**Document A**

During the election of 1828, John Binns, editor of the *Philadelphia Democratic Press*, printed an anti-Jackson broadside that depicted six coffins containing militiamen, who, “an eye witness” alleged, had been executed wrongfully, on General Jackson’s orders during the War of 1812. In addition, it showed another dozen coffins, representing regular soldiers and “Indians” who were put to death under Jackson’s command. There was also a drawing of Jackson on a city street, running his sword through a man’s back.

**Document B**

This campaign poster for Andrew Jackson calls him "a man of the people" and "the hero of two wars and of Orleans." This poster makes reference to the fact that Jackson won the popular vote in the previous election, but John Quincy Adams became president. Jackson would win in a landslide this time with a voter turnout that was four times larger than any other election.
Document C
Source: Excerpt from President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal' (1830)

“What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

The present policy of the Government is but a continuation of the same progressive change by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the Eastern States were annihilated or have melted away to make room for the whites. The waves of population and civilization are rolling to the westward, and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the South and West by a fair exchange, and, at the expense of the United States, to send them to land where their existence may be prolonged and perhaps made perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children by thousands yearly leave the land of their birth to seek new homes in distant regions. Does Humanity weep at these painful separations from everything, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become entwined? Far from it.”

Document D
The Indian Removal Act was signed into law by Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830, authorizing the president to grant unsettled lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for Indian lands within existing state borders. A few tribes went peacefully, but many resisted the relocation policy. Jackson’s successor, President Martin Van Buren, ordered the army to move the rest of them. During the fall and winter of 1838 and 1839, the Cherokees were forcibly moved west by the United States government. Approximately 4,000 Cherokees died on this forced march, which became known as the "Trail of Tears."
Document E

In 1828 Congress passed a very high tariff law. Vice President John C. Calhoun claimed that a state had the right to nullify, or reject, a federal law if it wasn’t in that state’s best interest. Calhoun is the figure at the top of the staircase in the cartoon above. In 1832 Congress passed a lower tariff, but it was not enough to cool the protest. South Carolina passed the Nullification Act, declaring it would not pay "illegal" tariffs. The state threatened to secede, or break away, from the Union if the federal government interfered.

Andrew Jackson believed in a strong Union. In the cartoon above, he is pulling on the coattails of a Calhoun supporter. He wants to prevent Calhoun from trampling on the Constitution and destroying the Union. Jackson asked Congress to pass the Force Bill. This act allowed him to use the military to enforce federal law. South Carolina accepted the new tariff but nullified the Force Bill.

Document F


So in a broader sense the election (of Andrew Jackson in 1828) was a “revolution” comparable to that of 1800. It was a peaceful revolution, achieved by ballots instead of bullets...”Shall the people rule?” cried Jacksonians. The answering roar seemed to say, “The people shall rule!”...

“I never saw anything like it,” a puzzled Daniel Webster mused about Jackson’s inaugural. “Persons have come five hundred miles to see General Jackson, and they really think that the country is rescued from some dreadful danger.”

...Jackson’s victory accelerated the transfer of national power from the country house to the farmhouse, from the East to the West, from the snobs to the mobs. If Jefferson had been the hero of the gentleman farmer, Jackson was the hero of the dirt farmer.
By 1828, the Democratic Republican Party had split. Jackson's supporters called themselves Democrats. Most Democrats favored states' rights and distrusted strong central government. In the election, Jackson received most of the votes cast in the frontier states. He also received many votes in the South, where his support for states’ rights was popular. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who had been Adams’s vice president, switched parties to run with Jackson. Calhoun also supported states’ rights. Jackson won the election easily. Shortly after the election, Jackson’s supporters officially formed the Democratic Party. (Source: McGraw Hill)

Escaped slave notice placed by Andrew Jackson offering a $50 reward, plus expenses, for the return of an enslaved mulatto man who escaped from Jackson's plantation. In a move unusual for the time, the notice offers "ten dollars extra, for every hundred lashes any person will give him, to the amount of three hundred". 

An 1837 lithograph depicting the first appearance of the Democratic donkey.
Through a mistaken policy, you have heretofore been deprived of a participation in the glorious struggle for national rights in which our country is engaged. This no longer shall exist...

