

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program



Andrew Jackson — A New Chapter in Presidential Leadership



- Student Activity: Honor in a Life of Violence and Misfortune
- Student Activity: Andrew Jackson — a Comparison and Contrast
- Student Activity: Andrew Jackson in Today's Post
- Post Retropolis Reprint: "Trump called Andrew Jackson 'a swashbuckler.' The Cherokees called him 'Indian killer.'"

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The Post's Newspaper In Education (NIE) program and Digital Department present this special issue of the online curriculum guides that provide teachers with suggested activities, reprints and other resources to use Washington Post-created coverage in print, digital, visual and podcast formats.

Presidential is a series of 44 podcasts, one for each president, hosted by Post reporter Lillian Cunningham. She interviewed historians, biographers, reporters and other experts for the podcasts that were posted one per week. They include our knowledge of the presidents and their time periods, influences on their personalities and skills, and contributions each made to presidential leadership.

Some of the suggested activities indicate time markers; others do not. We have provided approximate times to begin and end listening to certain segments. The exact time can vary depending on the device used or the length of ads served on different streaming sites. Transcripts for all podcasts are also available at wapo.st/presidential.

Some teachers have 45-minute class periods, others much longer blocks. Some of you will use the podcasts with KidsPost readers, others with high school or college students. We have tried to vary the questions, activities and reprints to give you flexibility for in-class and homework assignments and discussion. They will serve as springboards as you use the 44 Presidential podcasts to meet your educational goals.



Honor in a Life of Violence and Misfortune



“Andrew Jackson: The Violence, The Fight” is the seventh episode in the Presidential podcasts. In it, Lillian Cunningham, host of the series, interviews NPR’s Steve Inskeep, Library of Congress historian Barbara Bair and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham. Listen to the podcast as they explore the seventh president’s enduring dark legacy and the way that violence — done to him, and by him — dramatically influenced his leadership style and a new type of presidency.

1. Andrew Jackson was born on the Ides of March.
 - a. What associations are there with this day in history and earlier leaders?

- b. What had Jackson experienced by the age of 14?

2. Historian Bair speculates on how these early events influenced his outlook.

- a. What does she believe?

- b. Think about places where children today face conflict, loss of family and violence. What influence does this have on their lives? And their potential outlook on adults?

- c. What later events in Jackson’s life support this view of the world?

3. Biographer Steve Inskeep puts Jackson’s life into perspective of the 1700s.

- a. In what ways is Jackson a man of his time?

- b. How does Jackson’s sense of honor express itself as gentlemanly and as vengeful?

- c. Later in the interview, Inskeep describes the importance of a candidate having a narrative — a personal story — that appeals to people. What is Jackson’s narrative and which voters admired and voted for him in 1828?

4. Describe Jackson’s military experience. How does it shape his character and influence his leadership style?

5. Summarize ways in which he was a self-made man.

6. Bair explains that his eventual nickname, “Old Hickory,” is an apt descriptor.
 - a. What are the qualities of the hickory stick that he shares?

 - b. In what ways did he exemplify those qualities?

 - c. How is this expressed during his presidency?

7. He is a man who embodied great love and violent hatred. Give an example of each emotion directing actions.

8. Jon Meacham, near the end of the podcast, states that Jackson’s “legacy has shifted through time.”
 - a. Which aspects of Jackson’s personality do you see as positive?

 - b. Which aspects of Jackson’s personality do you see as negative?
9. What decision(s) of his presidency, what is called the Jacksonian Era, do you think made the greatest impact on changing expectations of presidential leadership?

10. Meacham states:

“We are increasingly conscious that we’re in a very diverse country that’s becoming more diverse all the time. And it’s a development that underlies a lot of the news of our era and certainly most of the politics of our era — it’s back in the background on issue after issue after issue.”

When we study Jackson’s time of almost a couple centuries ago, you realize that the United States was very diverse then and that there were many different kinds of people then. And so that question isn’t new. They also came up with a terrible, terrible answer to that question.”

- a. Summarize Meacham’s statement.

- b. If you could speak to Jackson biographer Meacham, what questions would you ask him about his conclusion?

- c. Do you see parallels to today’s America?

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SPECIAL EDITION: U.S. PRESIDENTS



Andrew Jackson — A Comparison and Contrast



The seventh of the *Washington Post* Presidential podcasts focuses on Andrew Jackson.

The experts who join host Lillian Cunningham — Library of Congress historian Barbara Bair, biographer and NPR’s Morning Edition co-host Steve Inskeep, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham — discuss the many dimensions of the man known as Old Hickory, hero of the Battle of New Orleans, and populist president.

In interviews, each expert indicates comparisons and contrasts to be made with other presidents. Select one of the following comparisons, listen to the podcast and write a comparison/contrast with specific examples.

