



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

► **8th Grade** | Unit 5

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 805

## A Growing Nation (1820–1855)

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# A Growing Nation (1820–1855)

## Introduction

1820 to 1855 were turbulent years in American history. Ten different presidents served during those thirty-five years. Only five had served in the first thirty years of the nation. All of the first five presidents except one, John Adams, had served two terms in office. Of the next ten, only one, Andrew Jackson, succeeded in obtaining a second term. The upheaval in the presidency was simply a reflection of the upheaval in the nation.

This was an era of new political parties, expansion, and the rise of sectionalism. The long-ruling Democratic-Republicans fell victim to their own success as they split into factions. Two of these emerged as opposing political parties, the Democrats and the Whigs. The two alternated in control of the government throughout this time period. By 1855, the issue that would not go away, slavery, produced yet another party, the Republicans.

The nation continued to grow at an alarming rate during these years. American immigrants in Spanish/Mexican Texas took over that land and eventually brought it into the Union. A war with Mexico added all of the Southwest and California. Settlements were reached with Britain over Maine and Oregon. A small piece of Mexican land was purchased in 1853 as a railroad route across Arizona and New Mexico. By 1855, all of the land that would create the contiguous 48 states was under U.S. control. Nine new states were added to the nation between 1820 and 1855 as their population grew to reach the required minimum. The natural problems caused by such rapid growth were part of the upheaval of the era.

Slavery and North-South differences were major issues from 1820 to 1855. The country was, at first, divided into three sections: North, South, and West. As the West matured, it joined either the North or South on the slavery issue. Prior to that two-way division, each section had its own agenda and its own representative giant in Washington. Henry Clay from the West, John Calhoun from the South, and Daniel Webster from the North were renowned in their own time for their oratory and their leadership. These men would provide much of the statesmanship that would keep the nation together until after they had died.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Name the leaders of the era and explain their accomplishments.
2. Describe the presidency of Andrew Jackson and its effect on America.
3. Trace the development of the slavery and tariff issues from 1820 to 1855.
4. Define Manifest Destiny and describe its course in America.
5. Describe the course of the Texas Revolution and Mexican War.
6. Define the Industrial Revolution and name the people, innovations, and inventions that contributed to it.
7. Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution in America.
8. Describe the Second Great Awakening and the reform movements that followed it.
9. Describe the compromises that kept the nation together and what ended them.
10. Describe the changes in America and American life in this era.

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# 1. JACKSONIAN ERA

Andrew Jackson's election as president was, like Jefferson's before him, a step in the expansion of democracy in America. The right to vote had been expanding as more and more states dropped property requirements for voters. Jackson, therefore, was elected by the votes of ordinary working people, not the land-owning aristocrats who dominated the voting population a few years before that. His election was a turning point in our history. He was the people's president.

Andrew Jackson was also a man who would shape the government in his own fashion. He had strong opinions and the will, popular support, and party machinery to force them through. He believed he had the support of the people and saw no reason to compromise with Congress or the Supreme Court. His enemies called him "King Andrew I" with good reason. He did exactly what he wanted and changed the face of American government and politics forever.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name the leaders of the era and explain their accomplishments.
2. Describe the presidency of Andrew Jackson and its effect on America.
3. Trace the development of the slavery and tariff issues from 1820 to 1855.
9. Describe the compromises that kept the nation together and what ended them.
10. Describe the changes in America and American life in this era.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**abolitionist** (ab ō lish' un ist). Person seeking to abolish (end) something, especially slavery.

**caucus** (kaw' kus). A closed meeting of a group of persons from the same political party to choose a candidate or decide on policy.

**censure** (sen' chur). An official reprimand.

**duel** (doo' ul). A formal combat with weapons fought between two persons in the presence of witnesses.

**mandate** (man' dāt). An authorization to act given to a representative.

**nullification** (nul i fi kā' shun). The action of a state attempting to prevent the enforcement within its territory of a law of the United States.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



# AMERICA from 1820 to 1855



**James Monroe**  
1817–1825  
Democratic-Republican



**John Quincy Adams**  
1825–1829  
Democratic-Republican



**Andrew Jackson**  
1829–1837  
Democratic



**Martin Van Buren**  
1837–1841  
Democratic



**William H. Harrison\***  
1841  
Whig



**John Tyler**  
1841–1845  
Whig



**James K. Polk**  
1845–1849  
Democratic



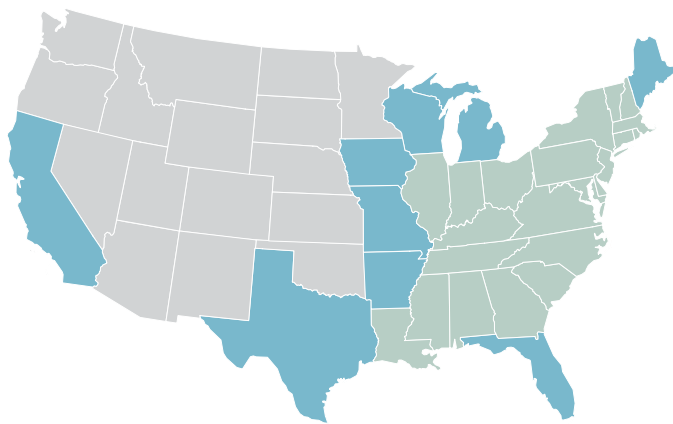
**Zachary Taylor\***  
1849–1850  
Whig



**Millard Fillmore**  
1850–1853  
Whig



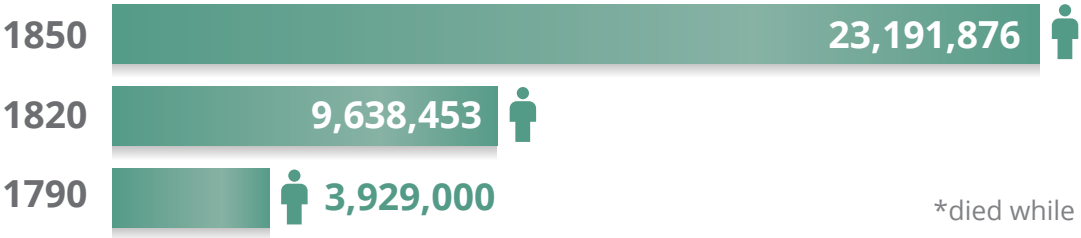
**Franklin Pierce**  
1853–1857  
Democratic



## STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

Maine	1820	
Missouri	1821	
Arkansas	1836	
Michigan	1837	
Florida	1845	
		Texas 1845
		Iowa 1846
		Wisconsin 1848
		California 1850