To every noble-hearted, generous freeman of color, volunteering to serve during the present contest with Great Britain...will be paid the same bounty, in money and lands, now received by the white soldiers of the United States, viz., one hundred and twenty-four dollars in money, and one hundred and sixty acres of land. The non-commissioned officers and privates will also be entitled to the same monthly pay and daily rations, and clothes, furnished to any American soldier.

On enrolling yourselves in companies, the Major-General commanding will select officers for your government from your white fellow-citizens. Your non-commissioned officers will be appointed from among yourselves.

Due regard will be paid to the feelings of freemen soldiers. You will not, by being associated with white men in the same corps, be exposed to improper comparisons or unjust sarcasm. As a distinct, independent battalion or regiment, pursuing the path of glory, you will, undivided, received the applause and gratitude of your countrymen.

Andrew Jackson served as President from 1829-1837

Note: Andrew Jackson was a slave owner much of his adult life. His treatment of slaves was regarded at the time as fair but firm. As president, he was strongly against abolitionists who sought the immediate end of slavery. He feared that abolitionism would lead to slave revolts, sectional conflict, and possible disunion. If that happened, Jackson feared the people would seek out a dictator to restore order and democracy would be dead.
**Document K**

Source: To sweep the Augean Stable. For President, Andrew Jackson. For Vice-President, John C. Calhoun

Election ticket for Jackson delegates from various Ohio counties in the presidential contest of 1828, illustrated with an image of a straw broom. The broom, a traditional pictorial and literary symbol of reform, is linked here to one of the mythological labors of Hercules -- his cleansing of the Augean stables. His supporters wanted to elect him to “sweep” out the political corruption of Washington, D.C.

Soon after taking office in 1829, Jackson fired many federal workers and replaced them with his supporters. The fired employees protested. They charged that the president was acting like a tyrant.

One Jackson supporter said: "To the victors belong the spoils." In other words, because Jackson had won the election, his supporters had the right to the spoils, or benefits, of victory. This practice of replacing current government employees with supporters of the winner is called the spoils system. (Source: McGraw Hill)

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**Document L**

Source: The rats leaving a falling house, 1831

In this cartoon, Jackson is sprawled in a collapsing chair next to a falling column saying "altar of reform" where a winged donkey stands on its hind legs holding a broom. In the background are nine resignation documents. The heads of the fleeing rats represent cabinet members, from left to right: Secretary of War John H. Eaton, Secretary of the Navy John Branch, Secretary of State Martin Van Buren (whom Jackson is trying to restrain by stepping on his tail) and Secretary of the Treasury Samuel D. Ingham. Jackson had a great deal of corruption in his administration, and many of his appointments had to resign in disgrace.
**Document M**
Most eastern Native American peoples felt forced to sell their land and move west. The Cherokee refused to do so. In treaties of the 1790s, the federal government had recognized the Cherokee as a separate nation. However, the state of Georgia, in which many Cherokee lived, refused to accept the Cherokee's status. In 1830 Georgia made Cherokee land part of the state. It also began to enforce state laws in the Cherokee Nation.

As pressure for relocation mounted, the Cherokee appealed to the American people: "We are aware, that some persons suppose it will be for our advantage to remove beyond the Mississippi. . . . Our people universally think otherwise. . . . We wish to remain on the land of our fathers."
—Appeal of the Cherokee Nation, 1830

Still, Georgia pressured the Cherokee. In response, the Cherokee turned to the U.S. Supreme Court. In Worcester v. Georgia (1832), Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Georgia had no right to interfere with the Cherokee. President Jackson, who supported Georgia's efforts to remove the Cherokee, declared that he would ignore the Supreme Court's ruling. "John Marshall has made his decision," Jackson is said to have declared, "now let him enforce it." No one was willing or able to challenge the president's failure to enforce the Court's ruling. (Source: McGraw Hill)

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**Document N**
**Source:** President Andrew Jackson destroying the Bank of the United States. Lithograph, 1828.

"The bold effort the present (central) bank had made to control the government . . . are but premonitions of the fate that await the American people should they be deluded into a perpetuation of this institution or the establishment of another like it."

