

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

History: \_\_\_\_\_

## Trail of Tears

**Were the Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears acts of genocide?**

### Do Now:

- 1.) What idea justified the idea of moving West to many Americans?
  - a. Natural Rights
  - b. Legal Rights
  - c. Civil Rights
  - d. Manifest Destiny
- 2.) What did President Jefferson buy in 1803?
  - a. Rocky Mountains
  - b. Mississippi River
  - c. Louisiana Territory
- 3.) What type of Americans did Andrew Jackson exemplify and represent?
  - a. Slaves
  - b. Wealthy elite
  - c. Common man
  - d. Native Americans
- 4.) What 1830 law allowed the United States to force Native Americans west of the Mississippi River?
  - a. Stamp Act
  - b. Indian Removal Act
  - c. Missouri Compromise
- 5.) NEW WORD ALERT: *systematic* – something that is purposefully planned and/pr put into order.

Use *systematic* in a sentence:

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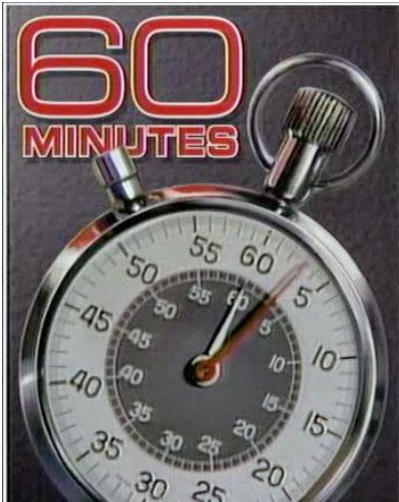
Whose interests were and were not served by westward expansion? What did it mean to be, and who was considered "American" during the era of Westward Expansion?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

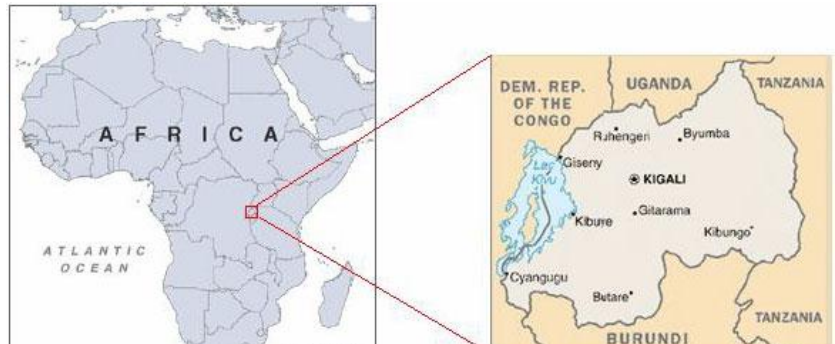
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## Rwanda 1993



<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=3004020n>



REFLECT: Was this story disturbing to you? Why do you think otherwise normal people could allow such horrible things to happen?

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*Genocide: The systematic killing of a racial or cultural group*

What SPECIFICALLY about the events in Rwanda make it “genocide?”

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Whose interests were and were not served by westward expansion? What did it mean to be, and who was considered “American” during the era of Westward Expansion?

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## Was 'Indian Removal' an act of genocide?

Directions: Use the following documents and questions to gather evidence to answer the question above. We will be using these as our evidence when we discuss this question as a class on Monday.

### DOCUMENT #1

BACKGROUND INFO: In 1838, President Andrew Jackson ordered the Army to remove the Cherokee Tribe from land that settlers from the U.S. wanted to use. This passage was written by a young army private who was sent to be an interpreter.

