

8th Grade | Unit 5



## **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 LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

- Name the leaders of the era and explain their accomplishments.
- 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.
- Define Manifest Destiny and describe its course in America.
- Describe the course of the Texas Revolution and Mexican War.

- 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.

## 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. lackson, 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.
- 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 LIFEPAC 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, age, care, far; let, equal, term; it, īce; hot, open, order; oil; out; cup, put, rüle; child; long; thin; /ŦH/ for **th**en; /zh/ for mea**s**ure; /u/ represents /a/ in **a**bout, /e/ in tak**e**n, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lem**o**n, and /u/ in circ**u**s.



# **AMERICA** from **1820** to **1855**



James Monroe 1817-1825 <u>Democratic-Republican</u>



John Quincy Adams 1825-1829 Democratic-Republican





Martin Van Buren 1837-1841



William H. Harrison\*



**John Tyler** 1841-1845 Whig



James K. Polk 1845-1849 Democratic

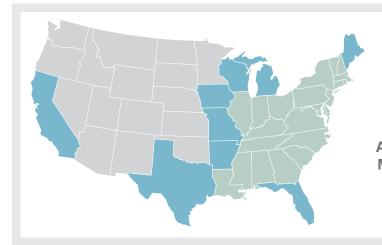


Zachary Taylor\* 1849-1850 Whig





**Franklin Pierce** 



# **STATES** ADMITTED

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

## **POPULATION** of the United States of America

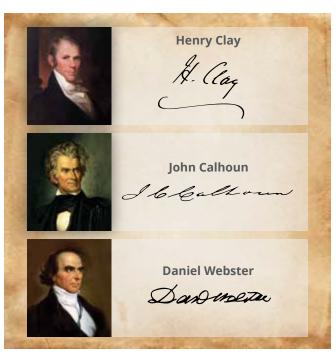
23,191,876 1850 9,638,453 1820 1790 3,929,000 \*died while in office

#### **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

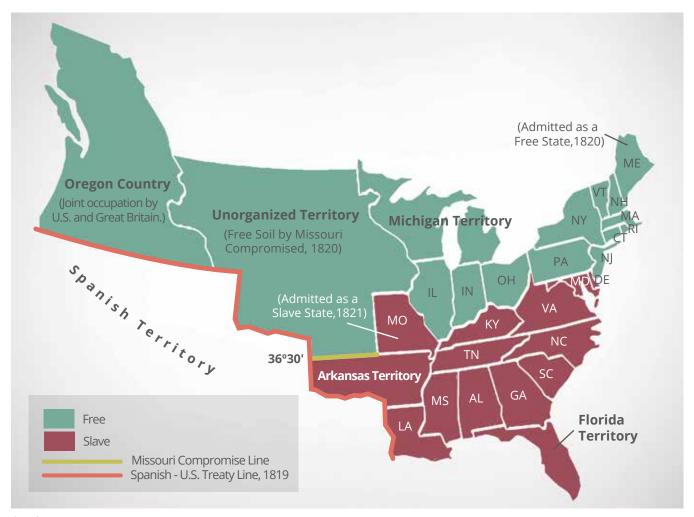
proponent of the doctrine of **nullification** and states' rights. Ironically, he believed this was a way to save the Union by protecting the South. His philosophies became the basis for the Confederacy.

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 McCulloch v. Maryland					
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 lawy	ers				
1.12		made cotton production profitable	<u>.</u>				
1.13		strong advocate of manufacturing	inte	erests			
1.14		Great Compromiser					
1.15		senator from South Carolina					
Ansv	ver these	questions.					
1.16	What we	re the two issues related to the Sou	th?				
	a						
	b						
1.17	What we	re the terms of the Missouri Compr	omi	se?			
	a						
	b						
	c						
1.18	What ma	de cotton and slavery suddenly so բ	orof	itable 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 <u>after</u> 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.

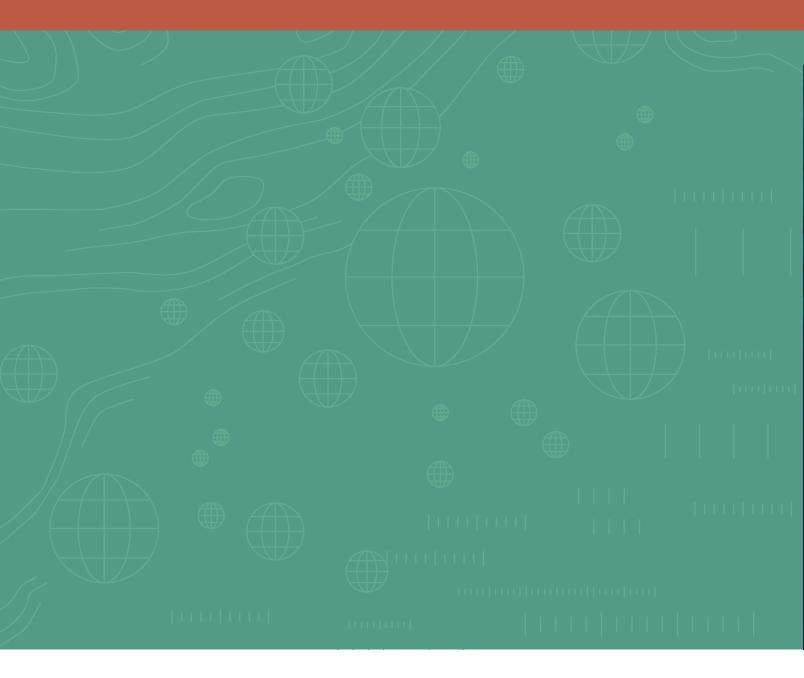
	Check th	ne items that were true of John Quincy Adams.					
1.19	won the election of 1828						
1.20		served as vice president					
1.21		was second in the popular vote in 1824 and 1828					
1.22		was accused of a "corrupt bargain" with William Crawford					
1.23		was capable but not popular					
1.24		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					
Ansv	ver 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	s 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?						

# **SELF TEST 1**

Match these people (each answer, 2 points).							
1.01	inventor of the cotton gin	a. Henry Clay					
1.02	leader of nullification and states' rights	b. Andrew Jackson					
1.03	"Old Hickory"	c. Daniel Webster					
1.04	his wife's social problems caused Jackson's	d. John Calhoun					
	entire cabinet to resign	e. Martin Van Buren					
1.05	won the presidency in 1824 in the House	f. John Quincy Adams					
	of Representatives with a "corrupt bargain"	g. John Eaton					
1.06	president of the Bank of the U.S.	h. Robert Hayne					
1.07	the Little Magician	i. Nicholas Biddle					
1.08	Massachusetts representative, defender	j. Eli Whitney					
	of the Union						
1.09	the Great Compromiser						
1.010	pro-nullification senator who had a famous del	oate with Webster					
Name	the item or person described (each answer, 4 points).						
1.011		8 to embarrass Adams by how sed anyway, to the anger of the old					
1.012	no slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of 36° 30° Maine admitted as a free state, Missouri as a slave state						
1.013	machine that led on cotton and slav	to the South becoming dependent very					
1.014	political party crea	ated by Andrew Jackson					
1.015	political party led by Henry Clay after the split of the Democratic-Republicans						
1.016		t," successfully opposed the Gag collapsed and died in the House of					
1.017		depression caused by land speculation and Jackson's financial policies that hurt Van Buren's presidency					

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

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100	initials	date



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