"Gentlemen, I have had men watching you for a long time and I am convinced that you have used the funds of the bank to speculate in the breadstuffs of the country. When you won, you divided the profits amongst you, and when you lost, you charged it to the bank. You tell me that if I take the deposits from the bank and annul its charter, I shall ruin ten thousand families. That may be true, gentlemen, but that is your sin! Should I let you go on, you will ruin fifty thousand families, and that would be my sin! You are a den of vipers and thieves." – Andrew Jackson

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...[the] treaties and laws of the United States contemplate the Indian territory as completely separated from that of the states; and provide that all intercourse with them shall be carried on exclusively by the government of the union...

...The Cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community occupying its own territory in which the laws of Georgia can have no force. The whole intercourse between the United States and this nation, is, by our constitution and laws, vested in the government of the United States.

The framers of the Constitution saw the Electoral College as a way to keep less educated groups in society from making a bad decision when electing the President. By the time Jackson was elected in 1828, the process of allowing people to choose electors was nearly complete. Jackson did not cause this change, but he clearly benefitted from it.

Critics of Andrew Jackson believed he ignored the separation of powers among the three branches of government. Here Jackson stands with the veto power in hand, the Constitution under foot, and two Congressional efforts under another foot.

This cartoon appeared during the campaign for Jackson’s second term. Jackson won that election by a considerable margin receiving 55% of the popular vote and winning the electoral college 219 to 49 against Henry Clay. Apparently, most voters did not see Jackson as a would-be-king, or at least weren’t fearful of the prospect.
As the nation expanded west, many Native Americans still remained in the East. The Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw peoples lived in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. These groups had created successful farming communities that were much like many other American communities. As a result, Americans considered them "civilized" and referred to them as the "Five Civilized Tribes."

Though Americans recognized the success of the Five Civilized Tribes, they did not necessarily respect their rights. In fact, some white people wanted the Native Americans' lands for themselves. To make this possible, they wanted the federal government to force eastern Native Americans to relocate to lands west of the Mississippi River.

Andrew Jackson supported the white settlers' demand for Native American land. He had once fought the Creek and Seminole in Georgia and Florida to give the settlers more land. When he became president in 1829, he stated that he wanted to move all Native Americans to the Great Plains. (Source: McGraw Hill)

**Document R**

*Excerpts of letters written by Andrew Jackson to his wife Rachel regarding their Creek Indian son, Lyncoya, adopted after the battle of Tallahatchie, November 13, 1813*

**December 19, 1813**

He is the only branch of his family left, and the others when offered to them to take care of would have nothing to do with him but wanted him to be killed.... Charity and Christianity says he ought to be taken care of and I send him to my little Andrew and I hope he will adopt him as one of our family.

**December 28, 1823**

Tell Lyncoya to read his book and be a good boy and obey you in all things.

*Note: Lyncoya died at age 14 of tuberculosis in 1827 and was buried in the family cemetery.*
“If Andrew Jackson shall succeed to the government of this country - a country, which by his valor has been protected and saved, he will owe it to no intrigue, no to the kind efforts of leading men: he will owe it to himself, and the remembrance of a people, conscious of his worth, and grateful for the splendid services he has rendered them... The more we become acquainted with this extraordinary man, the more are we constrained to admire him; for whenever he speaks, something out of the ordinary channel at once presents itself....”

... To this high office Jackson has superior claims. Remember he was of the Revolution! ...even at the tender age of fifteen, was he found in the ranks of the Revolution fighting and bleeding for his country.”

I feel much alarmed at the prospect of seeing General Jackson President. He is one of the most unfit men I know of for such a place. He has had very little respect for laws and constitutions, and is, in fact, an able military chief. His passions are terrible. When I was President of the Senate, he was Senator; and he could never speak on account of the rashness of his feelings. I have seen him attempt it repeatedly, and as often choke with rage. His passions are, no doubt, cooler now; he has been much tried since I knew him, but he is a dangerous man.

The recent demonstration of public sentiment inscribes on the list of Executive duties, in characters too legible to be overlooked, the task of reform, which will require particularly the correction of those abuses that have brought the patronage of the Federal Government into conflict with the freedom of elections, and the counteraction of those causes which have disturbed the rightful course of appointment and have placed or continued power in unfaithful or incompetent hands.

In the performance of a task thus generally delineated I shall endeavor to select men whose diligence and talents will insure in their respective stations able and faithful cooperation, depending for the advancement of the public service more on the integrity and zeal of the public officers than on their numbers.