prominent educator & writer.
* Believed that women should plead for Indians NOT to be removed from their lands.
* Indians were in possession of the land first & helped early settlers.
* Removal will drive Indians to unfamiliar lands.
* Removal will destroy Indian way of life.
 |