

Indian Removal Role Play

Problems to Consider

THE YEAR IS 1830. There is a bill before the United States Congress that would provide funds (\$500,000) to move all Indians now living east of the Mississippi River to "Indian Territory" (Oklahoma) west of the Mississippi River. The Indians would be given permanent title to this land. The money would pay the Indians for any improvements made on the land in the East where they're now living. It would also cover the expenses of their transportation and for a year in their new homes in Indian Territory.

The U.S. Congress has decided to hold hearings on this bill and you are invited to give testimony and to question other individuals who will give testimony. The main question for discussion is:

Should all Indians living east of the Mississippi River be moved, by force if necessary, west of the Mississippi River to Indian Territory?

Questions for each group to consider in planning your presentation:

1. Do you support the Indian Removal Bill?
Why or why not?
2. What questions do you have for members of the other groups that will be in attendance?
3. What will you do if Congress passes this bill?
What will you do if Congress does not pass this bill? ■