

## Document A

**Source:** Dee Brown, "The Trail of Tears," *American History Illustrated*, June 1972.

In 1828, when Andrew Jackson was running for President, he knew that in order to win he must sweep the frontier states. Free land for the land-hungry settlers became Jackson's major policy. He hammered away at this theme especially hard in Georgia, where waves of settlers from the coastal low-lands were pushing into the highly desirable Cherokee country. He promised the Georgians that if they would help elect him President, he would lend his support to opening up the Cherokee lands for settlement. The Cherokees, of course, were not citizens and could not vote in opposition.

**Note:** In the election of 1828, Andrew Jackson won 97 percent of the votes cast in Georgia.

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### Document Analysis

1. According to the document, why did Andrew Jackson tell Georgians that he would "lend his support to opening up the Cherokee lands for settlement"?
2. Why didn't Jackson try to get votes from the Cherokees?
3. Was Jackson's strategy for winning votes in Georgia successful? How do you know?
4. Politics, social prejudice, or economics: In which of these three buckets would you place this document? Explain your thinking.
5. How does this document help answer the question, The Trail of Tears: Why were the Cherokees removed?