

**CHAPTER 7 Section 3** (pages 224–229)

# The Age of Jackson

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about the growth of nationalism in the United States.

In this section, you will learn about the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

## AS YOU READ

Use the time line to take notes about the political career of Andrew Jackson.

### TERMS AND NAMES

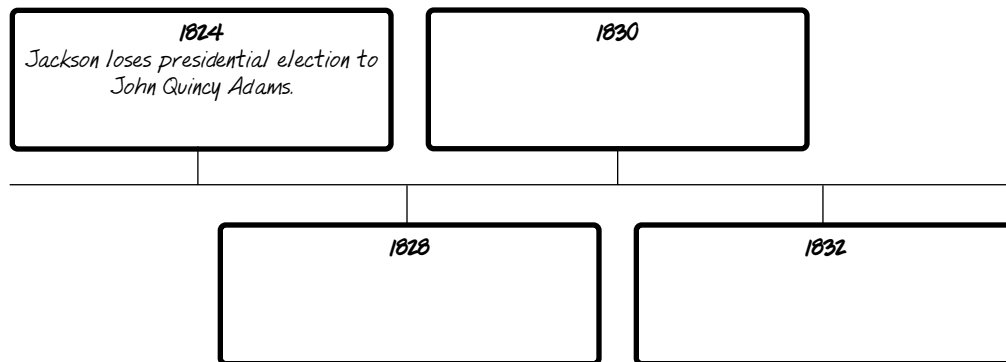
**Andrew Jackson** Military hero and seventh president

**Democratic-Republican Party** Party started by Jackson's followers

**spoils system** System in which incoming political parties throw out former government workers and replace them with their own friends

**Indian Removal Act** Law that forced Native Americans to move west

**Trail of Tears** Path the Cherokee were forced to travel from Georgia to Indian Territory



## Expanding Democracy Changes Politics

(pages 224–225)

### *What led to the formation of the Democratic-Republican Party?*

**Andrew Jackson**, a hero from the War of 1812, ran for president in 1824 against John Quincy Adams. Neither candidate received a majority of electoral votes and the House of Representatives had to decide the winner. Speaker of the House Henry Clay disliked Jackson. He used his influence to help Adams win the election. Jackson's followers accused Adams of stealing the election. They formed their own party—the **Democratic-Republican Party**. For the next four years, the new party attacked Adams's policies.

During Adams's presidency, most states had eased voting requirements a citizen had to fulfill to be able to vote. As a result, the voting population greatly increased. Fewer states had property qualifications for voting. This meant that many more individuals could vote.

The 1828 presidential election signaled how much the nation's voter rolls had grown. In the election of 1824, about 350,000 white males voted for the presidency. In 1828, more than three times that number voted. However, certain groups still lacked political power. Free blacks and women did not enjoy the freedoms and privileges of white males.

## 1. How did the voting population grow?

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### Jackson's New Presidential Style

(pages 225–226)

#### *What is the spoils system?*

Andrew Jackson appealed to many of these new voters. When Jackson ran for president again in 1828, these new voters supported him. With their help, Jackson won the presidency by a *landslide*.

Andrew Jackson also appealed to the common people. He was so popular that crowds of people came to Washington for his inauguration.

Jackson wanted common people to have a chance to participate in government. Once in office, he removed about 10 percent of federal workers from their jobs. He gave those jobs to friends and loyal followers. Jackson's friends also became his advisers. These advisers were known as his “kitchen cabinet” because they supposedly slipped into the White House through the kitchen.

The practice by incoming political parties of removing old workers and replacing them with their supporters is known as the **spoils system**. It comes from an old saying that in war “to the victor belong the spoils of the enemy.”

## 2. How did Jackson show his commitment to the common people once in office?

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### Removal of Native Americans

(pages 226–229)

#### *What was the Trail of Tears?*

By the early 1800s, some Native American groups in the Southeast began to take on the culture of their white neighbors. These tribes—The Cherokee, Choctaw, Seminole, Creek, and Chickasaw—were called the Five Civilized Tribes.

Despite all this, white settlers did not wish to live with Native Americans. Instead, they wanted Native American land in the South and West for farms. As a result, President Jackson decided to remove the Native Americans from their lands.

Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830. The law ordered all Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River. In 1830, Jackson pressured the Choctaw to sign a treaty that required them to move from Mississippi. In 1831, he ordered U.S. troops to forcibly remove the Sauk and Fox from their lands in Illinois and Missouri. In 1832, he forced the Chickasaw to leave their lands in Alabama and Mississippi.

The Cherokee Nation, however, fought the Indian Removal Act in court. Chief Justice Marshall ruled in their favor. The Court said that the United States had no right to take Cherokee land.

But Andrew Jackson refused to obey the Court's ruling. Instead, federal agents signed a treaty with a group of Cherokee leaders willing to leave their land. Beginning in October and November of 1838, U.S. Army troops began forcing the Cherokee to travel from Georgia to the new Indian territory west of the Mississippi River.

The 800-mile trip was made partly by steamboat and railroad but mostly on foot. As the winter came, more and more of the Cherokee died. Along the way, government officials stole the Cherokees' money, while outlaws made off with their livestock. The journey became known as the **Trail of Tears** because more than a quarter of the travelers died on it. When they reached their final destination, the Cherokee ended up on land far inferior to that which they had been forced to leave.

## 3. How did the removal of Native Americans cause a rift between the executive and judicial branches?

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