**Andrew Jackson Document Analysis**

**Directions:** Attached to this handout is a set of documents related to the following question: Andrew Jackson argued that he was a true supporter of ordinary Americans, but his opponents argued that he was a cruel, tyrant. Who was right – Jackson or his opponents? Pick 6 of the 8 documents provided and complete the chart below.

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| **Doc** | **Andrew Jackson: True Supporter of Ordinary Americans or Cruel, Tyrant?** |  **How Can You Tell?**  |
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Document A: Andrew Jackson Campaign Poster, 1828



#### Document B: Andrew Jackson, 1st Inaugural Address, 1829

In administering the laws of Congress I shall keep steadily in view the limitations as well as the extent of the Executive power, trusting thereby to discharge the functions of my office without transcending its authority.

As long as our Government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of person and of property, liberty of conscience and of the press, it will be worth defending; and so long as it is worth defending a patriotic militia will cover it with an impenetrable aegis. Partial injuries and occasional mortifications we may be subjected to, but a million of armed freemen, possessed of the means of war, can never be conquered by a foreign foe. To any just system, therefore, calculated to strengthen this natural safeguard of the country I shall cheerfully lend all the aid in my power.

 It will be my sincere and constant desire to observe toward the Indian tribes within our limits a just and liberal policy, and to give that humane and considerate attention to their rights and their wants which is consistent with the habits of our Government and the feelings of our people.

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| Document C: Andrew Jackson’s Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal', 1830 |

The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves.... It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters.… It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

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

Document D: Andrew Jackson, "Veto of Maysville Road Bill", 1830

Gentlemen, I have maturely considered the bill proposing to authorize a "subscription of stock in the Maysville...Road Company," and now return the same to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, with my objections to its passage...

Such grants [of money by the federal government] have always been [passed] under the control of the general principle that the works which might be thus aided should be "of a general, not local, national, not State," character.  A disregard of this distinction would of necessity lead to the subversion of the federal system.... I am not able to view [the Maysville Road Bill] in any other light than as a measure of purely local character.... It has no connection with any established system of improvements; [and] is exclusively within the limits of a State [Kentucky]....

...As great as this object [goal of internal improvements] undoubtedly is, it is not the only one which demands the fostering care of the government. The preservation and success of the republican principle rest with us…. Through the favor of an overruling and indulgent Providence our country is blessed with a general prosperity and our citizens exempted from the pressure of taxation, which other less favored portions of the human family are obliged to bear; yet it is true that many of the taxes collected from our citizens… have for a considerable period been onerous. In many particulars these taxes have borne severely upon the laboring and less prosperous classes of the community

Document E: Andrew Jackson’s Veto Message Regarding the National Bank, 1832

I sincerely regret that in the act before me I can perceive none of those modifications of the bank

charter which are necessary, in my opinion, to make it compatible with justice, with sound policy, or with the Constitution of our country. : . . The present Bank of the United States . . . enjoys an exclusive privilege of banking, . . . almost a monopoly of the foreign and domestic exchange.

It appears that more than a fourth part of the stock is held by foreigners and the residue is held by a few hundred of our own citizens, chiefly of the richest class. Of the twenty-five directors of this bank five are chosen by the Government and twenty by the citizen stockholders. . . . It is easy to conceive that great evils to our country and its institutions might flow from such a concentration of power in the hands of a few men irresponsible to the people.

Is there no danger to our liberty and independence in a bank that in its nature has so little to bind it to our country? It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes.

Document F: Daniel Webster's Reply to Jackson's Veto Message, 1832

[Jackson’s message] extends the grasp of executive pretension over every power of the government. . . . It sows, in an unsparing manner, the seeds of jealousy and ill-will against that government of which its author is the official head. It raises a cry that liberty is in danger, at the very moment when it puts forth claims to powers heretofore unknown and unheard of. It effects alarm for the public freedom, when nothing endangers that freedom so much as its own unparalleled pretences.

This even, is not all. It manifestly seeks to inflame the poor against the rich; it wantonly attacks whole classes of the people, for the purpose of turning against them the prejudices and the resentments of the other classes. It is a state paper which finds no topic too exciting for its use, no passion too inflammable for its address and its solicitation.

Document G: Statistics on Presidential Vetoes

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| **President** | **# of Vetoes** |
| Washington | 2 |
| Adams | 0 |
| Jefferson | 0 |
| Madison | 7 |
| Monroe | 1 |
| Quincy Adams | 0 |
| Jackson | 12 |

Document H: 1832 Election Map

