1. Slavery in America

Document A: Description of a whipping

" My master use to …whip me. He would put my hands together and tie them. He would strip me naked—He would whip me one side till that was sore and full of blood and then he would whip me on the other side till that was all tore up."

What does this document say about the relationship of slave and master?

When slave were whipped what human right was being denied to the slaves?

Document B: Speech by Frederick Douglass

"The law gives the master absolute power over the slave. He may work him, flog him, hire him out, sell him… In law a slave has no wife, no children, no country and no home. He can own nothing, acquire nothing, but what must belong to another."

What was Frederick Douglass' point out about the institution of slavery? Why?

2. Treatment of Indians

Document A: Trail of Tears

It was a rude awakening for the Cherokee in May 1838. Most people didn't believe that the U.S. Government would actually remove the Cherokee people by force. But in late May 1838, five days before the deadline for voluntary removal, the U.S. Government began the process of forcibly removing the Cherokee people from their ancestral lands. Many people were forced to leave their homes quickly, given very little time to collect personal items, before being forced, sometimes at gunpoint, to interment in a stockade. Some Cherokees found themselves separated from their families. Their empty homes were left for white looters to ransack as they were led away. It is almost impossible to imagine what this experience must have been like. It is also difficult to understand what political and social issue led up to this event.

The removal of the Cherokee from their ancestral lands was long in the making. White encroachment was an old problem for the Cherokee. Throughout the history of the United States the sovereign right of the Cherokee over their lands was supported and protected, for the most part, by the U.S. Government until Andrew Jackson became President. In 1828, with Jackson's support, Georgia claimed sovereignty over the Cherokee Nation. Not long after this in 1830 Congress, again with the support of Jackson, passed the Indian Removal Act. Gold had been discovered on Cherokee land and white settlers wanted the Cherokee gone.

Document B: Massacre of Wounded Knee

**Black Elk – Account of the Wounded Knee Massacre (1890)**

*There were a number of long-standing issues at the reservation at Wounded Knee that contributed to the tension there prior to the massacre. In the bad crop years of 1889 and 1890, the U.S. government failed to provide the full amount of food, agricultural implements and seeds, clothing, and supplies mandated by its treaty with the Indians. Black Elk, a young man in 1890, describes the tragedy at Wounded Knee in this excerpt from his autobiography, “Black Elk Speaks.”*

There was much shooting down yonder, and there were many cries, and we could see calvarymen scattered over the hills ahead of us. Calvarymen were riding along the gulch and shooting into it, where the women and children were running away and trying to hide in the gullies and the stunted pines. …

We followed down along the dry gulch, and what we saw was terrible. Dead and wounded women and children were scattered along there and where they had been trying to run away. The soldiers had followed along the gulch, as they ran, and murdered them in there. Sometimes they were in heaps along the gulch, as they ran, and murdered them in there. Sometimes they were in heaps because they had huddled together, and some were scattered all along. Sometimes bunches of them had been killed and torn to pieces where the wagon guns hit them. I saw a little baby trying to suck its mother, but she was bloody and dead. …

When I saw this I wished that I had died too, but I was not sorry for the women and children. It was better for them to be happy in the other world, and I wanted to be there too. But before I went there I wanted to have revenge. I thought there might be a day, and we should have revenge.

3. Japanese Internment

Students will read an account of Japanese internment in their textbooks.

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