**Indian Removal Think Aloud**

**Perspectives Summary for Teacher**

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| **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. |