## POPULATION of the United States of America



\*died while in office

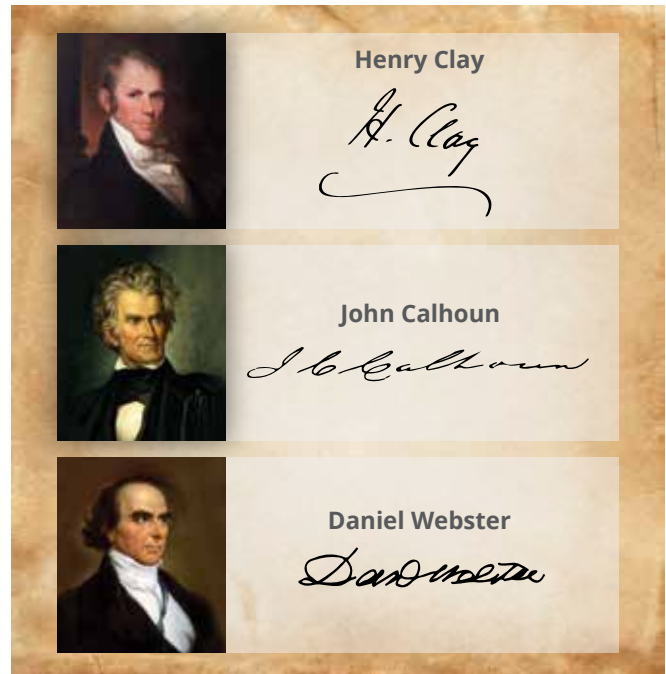


## Setting the Times

**Giants in Washington.** By the beginning of the War of 1812, three men who would be among the most prominent of their era had begun careers in Washington. Henry Clay of Kentucky became a member of the House of Representatives in 1811. He was joined that same year by John Calhoun of South Carolina. They were leaders of the War Hawks who pushed for the war with Britain. Two years later, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts joined the House. These men would serve in Washington in the House, Senate, President's Cabinet, and even the vice presidency until the early 1850s. None of them ever became president, although they all tried. However, no discussion of this era would be complete without an understanding of these men and their influence.

Henry Clay was born in Virginia but moved to Kentucky as a young man to practice law. Clay was a notable speaker and an ambitious, natural leader. He was elected to the House of Representatives, where he often served as the Speaker, and the Senate. He also served one term as secretary of state and ran unsuccessfully for president several times, usually as a Whig. Clay was called the Great Compromiser for his ability to wrangle agreements and resolve crises in the difficult years leading up to the Civil War. He exercised tremendous influence in Congress. He used it to promote programs and compromises to benefit the whole nation. Clay was an ardent nationalist who earned the title of statesman for his work on behalf of the American people.

John Calhoun was born in South Carolina and practiced law there until a wealthy marriage enabled him to concentrate on politics. His federal employment included the House of Representatives, Senate, secretary of war, secretary of state, and vice president. In many ways he reflects the splitting up of the nation that occurred between the Era of Good Feelings and the Civil War. He began his career as a strong



| Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster, with their Respective Autographs

proponent of the doctrine of **nullification** and states' rights. Ironically, he believed this was a way to save the Union by protecting the South. His philosophies became the basis for the Confederacy.

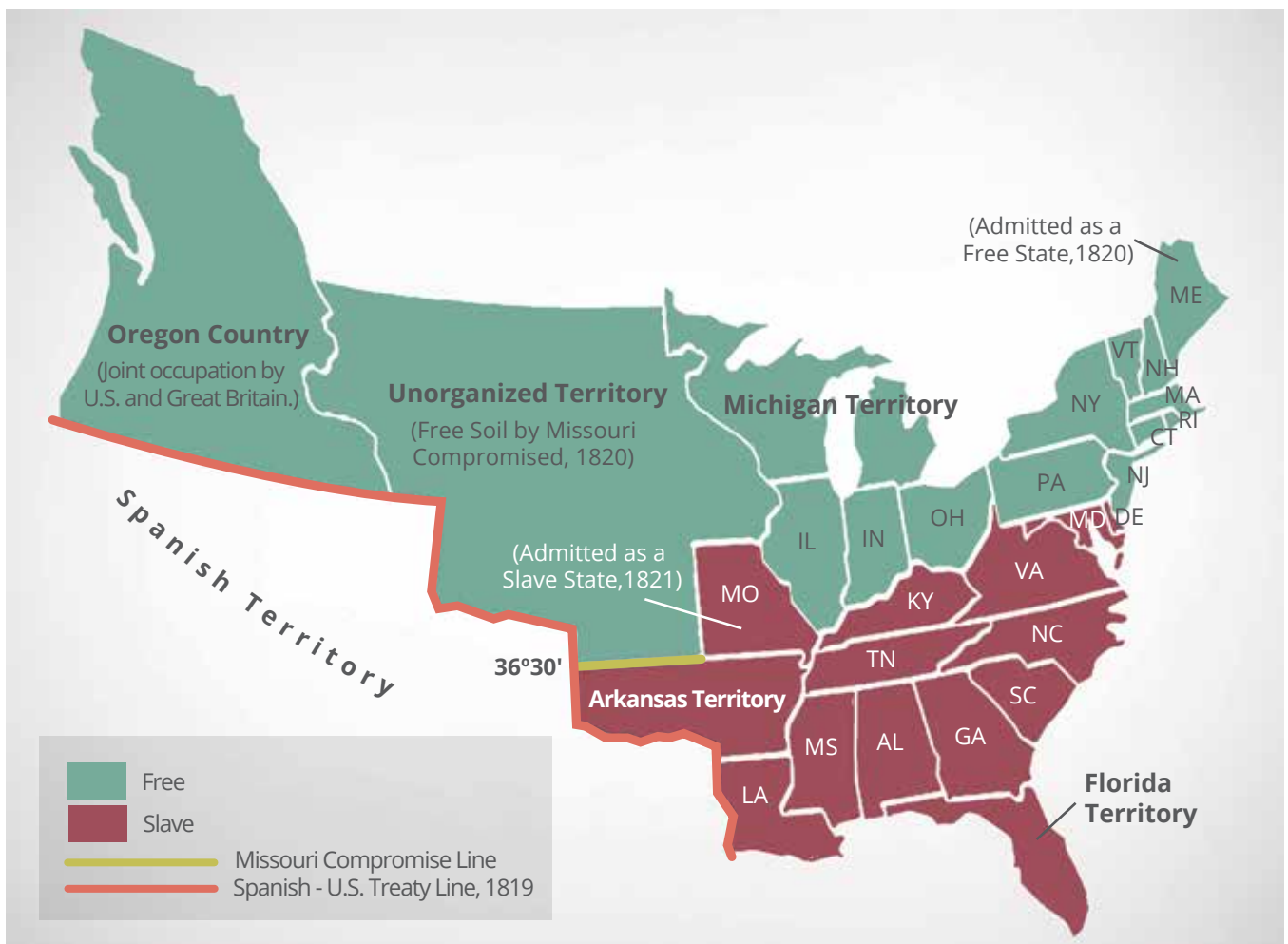
Daniel Webster was born in New Hampshire but moved to Massachusetts as a young man to practice law. He gained tremendous fame as an orator and was one of the best paid attorneys in the nation. He argued and won several key cases before the Supreme Court, including *McCulloch v. Maryland* (states cannot tax the national bank) and *Gibbons v. Ogden* (federal government controls interstate commerce). He served in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the cabinet as secretary of state. He was a strong advocate for the manufacturing interests of the North. He opposed slavery, but as a nationalist, he supported compromises on the issue to maintain the Union, something that turned many **abolitionists** against him.



