

The Meaning of Cherokee Civilization

Newspaper Editorials about Indian
Removal

Debrief Questions

Analyzing the debate

- According to these sources, what made the Cherokee civilized?
- What aspects of traditional Cherokee civilization do the authors use to illustrate progress?
- How do they challenge evidence from proponents of removal?
- Compare the reasons given by the two men for why the federal government should side with the Cherokee against removal

Analyzing the debate

- Why do you think Boudinot focuses on Cherokee nationhood while Evarts focuses on American nationhood?
- Why do you think advocates of the Cherokee failed to convince Americans to resist Indian Removal?
- All native groups faced discrimination and pressure to move westward in the 1820's and 1830's, but the "civilized tribes, such as the Cherokee, endured the most severe consequences of these policies. Why do you think that is?
- Do you think these authors would have written so forcefully about native "civilization" if they had known the eventual outcome of the struggle against removal?