

Unit Packet: A Growing Nation

Vocabulary Terms

Create two columns. In the left column, define each vocabulary term. In the right column, describe the historical significance of each term.

People and Groups

- Eli Whitney
- John C. Calhoun
- Daniel Webster
- Henry Clay
- James Monroe
- Andrew Jackson

Events

- Industrial Revolution
- Lowell Experiment
- Erie Canal
- Monroe Doctrine
- Adams-Onis Treaty

Short Answer Questions

Answer each of the following questions in 3-5 complete sentences.

1. How did the inventions of the cotton gin and the spinning jenny influence the American economy?
2. How was the growth of cities both a blessing and a curse for Americans in the early 1800s?
3. How did internal improvements (like roads and canals) benefit Americans?
4. Why did the American government place tariffs on imported goods? Why were some Americans unhappy with these actions?
5. What are some nations that gained their independence in the early 1800s? How did the American Revolution influence these movements for independence?

Performance Tasks

Choose one of the following tasks to complete to show your understanding of the historical era.

- Task #1 – Create an illustrated cause-and-effect chart for the Industrial Revolution, the growth of cities, Westward expansion, and internal improvements.
- Task #2 – Create a chart comparing the geography, economy, politics, and society of North, West, and South regions of the United States in the early 1800s.
- Task #3 – Write a mock interview with a steamboat operator for a newspaper article. Your interview should outline the new technology, explain how it has affected America, and describe the excitements/hazards of the operator's job.
- Task #4 – Draw an advertisement for young women to come work at the Lowell factory. On the back, write a letter from a young woman at the factory to her family describing her experience working in the factory.

Supplementary Reading: Poems on History

THE ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS

And with word of the rout, Jackson's fame was assured
As such feelings of triumph strike a very deep chord.
Mister Harrison and he were heroic grand figures
Who gave to this land the proud swagger of *victors*.

Now, should you recall the first cause of this war
-- The *impressment* and seizure that started it all? --
Well, that villainy and crime which had roiled the seas
Occurred as all Europe matched *militaries*.

But with Napoleon's defeat, at the site *Waterloo*,
British raids petered out --- what, with no fighting to do.
So fair trade and commerce did continue once more,
-- Indeed, with a vigor it had not seen before!

And the President now, one *Mister Monroe*,
Was respected by all, and was himself a hero
At the *Battle of Trenton*, and all through *Valley Forge*,
Where he so ably served our General George.

Another man from Virginia; yet no one felt cheated:
By smiles and handshakes was James happily greeted.
In the backcountry towns and those dotting the shore,
There were cheers all around when he took a *grand tour*.

Now, the question remains (with no perfect answer):
The 1812 War: a Triumph or Disaster?
No conquests were gained, nor were British crimes
stopped
-- Yet great pride in our nation did fill every cup.

And thus life in the U.S. began a new *phase*
With hopes for the future now gilding her days.
And since peace and not war did mark the land's dealings,
A fine season had come: an *Era of Good Feelings*.

When a gal from New York and a man in Kentucky,
Did share common bonds and feel themselves lucky,
To be joined in one venture, with folks from all places,
Americans in spirit, and blessed with good graces...

REGIONALISM: CLAY, CALHOUN AND WEBSTER

How strange it all seems that some spoke of leaving,
-- With the homeland war-torn, to plan for its cleaving!
But when the fray was won, and the combat all done,
Good folks from all reaches felt more solidly one.

-- Yet feelings are fleeting, and, alas, discord is fate,
Sharp *tensions* soon rise -- you need only to wait.
And like youngsters still growing and feeling those pains,
The spurts in one part cause the others new strains.

In those days, you recall, how the West was expanding,
With more states and new towns, and attentions
demanding.
While the *mills* North and East, and up New England way,
Had concerns over trade, and some steep bills to pay.

And so on *Capitol Hill*, where our laws take form,
A strong voice from each *quarter* came to stir up a storm.
Like quick-tongued *Daniel Webster*, who could argue and
cavil,
-- And with a flash of his eyes throw fear in the devil!