**Missouri Compromise.** One of the issues that would divide the nation was slavery. It had not been a significant problem when the new Constitution was accepted in 1789. Slavery, although widespread, was not very profitable and might have died on its own had it not been for the cotton gin. Cotton was a popular fiber for cloth, but it was expensive to produce because of the difficulty in separating the fiber from the seeds. In 1793 Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin to help his southern friends. It provided a simple and easy way to separate cotton fiber from the seeds. With the machine, one person could now separate the same amount of cotton that 50 people used to do by hand. Suddenly, cotton production became very profitable.

In the years after 1793, the South concentrated on growing cotton. It purchased its manufactured goods from the North or Europe and its food from the West. Thus, it became completely dependent on cotton for its prosperity. Labor-intensive cotton production, it was believed, depended upon slavery. The institution of slavery, which had been in decline, rebounded. The South quickly became protective of slavery as the key to their region's wealth and cast a cautious eye to the North and those who opposed it.

The population of the northern states continued to grow in the early 1800s as manufacturing cities provided jobs for more and more people. The South, on the other hand,



| The Missouri Compromise

was stagnant in population. Thus, the North began to significantly outnumber the South in the House of Representatives. However, the slave-holding states were able to protect their interests by controlling half of the Senate. In 1819 the count was 11 slave and 11 free states. That year Missouri asked to be admitted as a slave-holding state.

The North-dominated House of Representatives voted to gradually end slavery in Missouri before admitting it. The South clearly saw the threat. If slavery could not expand with the nation, the slave-holding states would be gradually overwhelmed by the admission of more and more free states. A deadlock occurred that was finally broken by Henry Clay, who led the compromise effort. The result was the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Under its terms, Missouri was admitted as a slave state and Maine, now finally separated from Massachusetts, was admitted as a free state, thereby maintaining the Senate balance. Moreover, slavery was prohibited in all states created in the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30' latitude, the southern boundary of Missouri.

The compromise did not solve the slavery issue; it simply kept the political balance between the pro-slave and anti-slave forces. Both sides knew how touchy this issue was and that it might divide the nation. The Missouri Compromise swept the issue of slavery aside for another thirty-five years for the sake of the Union. The North and West continued to grow in size and strength during that time while the moral opposition to slavery also grew. In the end, the issue would have to be faced squarely, but not until the North was stronger.

**Tariff issue.** The secondary issue of the South was the tariff. Tariffs raised the price of manufactured goods brought in from abroad. This protected American manufacturers by cutting off cheaper foreign goods. The South, however, had very little manufacturing. All tariffs did was raise the prices they had to pay for things like shoes, farm equipment, and luxury goods. Thus, the tariff became the hot-button issue of the 1820s to 1850s while both sides were avoiding the slavery problem.



**Choose the letter for the person who matches each description.** (Each will be used more than once and some questions will have two answers).

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1.1 _____ lawyer from Massachusetts                   | a. Henry Clay     |
| 1.2 _____ served as secretary of state                | b. John Calhoun   |
| 1.3 _____ served as vice president                    | c. Eli Whitney    |
| 1.4 _____ invented the cotton gin                     | d. Daniel Webster |
| 1.5 _____ senator from Kentucky                       |                   |
| 1.6 _____ Speaker of the House                        |                   |
| 1.7 _____ argued <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>         |                   |
| 1.8 _____ supported states' rights                    |                   |
| 1.9 _____ nationalist to the end                      |                   |
| 1.10 _____ ran for president as a Whig                |                   |
| 1.11 _____ one of America's highest-paid lawyers      |                   |
| 1.12 _____ made cotton production profitable          |                   |
| 1.13 _____ strong advocate of manufacturing interests |                   |
| 1.14 _____ Great Compromiser                          |                   |
| 1.15 _____ senator from South Carolina                |                   |

**Answer these questions.**

**1.16** What were the two issues related to the South?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.17** What were the terms of the Missouri Compromise?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.18** What made cotton and slavery suddenly so profitable in the South?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Election of 1824.** The Democratic-Republican party was still the only viable party in 1824, but the unity shown in the unopposed election of James Monroe in 1820 was gone. The tides of change were moving against the stable political powers of Jefferson's party. The first sign was the growing opposition to the nominating procedure. Democratic-Republicans chose their candidate for the presidency in a secret congressional **caucus**. Since there was only one party, the nomination gave the man the office. This process of establishing "King Caucus" was widely denounced in 1824. In fact, the opposition hurt William Crawford who was the official nominee of the caucus that year.

Instead of the united support given to Monroe, the Democratic-Republicans were split four ways in 1824. John Quincy Adams, son of President John Adams, was the candidate of the North. Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay were both candidates from the West. William Crawford was the Southern candidate. Clay and Adams were men of experience with a wide range of government background. Andrew Jackson, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans, had immense popularity all over the country, even if he had fewer qualifications for the job.

Jackson received the largest part of the popular vote (42%), followed by Adams (32%), Crawford (13%), and Clay (13%), whose support in the West had been taken by the popular general. The electoral vote, however, did not give Jackson the majority he needed to become the next president. Under the Constitution, the election had to be decided by the House of Representatives.

Only the top three candidates in the electoral vote could be considered by the House. That left out Clay who had received the lowest count in that crucial vote. Clay, however, was the popular Speaker of the House of Representatives and was in position to play kingmaker. Crawford had suffered a stroke and was unfit to take office, so he was never a factor in the House election. Clay and Jackson had a personal feud

that dated back to Jackson's invasion of Florida in the Seminole conflict after the War of 1812. Clay had denounced Jackson in the House for his actions and made himself a bitter enemy. Clay, therefore, chose to support Adams.

John Quincy Adams was elected president by the House on the very first vote because of the influence of Henry Clay. Adams immediately offered Clay the position of secretary of state. This was a prize political plum because it was the office that had launched many of the presidents. Clay unwisely accepted and sealed his own political coffin.

Jackson and his supporters screamed that a deal had been cut trading the presidency to Adams in exchange for the Secretary's position for Clay. It is unlikely that Clay and Adams made an "official" deal for the office. However, the prompt repayment of Adams' political debt to Clay looked corrupt. Jackson and his allies had a ready-made issue for the 1828 election in the "corrupt bargain" between Adams and Clay. Moreover, Jackson was furious that the "will of the people" had been thwarted in such a fashion, and an angry Andrew Jackson was a dangerous opponent.

After the election, the Democratic-Republican Party split. The supporters of Jackson became known as the Democrats, the same party that still exists under that name. The supporters of Adams called themselves the National Republicans and later took the name Whigs, a patriotic name from the Revolutionary War. Andrew Jackson and his Democrats spent the entire four years between the presidential elections building the support they needed to crush Adams and Clay.

