

Document E

Source: President Andrew Jackson's message to Congress on Indian removal, December 6, 1830.

What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged (traveled) 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?

Note: The approximate population of the United States in 1830 was 12,000,000.

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Document Analysis

1. When Jackson refers to “a few thousand savages,” to whom is he referring?
2. This document asks a rhetorical question. A rhetorical question is asked to make a point rather than to get an answer. What point is Andrew Jackson making with this rhetorical question?
3. Do you agree with the point Jackson makes in this document? Explain.
4. How does this document help you answer the question, The Trail of Tears: Why were the Cherokees removed?