➡ indicates areas in which comparison and contrast can naturally be made

• Andrew Jackson and George Washington

In episode 7, historian Barbara Bair of the Library of Congress refers to the comparison to be made between Jackson and George Washington (approx. 38-minute marker to 39 minutes into podcast). How are they alike and how do they differ?

➡ frontier experience, involvement in battles and wars, leadership style

• Andrew Jackson and the six presidents who came before him.

Begin with Jackson biographer Jon Meacham’s statement in Presidential episode 7, “Andrew Jackson: The Violence, the Fight” (Listen from approx. 32-minute mark to 34 minutes):

“The vividness of his character and this — his capacity to be subtle and strong while projecting an image of hawkishness and the journey he made from obscurity to being the president of the United States. The first six presidents were either Virginia planters or Adamses from Massachusetts. Jackson is the seventh president — was the first self-made man to reach the pinnacle and that was intrinsically dramatic.”

Draw more specific comparisons and contrasts between Andrew Jackson and the first six presidents.

➡ education and government experience, involvement in battles and wars, leadership style

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• **Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams**

Lillian Cunningham and Barbara Bair, Library of Congress historian, discuss the elections of 1824 and 1828 between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. (Listen approx. at 37 minutes to 39 minutes) These men are a study of contrasts.

➡ family, education, experience in battle and governing, supporters and the 1824 and 1828 elections, and leadership style

• **Andrew Jackson and Donald Trump**

Just as Ronald Reagan did, President Trump chose a portrait of Andrew Jackson to hang in the Oval Office. Trump said Jackson was a “swashbuckler” and “a very tough person.” How do the two presidents compare? How do the two presidents contrast?

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SPECIAL EDITION: U.S. PRESIDENTS



Andrew Jackson in Today's Post

Journalism is the first draft of history. Today's stories report on local happenings (meetings with city officials and campaigns, home fires and neighborhood shootings and parades, high school game scores and student scholars), state events (legislative and executive decisions, annual fairs and athletic championships, road paving and storm damage), and national and international decisions.

The Washington Post also covers reflections on the past, new assessments of old actions, changes in culture and reminders of who we were. The Retropolis section connects today's news with its history. *The Post* has been recording history on its front pages since 1877. Its archives serve as a resource (as do Washington's museums, libraries and historians) for the Retropolis blog and print column.

Retropolis

Hunting down runaway slaves: The cruel ads of Andrew Jackson and 'the master class'

BY DEENEEN L. BROWN

• Originally Published May 1, 2017

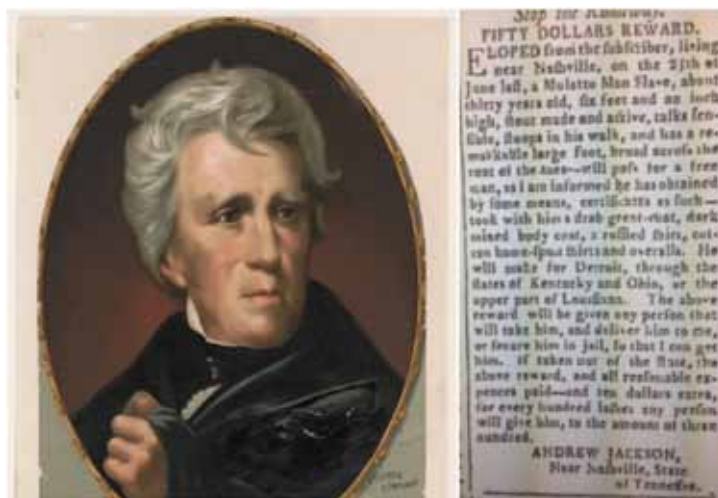
"Stop the Runaway," Andrew Jackson urged in an ad placed in the *Tennessee Gazette* in October 1804. The future president gave a detailed description: A "Mulatto Man Slave, about thirty years old, six feet and an inch high, stout made and active, talks sensible, stoops in his walk, and has a remarkable large foot, broad across the root of the toes — will pass for a free man..."

Jackson, who would become the country's seventh commander in chief in 1829, promised anyone who captured this "Mulatto Man Slave" a reward of \$50, plus "reasonable" expenses paid.

Jackson added a line that some historians find particularly cruel.

It offered "ten dollars extra, for every hundred lashes any person will give him, to the amount of three hundred."

The ad was signed, "ANDREW JACKSON, Near Nashville, State of Tennessee."



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/TENNESSEE GAZETTE

The runaway slave ad placed by Andrew Jackson ran in the "Tennessee Gazette," on Oct. 3, 1804. The ad was published on Page 3, column 4.

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SPECIAL EDITION: U.S. PRESIDENTS



Retropolis

Andrew Jackson was called ‘Indian killer.’ Trump honored Navajos in front of his portrait.

BY ELI ROSENBERG

• *Originally Published November 28, 2017*

The prominent placement of an Andrew Jackson portrait during an event meant to honor a group of Native Americans at the Oval Office on Monday has raised questions about the White House’s message.