**John Quincy Adams.** John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) was arguably one of the most qualified men ever to assume the presidency. He was extremely honest and hard working. He had seen much of the world traveling with his father as a boy. He was well educated and had written political papers during the early

years of the nation. He served his country as a diplomat in Prussia, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Russia. He led the American delegation at Ghent at the end of the War of 1812. He served as a senator from Massachusetts. He also proved to be a highly successful secretary of state under James Monroe. In that position, he created the Monroe Doctrine and negotiated the purchase of Florida from Spain. He also obtained an agreement with Britain for the joint occupation of Oregon and brushed off a Russian attempt to lay claim to the same area.

Adams, however, was not a popular or even very likable man. He had a cold personality, like his father. He had gained his position by ability, not by winning friends and influencing people. He was too honest to make use of public offices to gain support, refusing to throw out hard-working government employees to reward his own people. The “corrupt bargain” also hurt his popular support. His plans for the country were hampered on every turn by his lack of popularity and the violent opposition of the Democrats. His term as president was, therefore, the least notable part of a long and distinguished government career.

In his first address to Congress, Adams proposed an ambitious slate of national improvements including roads, canals, a national university, and an observatory. Americans fighting for survival on the frontier found these intellectual proposals ridiculous! The proposals flew in the face of the rising mood of sectionalism and states’ rights. The West and the South in particular had no interest in paying high tariffs for such things. Adam’s domestic agenda went nowhere, beat back at every turn by the Democrats. He further alienated the West by trying to control the wild speculation on land and by aiding the Cherokee Indians, who were being evicted from their land by the state of Georgia.

Adams also failed to accomplish anything in foreign affairs, which should have been his best field. Britain’s foreign minister, still upset over the independent American action with the



| “King” Andrew Jackson

Monroe Doctrine, refused to discuss removing restrictions on American trade with the British West Indies. Adams and Clay also wanted America to participate in the Panama Congress of 1826, a meeting of the American republics to discuss mutual problems and goals. The Senate took so long to confirm the delegates that the one who survived the trip arrived after the meeting had ended. The incident was an acute embarrassment to Adams.

**Tariff of Abominations.** Jackson’s supporters came up with an unusual way to embarrass Adams during the election year of 1828. They proposed an incredibly high tariff, as high as 45% on some items. Included with it was a tariff on raw materials like wool. The Democrats assumed that New England would be unwilling to accept the tariff on the raw materials they



needed for their factories. The tariff bill would therefore fail and cause further problems for Adams in the tariff-hungry North.

The Jacksonians had not counted on just how tariff hungry the North was, however. The tariff passed by a narrow margin and was signed by Adams. The states of the South, particularly the older ones, were furious and called it the “Tariff of Abominations.” The old South was the section most affected by the bill because it was the least productive area of the nation. Cotton farming exhausted the soil, and the older farms of the southeastern seaboard were in decline. The rest of the nation did not feel the effects as badly because they were growing and expanding. Thus, the higher prices on goods fell heaviest in the Southern states that had a long tradition of political activism.

**The Election of 1828.** The election of 1828 brought in a new low in mud-slinging. The need to appeal to the less educated voters brought out a type of campaigning that avoided, rather than stressed, the issues. Adams was accused of purchasing gambling equipment for the White House. (He had bought a billiard table with his own money). He was also accused of drawing excessive salaries during his many government jobs and helping a Russian nobleman get his hands on a pretty servant girl while serving as minister in that nation.

Adams did not engage in any of the wild personal attacks, but his supporters did. Jackson’s many **duels** and quarrels were paraded out with embellishments. His mother was accused of being a prostitute. The most serious and painful allegations were charges of adultery and bigamy against Jackson and his wife. According to the official story, Andrew Jackson had unknowingly married his wife, Rachel, before her divorce from her first husband was final. The couple remarried when they found out the divorce had actually been granted almost two years after their first marriage

ceremony. The entire episode was very humiliating for Mrs. Jackson, and her husband was furious when it was dragged into the campaign.

The heart of Jackson’s campaign was an attack on the “corruption” in Washington, the clearest example being the “corrupt bargain” between Clay and Adams that had given the latter the presidency in 1824. “Jackson and Reform” was the main slogan of the Democrats. Honest, hard-working John Quincy Adams was successfully portrayed in the public mind as the dishonest leader of a gang of corrupt politicians.

Andrew Jackson won both the popular and the electoral vote. He had 178 electoral votes to Adam’s 83. Thus, America elected its first president who was not from the old American aristocracy. Jackson was wealthy, but he was a self-made man, a man of the people. The election is sometimes called a revolution because it was the end of the elite that had so effectively run the nation since the Revolutionary War. The power of the vote had reached the masses of the American people, and they chose a man like themselves to run their country.

**Adams’ Glorious Sunset.** John Quincy Adams was not a man to retire into obscurity. He was elected to the House of Representatives and served there with distinction for seventeen years. He earned the affectionate nickname “Old Man Eloquent” for his determination in debates. His greatest achievement was his opposition to the *Gag Rule*. It was a series of resolutions pushed through by the South in 1836 that prevented any petition on slavery from being heard by the House. Adams believed it was an unconstitutional attack on the right to petition. He fought it consistently, trying repeatedly to introduce such petitions until the rule was abolished in 1844. John Quincy Adams collapsed at his desk in the House in February 1848 and, too weak to be removed, died in the Speaker’s room two days later.





**Check the items that were true of John Quincy Adams.**

- 1.19 ☐ won the election of 1828
- 1.20 ☐ served as vice president
- 1.21 ☐ was second in the popular vote in 1824 and 1828
- 1.22 ☐ was accused of a “corrupt bargain” with William Crawford
- 1.23 ☐ was capable but not popular
- 1.24 ☐ won the support of the caucus in 1824
- 1.25 ☐ served in the House of Representatives after being president
- 1.26 ☐ wanted to spend government money on national improvements
- 1.27 ☐ was elected president as a Democratic-Republican
- 1.28 ☐ was successful in foreign but not domestic affairs as president
- 1.29 ☐ won the presidency because of Henry Clay
- 1.30 ☐ was one of three major candidates in 1824
- 1.31 ☐ led the Panama Congress of 1826
- 1.32 ☐ was very successful as secretary of state

**Answer these questions.**

1.33 What was the slogan for Jackson’s campaign in 1828?

---

1.34 What was the tariff of 1828 called?

---

1.35 Who won the popular vote in 1824?

---

1.36 What was John Quincy Adams’ nickname in the House of Representatives?

---

1.37 What was the Gag Rule?

---



---



---

1.38 Which of the major candidates was barred from the House election in 1824?

---

1.39 What were the most serious personal attacks on Jackson in the 1828 campaign?

---

## Jackson's First Administration

**Andrew Jackson.** Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) was one of the most colorful and probably the most violent tempered president our country has ever had. He was born to poor Scotch-Irish immigrants in Carolina in a log cabin. His father died days before he was born. Without a strong paternal hand, he grew up very wild and mischievous with a limited education. He joined the militia during the Revolution at the age of thirteen. His two brothers and his mother died during that time. Jackson himself was captured and slashed with a sword across the hand and face for refusing to clean a British officer's boots.

Jackson wasted an inheritance from his grandfather in Ireland and eventually took up the practice of law in Tennessee. His fierce attitude and determination in law brought him a measure of success. He made more money by speculating in land and eventually acquired a large plantation named "The Hermitage" near Nashville. He also earned a reputation as a dangerous enemy, fighting constantly over slights to his "honor." Two of his duels left him with bullets in his body for years afterward.

