Questions - DBQ: How Democratic Was Andrew Jackson?

**Document 1:**

By the time of the Election of 1824 between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams, 18 of the 24 states chose “electors” for the Electoral College (the Electoral College chooses the President.) So, what this means is that most of the members of the Electoral College are chosen specifically by the people in those states. (Ex: Missouri Electors 🡪 chosen by Missouri voters).

1. How could using the electors chosen by the state legislatures (lawmakers) versus chosen by the people helped to create the outcome of the Election of 1824 where Andrew Jackson lost the election to John Quincy Adams?
2. How could this exact scenario of the outcome of the Election of 1824 be avoided based on what we can see in Document 1 as we move to the election of 1828 and into the future? What has changed?

**Document 2:**

In the Election of 1800 (Jefferson won by the House of Representatives vote over Aaron Burr) and the Election of 1824, the “will of the people” wasn’t exactly followed. In 1828, suffrage expanded to all white men instead of only the gentlemen land owners. (Hint: know the word suffrage)

1. Why in those elections was the will of the people not exactly followed? (What issue arose?)
2. How did the outcome drastically change in the Election of 1828 based on expanded suffrage?

**Document 3:**

1. How did this political cartoon depict Andrew Jackson’s personality?
2. Explain how specific features of this political cartoon help to define his nickname of “Old Hickory?” (Think about what hickory is and where it comes from.)

**Document 4:**

The First National Bank and the Second National Bank were both chartered to repay national debt, make loans to citizens, hold the money of the government, collect taxes, etc. Both were chartered (established) for a set period of time by Congress and once that charter finished, Congress could renew (or not) the original charter for another set period of time.

1. Based on this document, who would you say President Jackson despises?
2. Based on this message to Congress, how does President Jackson describe the “evils” of the National Bank?

**Document 5:**

Daniel Webster was a prominent Massachusetts and New Hampshire Senator. He was a key supporter of Republican President John Quincy Adams in the Election of 1824. He was not a supporter of Andrew Jackson and specifically opposed him at every turn. Document 5 is Daniel Webster’s response to Jackson’s Bank Veto Message to Congress.

1. How did Daniel Webster paint Jackson as a divider instead of a person who would unite the country?
2. What does Webster mean when he says “It raises a cry that liberty is in danger, at every moment when it puts forth claims to powers heretofore unknown and unheard of…”

**Document 6:**

1. How does Jackson feel about positions within government and their simplicity?
2. What does Jackson specifically put forth to Congress? What is his justification?

**Document 7:**

Jackson was definitely known for his “Spoils System.” Jackson believed that the “spoils of battle should go to the victor.” (This is not a direct quote. This however is a common phrase used throughout history.)

1. What does “the spoils of battle should go to the victor” mean?
2. How did Jackson’s Spoils system lead to possible corruption in government or mistrust of the federal government from some people?
3. How did Jackson’s own stubbornness lead to his opponents getting the last laugh?

**Document 8:**

1. How might Jackson’s message to Congress about the Native Americans appear to be of a caring nature, but actually show his true feelings towards them?
2. What does President Jackson offer as a solution to the “Indian problem?”
3. How does President Jackson “backhandedly” punish Native Americans who will not migrate westward to reserved land?

Document 9:

1. What is the Cherokee Nation response to Jackson’s “unforced” migration westward of Native Americans?
2. What specific problems does the Cherokee Nation bring up in regards to leaving their land?

**Document 10:**

1. Based on the map in Document 10, where is the reserved land for Native Americans located as compared to our current United States territory?
2. Based on earlier documents, why do you believe Andrew Jackson wanted to move the Indians?

**Document 11:**

1. How is there irony shown in the letters about President Jackson’s eventual adopted son shown in Document 11?