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# Move Out!

## *Topic*

Immigration to the United States, “The Trail of Tears” Indian removal of the 1830’s

## *Objective*

The students will practice problem-solving within a group setting. The students will compare their own contemporary values with the values of Americans in the past.

## *Materials*

- page 63, reproduced (one copy per student)

## *Procedure*

1. Group your students into teams of four.
2. Present the problem-solving dilemma to them.
3. Have the teams discuss their views on the situation for about ten minutes. During this time encourage teams to reread the dilemma together and state the issues in terms of the different points of view of the group members involved in the confrontation.
4. Have a designated spokesperson from each team share with the class the group’s consensus (if it did reach one).

## *Background*

This real-life situation has presented itself in the United States within the past decade. It is common when a new influx of immigrant labor threatens an established labor force. This problem-solving situation can be presented in context with several areas of immigration history. Most obvious is, of course, the great tide of immigrants—e.g., the Irish in the middle nineteenth century, the southern and eastern Europeans toward the end of that century, and the recent numbers of Hispanics and Asians arriving in the United States.



# Move Out! *(cont.)*

## ***Background*** *(cont.)*

Another saga of Americans can be very relevant to this activity.

The “Trail of Tears” was the forced removal of Native Americans from east of the Mississippi (notably the Cherokee) to Oklahoma and Kansas in the 1830’s and 40’s. This symbolizes what would be considered a modern injustice. However, it was done with little hesitation at the time in order to acquire more land to accommodate the white settlement.

## ***Follow-Up***

Offering this simulation before introducing the “Trail of Tears” may very well open students’ minds to a metamorphosis in American thinking about cultural pluralism. A thought-provoking comparison/contrast could be made on “The Trail of Tears” removal issue by matching the prevailing rationale of the 1800’s with the present viewpoints on civil rights. Encourage students to investigate the following questions:

- Could such an injustice occur today?
- Since so much is covered on television and radio news, not to mention magazines and newspapers, would it be impossible for such a thing to happen again?
- Are there any individuals or groups that specifically do not want immigrants (or any other minority group) to be part of America?

## ***Cherokee Trail of Tears***