Jackson was a popular man who became well-connected with one of two political cliques that dominated Tennessee. He served without distinction in the House of Representatives and the Senate from 1796 to 1798. He returned to Tennessee and served as a justice of the state's supreme court. His greatest fame was won as the elected general of the state militia in the war with the Creek Indians and as commander of the U.S. army in the Battle of New Orleans. It was as a militia leader that he won his nickname "Old Hickory" for his toughness.

Old Hickory was wildly popular with the common people of America, especially in the West. He was no eastern aristocrat but a man who, like many on the frontier, had made it on his own in spite of fierce obstacles. He took with him into the White House many of the

prejudices of the West, including a hatred of the Indians, a distrust of banks, and a determination to expand the nation. He had little respect for the compromise and debate of the democratic process. In fact, he was more comfortable with the command of a general than the leadership of a president. He took the presidency to new heights as he insisted on using the power of the office as he saw fit. He changed the office and the nation.

**Inauguration.** The extent of the change in Washington could be seen by Jackson's inauguration. It was a wild affair. The president-elect walked to the Capitol to take the oath of office and then to the White House for a reception. All along the route he shook hands and greeted the throngs of people in attendance. The White House reception was thrown open to everyone who wanted to attend. Hundreds of people mobbed the place. They stood on the furniture to get a look at the president. China and glass were broken. Curtains and upholstery ripped. The crush got so heavy that Jackson had to leave to avoid injury! The situation was finally relieved when the staff wisely began serving spiked punch on the lawn. The crowd quickly abandoned the house. One well-heeled



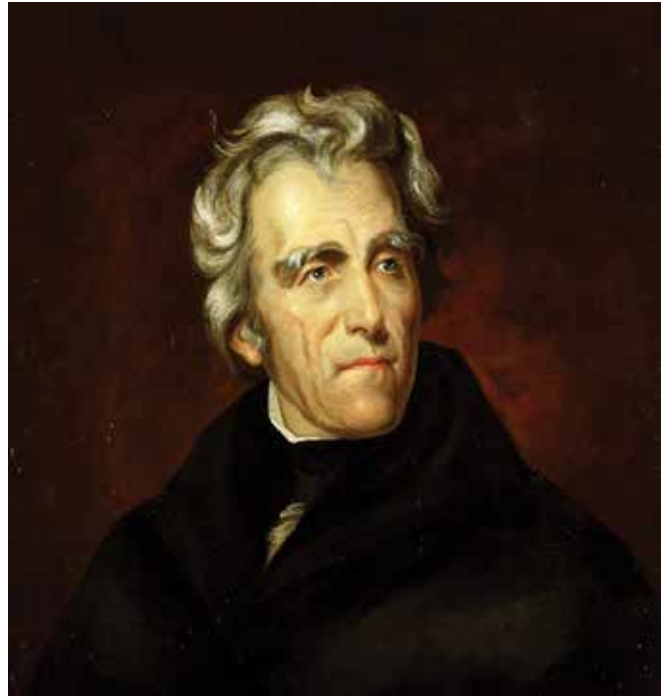
| Crowds at Jackson's Inauguration

Washington resident said it was the rule of “King Mob.”

**Spoils System.** Andrew Jackson brought the spoils system to the national government on a large scale. The spoils system was based on the concept, “To the victors go the spoils of the enemy.” In this case, it was jobs in the government. Jackson firmly believed in rotation in office, and that in a democracy government jobs should not be held for life. He also believed that he needed to change out the “corrupt” officeholders from the Adams’ administration. What he wound up doing was initiating the replacement of government employees with people whose primary qualification was their loyalty to the Democratic cause. In all, he replaced less than 10% of the people on the government payroll, but the damage was done. For many years after that, government jobs were given to party loyalists. The quality and honesty of government service suffered accordingly.

**Eaton Scandal.** Andrew Jackson’s mediocre Cabinet was quickly bogged down in a scandal over the wife of Secretary of War John Eaton. Eaton had married the pretty daughter of a tavern keeper who had a very poor moral reputation. The wives of the other members of the administration refused to socialize with her. “Old Hickory” was very taken with Peggy Eaton and believed she was the victim of baseless gossip. He also remembered the gossip about his own beloved wife who had died shortly after he was elected, and he unwisely became a public champion for Mrs. Eaton. Jackson tried unsuccessfully to force Washington society to accept Peggy Eaton. Led by the well-born wife of Vice President John Calhoun, the ladies refused. Even Jackson’s niece, who was his official hostess, left rather than entertain Mrs. Eaton in the White House.

The cabinet’s limited ability suffered in the discord. Jackson eventually began seeking advice on policy from an informal group of advisors



| Andrew Jackson

and friends, called the “kitchen cabinet” by his opponents. Secretary of State Martin Van Buren took advantage of the situation to ingratiate himself with the president. As a widower, Van Buren socialized freely with Mrs. Eaton and won the president’s favor by doing so. As the discord in the cabinet grew worse, Van Buren resigned, knowing that would pressure the other secretaries to do the same. They did so, relieving Jackson of a difficult situation by removing the Eatons from the Washington elite. Van Buren was rewarded with the vice presidency during Jackson’s second term.

**Webster-Hayne Debate.** The long-standing debate over the power of the states versus the power of the federal government was a key part of the conflict of the early 1800s. Early in 1830 the question was raised in the Senate and resulted in a spectacular debate between Robert Hayne of South Carolina and Daniel Webster of Massachusetts. The Webster-Hayne Debate was a memorable part of the long North-South conflict that preceded the Civil War.

The debate began over the unlikely topic of a resolution by the New England states to restrict the sale of land in the West. Hayne used the occasion to attack the northeast and the Tariff of Abominations. He publicly argued in favor of the doctrine of nullification. This doctrine taught that any state could nullify a law of the United States that was contrary to the Constitution as they understood it. Nullification had been espoused by no lesser person than Vice President Calhoun in a 1828 document called the “South Carolina Exposition.” Hayne saw it as a way to protect his region from domination by the rest of the Union.

The gallery of the Senate was full as people came to listen to Webster’s reply. He used all of his great skill to speak in favor of the Union and federal power to force obedience from the states. He argued that if the states were free to go their own way at will, then the country was united only by a “rope of sand.” He attacked nullification as a danger to the nation. Webster’s arguments were summarized in his stirring statement, “Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.” Webster’s speech was printed and widely read, making him a hero among those who favored a strong Union.

**Split with Calhoun.** No one was certain where Jackson stood on the issue of states’ rights. He consistently opposed internal improvements within any one state and sought to keep federal taxes and expenses low—basic pro-state positions. He was also a slave-owning plantation farmer, but he had not made any clear statements one way or the other. The states’ rights supporters, led by Calhoun, hoped to gain his public support for their favorite cause. They chose a party celebrating Thomas Jefferson’s birthday as the ideal occasion. A whole series of toasts were offered celebrating the Jeffersonian ideals of the sovereignty of the states. Jackson, however, had been warned of what would happen and had carefully prepared his own toast. When his turn came he spoke the words,

“Our Union: It must be preserved!” A shaken Calhoun tried to salvage the evening with the answer, “The Union, next to our liberty, most dear!” However, the damage was done. Jackson had declared himself as a Union man.

