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**Andrew Jackson and the Cherokee Primary Document Interpretation**

Andrew Jackson’s 1829 State of the Union Address

. . . .The condition and ulterior destiny of the Indian tribes within the limits of some of our States have become objects of much interest and importance. It has long been the policy of Government to introduce among them the arts of civilization, in the hope of gradually reclaiming them from a wandering life. This policy has, however, been coupled with another wholly incompatible with its success. Professing a desire to civilize and settle them, we have at the same time lost no opportunity to purchase their lands and thrust them farther into the wilderness. By this means they have not only been kept in a wandering state, but been led to look upon us as unjust and indifferent to their fate. Thus, though lavish in its expenditures upon the subject, Government has constantly defeated its own policy, and the Indians in general, receding farther and farther to the west, have retained their savage habits. A portion, however, of the Southern tribes, having mingled much with the whites and made some progress in the arts of civilized life, have lately attempted to erect an independent government within the limits of Georgia and Alabama.

Andrew Jackson’s 1833 State of the Union Address

It is to be hoped that those portions of two of the Southern tribes, which in that event will present the only remaining difficulties, will realize the necessity of emigration, and will speedily resort to it. My original convictions upon this subject have been confirmed by the course of events for several years, and experience is every day adding to their strength. That those tribes cannot exist surrounded by our settlements and in continual contact with our citizens is certain. They have neither the intelligence, the industry, the moral habits, nor the desire of improvement which are essential to any favorable change in their condition. Established in the midst of another and a superior race, and without appreciating the causes of their inferiority or seeking to control them, they must necessarily yield to the force of circumstances and ere long disappear.

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| Place – Where was this document written? | Times – When were these documents written? |
| Author or Artist – Who wrote this document? | Audience – Who was supposed to read/hear this document? |
| Meaning – What do these documents say in your own words? | Purpose – Why were these documents written? |

**Interpretation 1 -** Explain how Jackson’s description of the Native Americans changed between 1829 and 1833, citing at least two specific examples from his speeches.

**Interpretation 2 -** Explain why you think Jackson’s description of the Native Americans changed so much in four years. How might his 1833 description have helped Jackson meet his goals for the South?