Being acquainted with many of the Indians and able to fluently speak their language, I was sent as an interpreter into the Smoky Mountain Country in May, 1838, and **witnessed the most brutal order in the History of American Warfare.** I saw the **helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes**, and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades [places where cattle are herded]. And in the chill of a drizzling rain on an October morning I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into six hundred and forty-five wagons and started toward the west... Many of these helpless people did not have blankets and many of them had been driven from home barefooted... until we reached the end of the fateful journey on March the 26<sup>th</sup>, 1839, **the sufferings of the Cherokees were awful. The trail of exile was a trail of death.**

-John G. Burnett, "The Cherokee Removal Through the Eyes of a Private Soldier" (December 11, 1890)

What did this author see the U.S. Army doing to the Cherokee people? (HINT: Look at the bolded phrases)

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Does this author think "Indian Removal" was a good idea? Why or why not?

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### DOCUMENT #3

Jackson believed in [Indian] removal with all his heart, and by refusing to entertain any other scenario, he was as ferocious in inflicting harm on a people as he was in defending the rights of those he thought of as the people. To Jackson, the interest of whites were paramount in the removal question. To those who argued for Indian rights, he justified his course by arguing that removal would guarantee the survival of the tribes, which would otherwise be wiped out, and by asserting that coexistence was impossible.

-(Jon Meacham, *American Lion* 2009 54)

Did Andrew Jackson say that he intended (wanted) to kill every Native American? What was his argument in favor of Indian Removal?

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What was Andrew Jackson's goal in supporting the idea of Indian Removal?

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Was it Andrew Jackson's goal to kill all Native Americans? Does this effect whether or not we can call Indian Removal "genocide.?"

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Whose interests were and were not served by westward expansion? What did it mean to be, and who was considered "American" during the era of Westward Expansion?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### DOCUMENT #3

BACKGROUND INFO: Right before the Cherokees were removed from their homeland, the council of leaders of the Cherokee tribe wrote a statement to the United States and its people. This is a section of that statement.

We are not willing to remove... We wish to remain on the land of our fathers. We have a perfect and original right to remain without interruption or molestation. **The treaties with us, and laws of the United States made in pursuance of treaties, guarantee our residence and our privileges and secure us against intruders.** Our only request is that these treaties may be fulfilled.

-Lewis Ross Et al. "Address of the Committee and Council of the Cherokee Nation, in General Council Convened, to the People of the United States" (July 17, 1830)

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### DOCUMENT #4

I fought through the Civil War and have seen men shot to pieces and slaughtered by thousands, but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest work I ever knew."

-Georgia volunteer, 1867 (from Meacham 318)

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### DOCUMENT #5

The people of the United States are not altogether guiltless in regard to their treatment of the aboriginies of this continent; but they cannot as yet be charged with any *systematic legislation* on this subject [as the Indian Removal policy would be], inconsistent with the plainest principles of moral honesty.”

-Jeremiah Evarts, 1830 (from Meacham 142)

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### DOCUMENT #6

It was then in the depth of winter, and that year the cold was exceptionally severe; the snow was hard on the ground, and huge masses of ice drifted on the river. The Indians brought their families with them there were among them the wounded, the sick, newborn babies, and old men on the point of death. They had neither tents nor wagons, but only some provisions and weapons. I saw them embark to cross the great river, and the sight will never fade from my memory. Neither sob nor complaint rose from that silent assembly. Their afflictions were of long standing, and they felt them to be irredeemable.”

-Alexis de Tocqueville, 1830 (from Meacham 152)

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## Thinking Questions

For something to be genocide, it has to be *systematic*. Was Indian Removal *systematic*? Cite ONE SPECIFIC PIECE OF EVIDENCE to support your claim.

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For something to be genocide, it has to be *intentional*. Was Indian Removal *intentional*? Cite ONE SPECIFIC PIECE OF EVIDENCE to support your claim.

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Does it make any difference **today** what we decide to call something that happened in the **past**? Why or why not?

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## **RESPOND: Was 'Indian Removal' an act of genocide? Why or why not?**

Respond with **at least 5 sentences** and  
include **at least TWO SPECIFIC pieces of evidence to support your ideas.**

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