Vice President John Calhoun was hoping to be Andrew Jackson’s successor. As a potential future president, Calhoun hid his personal views and publicly supported the Union. He had deliberately not attached his name to the “South Carolina Exposition” on nullification. However, his presidential hopes were dashed when he and Jackson split over the Peggy Eaton scandal as well as personal and policy differences. Calhoun retired from the vice presidency near the end of his term and returned to the Senate as the leader of those who espoused nullification and the power of the states.

**The National Bank.** Andrew Jackson had a passionate distrust of the National Bank, which he called the “moneyed monster.” The director, Nicholas Biddle, did little to help the situation by his “loans” and payments to prominent congressmen, including Daniel Webster. Jackson believed the bank was a danger to the nation. He shared the Western distrust of powerful financial institutions that foreclosed on farm mortgages. He did not understand national finances or the way the bank helped the West by its sound money policy.

Henry Clay, who was likely to be the National Republican presidential candidate, saw the bank as a way to undermine Old Hickory’s popularity. The bank was due to be rechartered in 1836. Clay forced a bill through Congress rechartering the National Bank in 1832, a presidential election year. He assumed Jackson would have to sign it and alienate his Western followers or veto it and alienate the businessmen of the nation.

Jackson did veto the bill, sending a scathing message back to Congress. Jackson attacked the bank in violent, colorful terms that set the issue as a war between the rich and the poor.

His arguments had little substance but a great deal of popular appeal among the financially ignorant public who loved him. Clay foolishly believed the message would harm Jackson because of its angry tone and lack of intelligent argument.

**Election of 1832.** The election of 1832 was the first in which the candidates were chosen by national political conventions. Jackson on the Democratic ticket squared off against Henry

Clay who had received the National Republican nomination. The National Bank was the central issue of the campaign. Clay had copies of Jackson's veto printed up to use against him. The veto message, however, was accepted as truth by the general public and cemented Jackson's image as a defender of the common man. Wealthier people who had reason to be concerned by the attack did not vote for him anyway. Jackson won the election easily.



**Match these items.** (answers may be used more than once).

- |      |       |  |                              |
|------|-------|--|------------------------------|
| 1.40 | _____ | party loyalists get government jobs                                  | a. Spoils system             |
| 1.41 | _____ | King Mob   | b. Jackson inauguration      |
| 1.42 | _____ | "Liberty and Union, now and forever,<br>one and inseparable."        | c. Webster-Hayne Debate      |
| 1.43 | _____ | Nicholas Biddle  | d. National Bank             |
| 1.44 | _____ | Van Buren used it to gain Jackson's favor                            | e. Eaton Scandal             |
| 1.45 | _____ | issue in 1832 election   | f. Jefferson birthday dinner |
| 1.46 | _____ | rotation in office   |                              |
| 1.47 | _____ | Calhoun tried to get a states' rights position by Jackson            |                              |
| 1.48 | _____ | "Our Union: It must be preserved!"                                   |                              |
| 1.49 | _____ | senator publicly supported nullification                             |                              |
| 1.50 | _____ | hurt the honesty and quality of government service                   |                              |
| 1.51 | _____ | Jackson's "moneyed monster"  |                              |
| 1.52 | _____ | Jackson insisted on publicly supporting a woman against moral rumors |                              |
| 1.53 | _____ | caused the resignation of the entire cabinet                         |                              |
| 1.54 | _____ | Jackson had to flee the building to avoid injury                     |                              |
| 1.55 | _____ | Jackson vetoed it in 1832  |                              |
| 1.56 | _____ | nullification would mean Union joined by a "rope of sand"            |                              |
| 1.57 | _____ | Congress passed bill to recharter it in 1832                         |                              |



**Answer these questions.**

**1.58** What injury gave Jackson a personal hatred for the British?

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**1.59** How did Jackson get the bullets that stayed in his body?

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**1.60** What were three Western prejudices Jackson took to the White House?

- a. 

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- b. 

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- c. 

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**1.61** What is the doctrine of nullification?

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**1.62** What was the name of Jackson's group of informal advisors?

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**1.63** Who was Jackson's first vice president?

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**1.64** Who was vice president during Jackson's second term?

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**1.65** Why did Henry Clay force a rechartering of the National Bank?

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## The End of the Jacksonian Era

**Nullification Crisis.** The Tariff of Abominations was a major issue in South Carolina. Congress voted in 1832 to reduce the tariff to more moderate levels, but it did not satisfy the Carolina “nullies.” That same year they gained control of the state legislature and declared the tariff null and void in South Carolina. They also threatened to leave the Union if the federal government tried to enforce it.

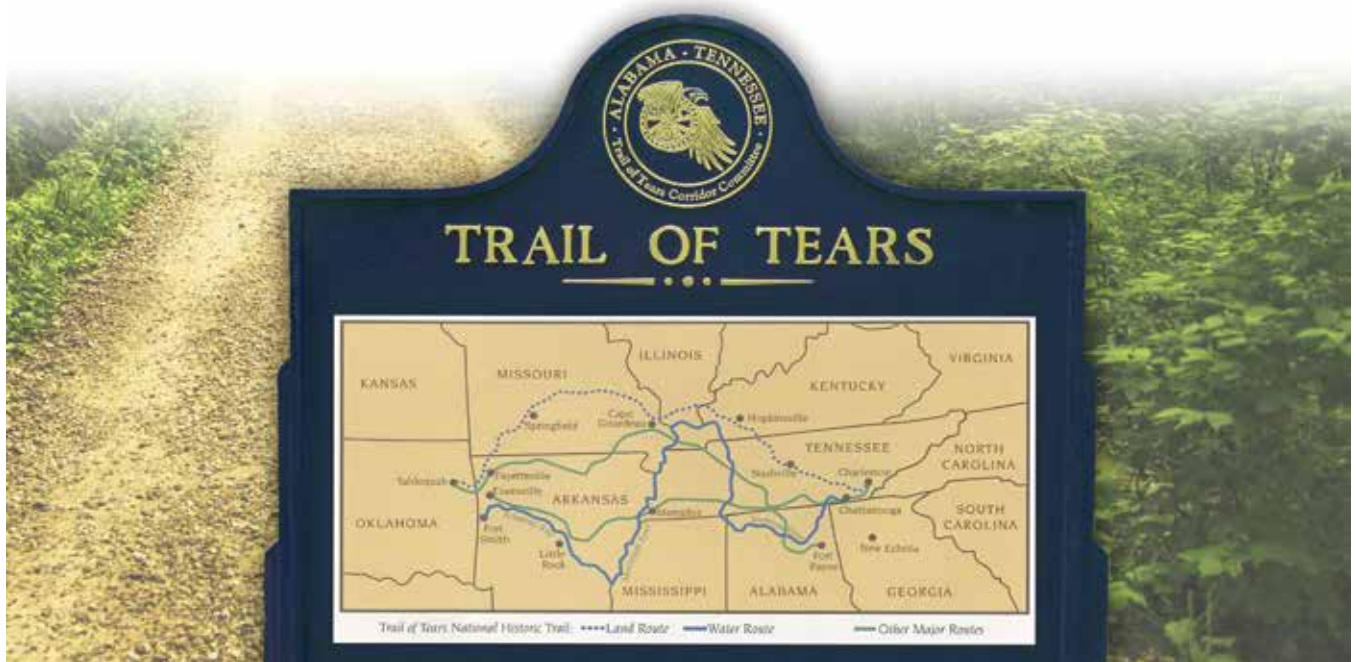
Andrew Jackson was not about to take such a threat calmly. He sent reinforcements and supplies to federal forts in South Carolina. He also quietly prepared a larger army for use, if needed. He then denounced nullification and privately threatened to hang its supporters. The Southern leaders, especially Calhoun, knew Jackson well enough to take his threats seriously.