Jackson is known for his harsh treatment of Native Americans as president, famously signing the Indian Removal Act, which led to thousands of Native American deaths as tens of thousands were forced to relocate. Some observers thought the juxtaposition of his portrait during the event with the stated purpose of honoring three Navajo code talkers was strange.

“We noticed,” said Jacqueline Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. “Andrew Jackson wasn’t necessarily a president who was respectful of tribal governments and Native Americans. This is one of those eras that is probably bleaker in terms of the relationship between Native Americans and the federal government.”

The portrait is visible for the entirety of the White House’s 17-minute broadcast of the event.



SUSAN WALSH/THE WASHINGTON POST

President Trump revived his nickname for Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) on Nov. 27, calling her “Pocahontas” at an event for Native American code talkers.

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SPECIAL EDITION: U.S. PRESIDENTS



Retropolis

Trump called Andrew Jackson ‘a swashbuckler.’ The Cherokees called him ‘Indian killer.’

BY DENEEEN L. BROWN

● Originally Published May 3, 2017

Donald Trump has a portrait of Andrew Jackson hanging by his desk in the Oval Office. On Monday, in an interview with Salena Zito, the 45th president lauded the seventh president, calling Jackson “a swashbuckler” who could have prevented the Civil War.

The Cherokees had a different name for Jackson. They called him “Indian killer.” The Creek called him “Sharp Knife.”

On May 28, 1830, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which Native Americans say was a form of legalized ethnic cleansing.

The act forced more than 60,000 Native Americans from their lands in the Southeast United States, clearing the way for white pioneers. Native Americans were forced to walk hundreds of miles to resettle west of the Mississippi River. Historians believe more than 15,000 died on the difficult journey.

After Jackson left the White House in 1837, Cherokees were pushed off their land during the winter of 1838 and 1839. More than 4,000 Cherokees died from hunger, exposure and disease on their march west, which became known as the “Trail of Tears.”

Jackson, who was 61 when he became president in 1829, was considered a military hero who had defeated



AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

A portrait of Andrew Jackson hangs on a wall behind President Trump and Vice President Pence in the Oval Office.

the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. By then, “Old Hickory,” as Jackson was nicknamed, had already used troops against warring factions of the Creek Nation and imposed harsh terms during peace negotiations, according to the National Park Service, which operates a historic “Trail of Tears” route.

“His treaty punished both the Red Sticks and the Creek who had fought by his side with a cession of 23 million acres — nearly half of the Creek land,” according to the park service account. “His terms and unwillingness to negotiate earned him the Creek nickname of ‘Sharp Knife.’ ”

Jackson was born in South Carolina in 1767. His father, Andrew, an immigrant from northern Ireland, had died just days earlier. When he was 14, Jackson fought against the British in the Revolutionary War. According to historians, Jackson was taken prisoner by the British, and a soldier cut him with a sword when Jackson refused to polish his boots.

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Jackson was tall, with a narrow head and piercing eyes — a slave owner with cruel streak. He had killed a man in a duel in Kentucky, in 1806, after the man made rude comments about Jackson's wife, Rachel.

In 1813, Jackson, then a U.S. Army major general, led a massacre against Creek Indians in the Mississippi Territory. Jackson saw them as impediments to his desire for western settlement.

His assessment of the Cherokee? "Established in the midst of a superior race," Jackson said, "they must disappear."

A year after becoming the country's first populist president, he laid out his Indian removal strategy in his Second Annual Message to Congress.

Gold had been discovered in northern Georgia, which was the territory of the Cherokee. The Indian Removal Act cleared the way for white gold prospectors to seize the land.

The U.S. Supreme Court had issued a ruling, attempting to prevent Georgia from removing the Cherokees. But Jackson, whose visage appears on the \$20 bill, ignored the decision.

On Dec. 6, 1830, Jackson predicted in his written address to Congress that removal would relieve Mississippi and Alabama "of Indian occupancy and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power."

Jackson said he believed that pushing Native Americans from their homelands would "enable them to pursue

happiness in their own way, and under their own rude institutions."

The Native Americans, under the "protection of the Government," would be compelled "through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized and Christian community," Jackson said. "These consequences, some of them so certain, and the rest so probable, make the complete execution of the plan sanctioned by Congress at their last session an object of much solicitude."

Tribes including the Creek, Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw were marched hundreds of miles to what the government called "Indian Territory" in Oklahoma.

In 1836, Cherokee Chief John Ross, who led his people west, wrote in a letter that they had been stripped of their freedom.

"Our property may be plundered before our eyes; violence may be committed on our persons; even our lives may be taken away, and there is none to regard our complaints," Ross wrote.

He added the Cherokee had been stripped of their humanity.

"Our hearts are sickened, our utterance is paralyzed, when we reflect on the condition in which we are placed, by the audacious practices of unprincipled men, who have managed their stratagems with so much dexterity as to impose on the Government of the United States, in the face of our earnest, solemn, and reiterated protestations."