

Document B

Source: John Ridge, letter to the editor, *Christian Herald*, December 20, 1823.

Note: John Ridge and his father, Major Ridge, were members of the Cherokee National Council and had leadership roles in the Cherokee Nation.

An Indian is almost considered accursed (horrible). He is frowned upon by the meanest peasant. ...If an Indian is educated in the sciences, has a good knowledge of the classics, astronomy, mathematics, moral and natural philosophy, and his conduct [is] equally modest and polite, yet he is an Indian, and the most stupid and illiterate white man will disdain and triumph over this worthy individual.

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Document Analysis

1. Who is John Ridge?
2. According to Ridge, in general terms, how do white people regard Indians?
3. What point is Ridge making when he describes an Indian who is educated in the sciences, classics, astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy?
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?