

# THE DEBATE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS IN THE JACKSONIAN PERIOD

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Senior Individual Website

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**Process Paper**

Almost every student knows that European Americans took over all the lands of Native Americans in America. But I was curious if there were any early European Americans who thought it was a bad idea to take away the Native Americans' lands. So when I did some research I came across how President Andrew Jackson pushed Native Americans out of the Southeast of the United States and how Jackson, among other things, was behind the Indian Removal Act which allowed President Jackson and southern states to force the Native Indians to leave the South East of the United States. That is when I realized that there were European Americans in the 1820s and 1830s who worked together with the Native Americans to fight back against President Jackson and the southern states. These European Americans and Native Americans heroically debated against the European Americans who wanted to violate the rights of Native Americans. I was very impressed that back in early America not all European Americans thought it was okay to take away all the land of Native Americans. In particular, many people have heard of Davey Crockett and how he died at the Alamo. But what I found through my research was that Davey Crockett was heavily debating against his fellow Tennessean, Andrew Jackson, about the rights of Native Americans. Also, I was very impressed by the missionary Samuel Worcester who worked with the Cherokee's to save their rights to stay on their land in Georgia, including going to the Supreme Court. He and other European Americans are heroes about human rights and the rights of Native Americans. The debates they had to stop Andrew Jackson and other European Americans who wanted to continue taking land from Native Americans were debates that happened in Congress and the Supreme Court. I thought this was a great debate in early America that I should tell about in this National History Competition.

I conducted research by utilizing 1) several biographies on Andrew Jackson which included chapters on his treatment on Native Americans; 2) three Supreme Court decisions from the early 19th Century; 3) the Indian Removal Act of 1830; 4) various articles on the Trail of Tears concerning the Cherokee nations; 5) the Senate speech of Senator Thomas Frelinghuysen; and 6) various websites concerning the Indian Removal Act, Jackson, Samuel Worcester, David Crockett,

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I chose to make an individual website about this part of history because this part of history is complex and by building different webpages that are connected I could tell this complex story about how various European Americans worked with Native Americans to debate about the rights of Native Americans. Also, I could tell how the Native Americans lost and how they suffered. I have some computer experience so this helped me make this history website.