Who spoke out for the North, a cheerleader of sorts,
For the placement of *tariffs* on all *foreign imports*.
Which brought smiles most bright to the mill towns and
makers,
Whose higher priced goods did solicit new takers.

Ah, but to buyers, of course, a new tax was no *boon*,
And met the fiercest of critics in *John C. Calhoun*,
Who did roar like a cannon, a great blast from the south,
Demanding *state's rights* with each lash from his mouth.

As that land they call *Dixie*, the parts he hailed from,
Enjoyed cheap British goods, and thought tariffs quite
dumb!
-- While the great western leader, hardly matched in his
day,
Was both charming and tough -- yes, that man *Henry
Clay*.

Who planned to use tariffs to build roads and *canals*,
And encourage more trade into western locales...
-- So, you see how needs differ, by the *region* your from:
With some shouting for peaches and others pleading for
plum...

Supplementary Reading: Poems on History

TURNPIKES, CANALS & STEAMBOATS: AMERICANS ON THE MOVE

Now, the desire to see what lies just beyond
The next hill, the next river, the next valley or pond,
Is a spur for the soul and a beat in the blood
That keeps one from being a stick-in-the-mud.

And in the paths of *trail-blazers*, we level our eyes,
With visions and dreams that out-stretch the skies.
And in the early 18s, before, after and during,
To catch the sun as it set, the nation was stirring.

As people flocked in their wagons to lands in the West,
-- New states came on-board, and folks thought it was
best
To build better *links* between the *heartland* and towns
So that movement and trade could increase by bounds.

Indeed, the transport of *freight*, of livestock and folks,
Is a key to success, and thus strong reason to coax
The new laying of roads, built of stone and of *gravel*,
To last through the seasons and *facilitate* travel.

So *turnpikes* turned up, along the former horse trails,
And new waterways too, though we call them *canals*,
Which joined rivers and lakes, and did make for fast trips,
With goods hauled everywhere on *flat-boats* and ships.

Including new types, with engines powered by steam,
Like *Robert Fulton's Clermont* -- the most new-fangled
thing!

Of course, credit is due, and deserving of mention:
John Fitch was the first to propose this invention.

Alas, his *venture* did sink --- that is, he went broke,
As his ferry failed to find enough faying folk...er, paying
folk.

(Yes, 'tis too often true, for the true *pioneers*:
The bleeding-edge of progress means short-lived
careers!)

But each day of these days, life grew more dynamic,
Bustling and bawling, not lying back in a hammock,
Through a country criss-crossed by a web of new routes,
-- Not unlike a great game of *ladders and chutes*!

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Now, nothing is so constant as change and new turns,
As the way life is lived faces upheavals and churns.
-- For each *modulation* starts a *ripple effect*
With our wits and our *savvy* thus moved to react...

And by year 1800 some new thoughts did flower
For the production of goods and the harness of power.
And to make by *machine* things once wrought by hand,
A new spirit of *industry* swept over the land.

And *factories* were born and brought into favor
A new manner of living: of weekly *wage labor*.
Indeed, folks from small *shops*, where they once crafted
goods,
Now went off to work where the work buildings stood.

And hundreds and thousands soon were employed
In the *manufacture en masse* of the stuff they enjoyed.
While the stores about town were bristling and brimming
With delights of all sorts to add to life's trimming.

Our cities then swelled and life stepped up a pace
With fancy items galore and *entertainments* to chase
-- Like the concerts and plays that traveled around
And old *P.T. Barnum* who brought his circus to town!

And museums and amusements, like a day at the races,
Added exciting new twists in dynamic new places.
And folks who once lived with their families and farmed,
Now headed for towns, their curiosity charmed.

Ah, but not all change is sweet and new problems arose
As cities spawn *hazards*, which now everyone knows:
-- Of filth and disease, of frequent fire and crime,
That so plague *urban life* and do tarnish its shine.

And wage labor as well is no means to get rich,
-- Young children worked too, 'til they turned dark as
pitch.
But with its faults and its flairs, we still do have to say:
Industrial Revolution was well underway...