Jackson requested the passage of the Force Bill in early 1833 to grant authorization for troops to collect the tariffs in South Carolina. Calhoun led the assault on the bill. He had a great deal of support because of the rise of sectionalism in the nation. The nationalism of the post-War of 1812 era had given way to local loyalties

to states and regions. Calhoun and Webster traded brilliant oratory in the Senate trying to force their views. Henry Clay finally brokered a compromise. A new tariff was passed that would gradually reduce the tax over the next ten years. Calhoun, realizing that he was on the verge of civil war, accepted the compromise and convinced his state to drop the nullification. South Carolina agreed but added the empty gesture of nullifying the Force Bill which had been signed into law.

**Trail of Tears.** The issue of what to do with the Indians who still owned large stretches of land east of the Mississippi had been left unanswered for years. Jackson was not a man to avoid an issue. In 1830 he proposed moving the tribes to new land west of the Mississippi where they would be “forever” free of encroachment by white settlers. Jackson deluded himself into believing this was a benevolent policy that was in the best interest of the Indians.

Many members of Congress opposed the Removal Act, particularly those who were strong Christians or who came from districts with strong Christian constituents. However,



| National Historic Trail

Jackson put the full force of his persuasive and political powers behind the act. It was passed in 1830, granting the Indians land in the West and the money to move them.

Jackson moved enthusiastically to carry out his program. Many of the tribes accepted the inevitable and signed treaties giving up their land. They moved west suffering from hunger, disease and exposure on the way. Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama made it clear they would seize the Indian land whether treaties were signed or not. Jackson did nothing to discourage them.

The Cherokee people of Georgia, who had largely taken up American life, fought back. They refused to sign a new treaty and challenged Georgia in court when the state annexed their land. The Cherokee won. The Supreme Court said the state of Georgia had no authority over the federal treaties that gave the Indians their land, but it was no use. Andrew Jackson would not give the Supreme Court the backing it needed to protect the Indians. Jackson is reported to have said, “John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.”

The Cherokee were finally removed by the army in 1838. They were crowded into prison camps and then forced to make the long journey west. About four thousand Cherokee died on the way. They called it “the Trail of Tears.”

Some of the Indians went to war rather than leave. The Sauk people in the Northwest Territory fought under the leadership of their chief, Black Hawk. The Black Hawk War quickly ended in a victory by the American army. The Sauks were removed to Iowa. The Seminoles took advantage of the wild terrain of Florida to hold out until 1842. The Seminole War was the longest and most expensive Indian War in American history. They were finally defeated and moved west also.

The Indian removal was one of the blackest marks on an already poor American record. Thousands of Native Americans died after

being forced to surrender their land to the greed of white settlers. Even then, the promise that their new land would not be taken was never kept. Within a generation, they were facing the same pressure to give up their land to new settlers who had crossed the Mississippi. The whole thing was all the more tragic because of how many people believed it was good for the Indians. Sinful human beings have an incredible ability to justify their own wrongdoing.

**National Bank.** Jackson saw the election of 1832 as a **mandate** from the people in his battle with the National Bank. Therefore, he decided to kill the bank instead of just letting it run until its charter ended in 1836. He first had to fire his secretary of the treasury and appoint a new one that would go along with his plan. That accomplished, he began to remove federal money from the National Bank and put it into “pet banks” in various states. The banks were chosen in large part for their loyalty to Jackson, and some funds were wasted in the process. Henry Clay succeeded in convincing Congress to **censure** Jackson for this “unconstitutional” action. The rebuff had no effect on Jackson’s actions.

Nicholas Biddle reacted in a way that confirmed Jackson’s worst fears about the National Bank. He deliberately reduced credit to the point that businesses began to fail and the country fell on hard times. It was just this kind of power that Jackson did not want a private corporation to have! Jackson refused to budge even when hit with a long stream of petitions from struggling businessmen. He told them to take their petitions to Biddle. In the end, public pressure forced Biddle to surrender, relax credit, and close the bank.

The return to good times brought about a spiral of inflation and land speculation. Many of the western banks began issuing money with no reliable value. Jackson inadvertently encouraged the national self-confidence that fueled the speculation. In 1835 he became the

only U.S. president ever to pay off the entire national debt! Fearful of the effects of wild speculation, Jackson issued the *Specie Circular*, a decree that all land purchased from the federal government had to be paid for in *specie*: gold or silver coins. That set the scene for the Panic of 1837.

**Analysis.** Andrew Jackson was a highly successful president. He did just about everything he wanted to do in office even if it was not good for the nation. He considered the president to be the representative of the people and acted independently of the other branches of government. He vetoed more laws than any president before him. He used his popularity to push through laws he wanted and to destroy the National Bank. His forceful foreign policy reopened American trade with the British West Indies and gained payments from Europe for American ships seized during the Napoleonic Wars. His actions as president increased the power and prestige of the office. His strong response to the Nullification Crisis undoubtedly saved the Union. He was so popular when he left office that he was even able to handpick his own successor whose term is considered a part of the Jacksonian Era.

**Election of 1836.** Jackson decided not to run again and made sure that Martin Van Buren received the Democratic nomination for president in 1836. The National Republicans had adopted the name of Whig by then and ran several candidates. Van Buren defeated the Whigs, led by William Henry Harrison, using Jackson's popularity. However, Van Buren inherited all the problems and enemies Jackson had created during his eight years in office. He took them on without having either the general's popularity or his fiery will. It was a disastrous combination.

**Martin Van Buren.** Martin Van Buren (1782–1862) was the first American president born after the Declaration of Independence. He was

born in New York where he practiced law as a young man. He served in the New York legislature and the Senate. He won the governorship of New York in 1828 but gave it up to serve as Jackson's secretary of state. Van Buren was a professional politician known as the "Little Magician" for his skill at manipulating events to his advantage. He won the election solely on the support of Andrew Jackson. He had deliberately built his friendship with Old Hickory for just such a purpose.

**The Panic of 1837.** Land speculation in the West had become a major American pastime. Thousands of people bought land hoping to hold it and sell it for a profit later. The purchases were often made with loans from unstable banks. People were making huge profits only as long as credit was available. The prosperity of the nation was on shifting ground, and it gave way in 1837 just after Van Buren took office.

Jackson's destruction of the National Bank had removed one of the major safeguards in the American banking system. His *Specie Circular* had caused a sudden demand for gold and silver that drained Eastern bank reserves. Crop failures and a financial panic in England hit at the same time. British banks called in (demanded payment for) their foreign loans. Banks in America closed, people lost their savings, businesses closed, land sales fell, tariff income fell as trade was reduced, and unemployment hit the masses of common people.

Van Buren's popularity, never very high, quickly plummeted. He could do little to help in the situation. He did get federal money moved to an independent treasury to protect it from being lost when pet banks collapsed. His popularity was also hurt by anti-slave forces who opposed the Seminole War (they did not want another slave state in Florida) and pro-slave forces who wanted him to annex Texas. His single term was largely unfruitful.


**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.66** \_\_\_\_\_ was the only president ever to pay off the entire national debt.
- 1.67** The Cherokee Indians called their removal west the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.68** Jackson removed federal money from the National Bank and put it into so-called \_\_\_\_\_ banks.
- 1.69** In 1832 South Carolina voted to nullify the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.70** Jackson's financial policies led to the \_\_\_\_\_ that hurt Van Buren.
- 1.71** Henry Clay succeeded in convincing the Senate to \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson because of the removal of federal funds from the National Bank.
- 1.72** The Panic of 1837 was largely caused by \_\_\_\_\_ in land.
- 1.73** The \_\_\_\_\_ War was the longest and most expensive Indian war in American history.
- 1.74** The Supreme Court sided with the \_\_\_\_\_ Indians in their legal fight with the state of Georgia.
- 1.75** The \_\_\_\_\_ Bill authorized troops to enforce the tariff in South Carolina.
- 1.76** Jackson privately threatened to \_\_\_\_\_ the nullifiers.
- 1.77** The Sauk people fought the \_\_\_\_\_ War to avoid removal from their land.
- 1.78** Andrew Jackson's hand-picked successor was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.79** The Southern states annexed Indian land in defiance of the Supreme Court because \_\_\_\_\_ would not support the Indians.
- 1.80** "Little Magician" was the nickname of \_\_\_\_\_ .



**Answer these questions.**

**1.81** What was the compromise that ended the Nullification Crisis?

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**1.82** What did Jackson think he would accomplish with the Removal Act?

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**1.83** How did Jackson kill the National Bank?

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**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

# SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |   |                      |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ inventor of the cotton gin  | a. Henry Clay        |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ leader of nullification and states' rights  | b. Andrew Jackson    |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ "Old Hickory"   | c. Daniel Webster    |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ his wife's social problems caused Jackson's entire cabinet to resign                | d. John Calhoun      |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ won the presidency in 1824 in the House of Representatives with a "corrupt bargain" | e. Martin Van Buren  |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ president of the Bank of the U.S.   | f. John Quincy Adams |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ the Little Magician   | g. John Eaton        |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Massachusetts representative, defender of the Union                                 | h. Robert Hayne      |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ the Great Compromiser   | i. Nicholas Biddle   |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ pro-nullification senator who had a famous debate with Webster                      | j. Eli Whitney       |

**Name the item or person described** (each answer, 4 points).

- |              |       |   |
|--------------|-------|---|
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ | tax passed in 1828 to embarrass Adams by how high it was; it passed anyway, to the anger of the old South             |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ | no slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of 36° 30', Maine admitted as a free state, Missouri as a slave state     |
| <b>1.013</b> | _____ | machine that led to the South becoming dependent on cotton and slavery  |
| <b>1.014</b> | _____ | political party created by Andrew Jackson   |
| <b>1.015</b> | _____ | political party led by Henry Clay after the split of the Democratic-Republicans                                       |
| <b>1.016</b> | _____ | "Old Man Eloquent," successfully opposed the Gag Rule in Congress, collapsed and died in the House of Representatives |
| <b>1.017</b> | _____ | depression caused by land speculation and Jackson's financial policies that hurt Van Buren's presidency               |



- 1.018** \_\_\_\_\_ government jobs were given to loyal supporters of the newly-elected leaders
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ the name the Cherokee used to described their forced trip west of the Mississippi, away from their land
- 1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ presidential decree by Andrew Jackson that all payments for land must be made in gold or silver

**Answer these questions** (each answer, 5 points).

**1.021** What was the Doctrine of Nullification?

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**1.022** Why was the presidency of John Quincy Adams so unsuccessful?

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**1.023** Briefly describe Andrew Jackson's personal history before he was president.

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**1.024** What did Jackson do to face the Nullification Crisis and how was it resolved?

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**1.025** Why did Henry Clay try to recharter the National Bank early and what was the effect?

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**1.026** Describe Andrew Jackson’s first inaugural reception at the White House.

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**Write true or false in the blank** (each answer, 1 point).

**1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson’s group of informal advisors were called the “parlor cabinet.”

**1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Clay was never elected president.

**1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson’s campaign slogan in 1828, when he first won the presidency, was “Jackson and Reform.”

**1.030** \_\_\_\_\_ John Calhoun began his political career as a strong nationalist.

**1.031** \_\_\_\_\_ The slavery issue was avoided in the early 1800s, but the North and South opposed each other over the tariff instead.

**1.032** \_\_\_\_\_ John Calhoun was the spokesman for the western part of the nation.

**1.033** \_\_\_\_\_ The South was very independent, producing its own food, cash crops, and manufactured goods.

**1.034** \_\_\_\_\_ Before the time of Andrew Jackson presidential candidates were chosen by national convention of political parties.

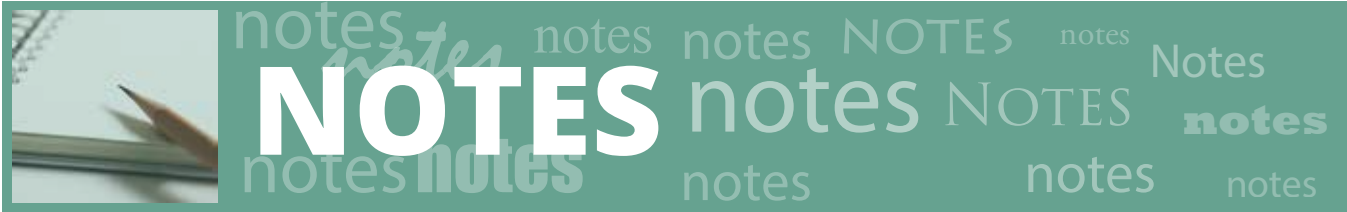
**1.035** \_\_\_\_\_ Andrew Jackson hand-picked Daniel Webster as his successor.

**1.036** \_\_\_\_\_ The Seminole War was one of the shortest Indian wars in American history.

**80****100****SCORE****TEACHER**

initials

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HIS0805 – May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-0032-5



 **Alpha Omega**  
PUBLICATIONS

804 N. 2nd Ave. E.  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070  
[www.aop.com](http://www.aop.com)