Supplementary Readings

"Go West, young man, and grow up with the country."

- *Newspaper editor*

Horace Greeley, 1851

BUILDING UNITY

The War of 1812 was, in a sense, a second war of independence that confirmed once and for all the American break with England. With its conclusion, many of the serious difficulties that the young republic had faced since the Revolution disappeared. With a low national debt and a continent awaiting exploration, the prospect of peace, prosperity, and social progress opened before the nation.

Trade cemented national unity. The lack of supplies during the war convinced many Americans that they needed to encourage the growth of American industry. Economic independence, many argued, was equally as important as political independence. To foster self-sufficiency, congressional leaders Henry Clay of Kentucky and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina urged government to place protective tariffs on imported goods to protect newly formed American businesses.

In addition, Westerners pushed for a national system of roads and canals to link them with Eastern cities and ports and to open frontier lands for settlement. However, they were unsuccessful in pressing their demands for a federal role in internal improvement because of opposition from New England and the South. Thus, roads and canals remained under the control of states.

The position of the federal government at this time was greatly strengthened by several Supreme Court decisions. A committed Federalist, John Marshall, became chief justice in 1801 and held office until his death in 1835. The court, which was weak before his administration, was transformed into a powerful third branch. In a series of historic decisions, Marshall established the power of the Supreme Court and strengthened the national government. When he finished his long service, the court had decided nearly 50 cases clearly involving constitutional issues. In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), Marshall clearly established the right of the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of any law of Congress or of a state legislature. In *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), he upheld the idea that the Constitution gives the government powers that are implied, going beyond the powers that are expressly stated.

REGIONALISM AND POLITICAL PARTIES

The presidency of Monroe (1817-1825) has been called the "era of good feelings." The phrase acknowledged the political triumph of the Republican Party over the Federalist Party, which had collapsed as a national force. However, this was also a period of growing regional conflict between the North, West, and South.

In the Presidential election of 1824, personality and regional allegiance played important roles in determining the outcome of the election. John Quincy Adams won the electoral votes from New England and most of New York; Henry Clay won Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri; Andrew Jackson won the Southeast, Illinois, Indiana, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey; and William Crawford won Virginia, Georgia, and Delaware. No candidate gained a majority in the Electoral College, so according to the provisions of the Constitution the election was thrown into the House of Representatives, where Clay was the most influential figure. He supported Adams, who gained the presidency.

During Adams's administration, new party alignments appeared. Adams's followers, some of whom were former Federalists, took the name of "National Republicans" to show their support of a federal government that would take a strong role in developing an expanding nation. Though he governed honestly and efficiently, Adams was not a popular president. He failed in his effort to institute a national system of roads and canals. His coldly intellectual temperament did not win friends.

Jackson, by contrast, had enormous popular appeal and a strong political organization. His followers came together to establish the Democratic Party and pushed for a smaller central government with more power going to state governments. Mounting a strong anti-Adams campaign, they accused the president of a "corrupt bargain" for receiving Clay's support in the election of 1824 and then naming Clay secretary of state. In the election of 1828, Jackson defeated Adams by an overwhelming electoral majority.

Jackson -- Tennessee politician, fighter in wars against Native Americans on the Southern frontier, and hero of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812 -- drew his support from the "common people." He came to the presidency on a rising tide of enthusiasm for popular democracy. The election of 1828 was a significant benchmark in the trend toward broader voter participation. By then most states had either enacted universal white male suffrage or minimized property requirements for voting. In 1824 members of the Electoral College in six states were still selected by the state legislatures. By 1828 presidential electors were chosen by popular vote in every state but Delaware and South Carolina. These developments were the products of a widespread sense that the people should rule and that government by traditional elites had come to an end.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

During the opening decades of the 19th century, Central and South America turned to revolution. The American Revolution helped inspire many people who were living under European rule to revolt and create their own governments. Napoleon's conquest of Spain and Portugal in 1808 provided the signal for Latin Americans to rise in revolt. By 1822, ably led by Simon Bolivar, Francisco Miranda, José