



LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



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HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 1105

A NATION DIVIDED AND UNITED

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HISTORY 1105

A NATION DIVIDED

During the years after the War of 1812, the population of the United States increased rapidly. Industry expanded, agricultural production boomed, settlers began to move into new territories, roads and canals were constructed over mountains and through dense forests, and the cry of “Manifest Destiny” could be heard across the nation.

Manifest Destiny was the idea that the citizens of the United States had a God-given right to extend their way of life from the Atlantic to the Pacific and that no physical barrier or human force could stop the settlement of these lands. This idea became a prevalent thought in the minds of many United States citizens. The expansion into new territories across the continent was a direct link in the chain of events leading to the Civil War.

Each time new territory was acquired by the United States, the troublesome question of slavery was raised. Many people in the anti-slavery faction of the North and West persisted in thinking that slavery in the territories would result in the economic superiority of the South and the demise of free enterprise. The proslavery faction, in contrast, feared the destruction of the “Southern lifestyle” unless the balance between free states and slave states could be maintained.

The increase in universal white male suffrage was another factor that helped create the sectionalism that paved the way for the war. After the Declaration of Independence, state laws in the thirteen states stipulated that only white men with considerable property or those who paid high taxes were allowed to vote. These laws were still in effect after the War of 1812. Between 1816 and 1821 six new states were admitted to the Union that allowed all white men to vote without regard for property qualifications. With the addition of these new states, the eastern and southern states began to relax their voting restrictions; many men who had never shown an interest in politics began to participate in the elective process. For the first time the “common” man had the opportunity of electing people to office who would encourage the federal government to adopt policies primarily beneficial to his sectional needs.

In the years following the War of 1812, the United States extended its boundaries from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast. With this expansion came issues that divided one section of the nation from another. As the United States grew, the way of life changed from one section to another. Southern living, for example, was entirely different from that of the West or Northeast.

In this unit you will study the conditions of life in the East, the West, and the South. You will also study the Civil War and the reconstruction efforts after the war.

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:

1. Describe the physical and sociological features of the South, the West, and the Northeast.
2. Define issues which caused the polarization of the nation prior to the Civil War.
3. Review both the Northern and the Southern views of these issues.
4. Identify the leading personalities of the Civil War era and explain the consequences of their actions.
5. Identify generalizations about the effect of slavery on owners and slaves.
6. Define the strengths and weaknesses each side possessed in facing the Civil War.
7. Identify major battles of the war and how each victory or defeat contributed to the outcome of the war.
8. Outline effects of the war on the North and the South.
9. Examine the reconstruction efforts made after the Civil War.
10. Recognize that God is no respecter of persons and that we are all equal in His sight.

VOCABULARY

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

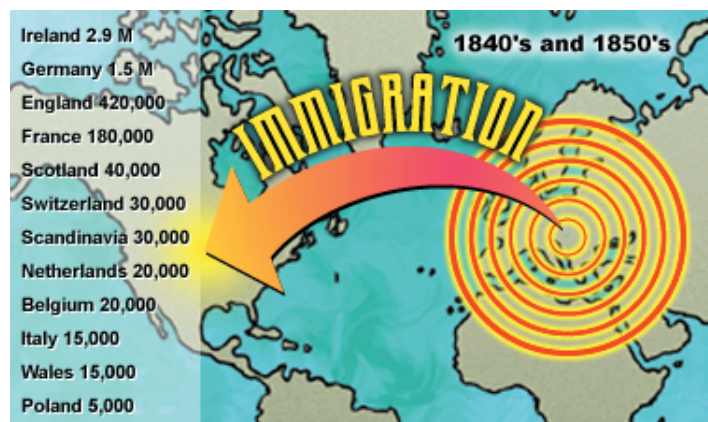
agrarian	Organized or designed to promote agricultural interests
artisan	One trained in some mechanical art or trade
drainage basin	A land drained by a river and its tributaries
fall line	Place where rivers descend in falls or rivers from a piedmont to a plain
growing season	The period between the last killing frost in the spring and the first killing frost in the fall
piedmont	Hilly land at the foot of mountains
sod	Soil filled with the roots of grass, herbs, and so forth

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

REGIONAL LIFESTYLES: THE EAST AND WEST

Life in the East. In 1850 more than half of the factories in the United States were located in the Northeast with two-thirds of the nation's production value centered in that region. The Northeast was unsuitable for large-scale farming because of the mountainous terrain and the short **growing season**—only three months in some places. However, the rough, rocky mountains with rivers coursing down their sides were an ideal source for the power necessary to run the machinery in the new mills and factories of the budding Northeastern textile industry. They also had a ready source of cotton in the south.

Because the growing season was short and the hard, rocky ground kept agricultural production near the subsistence level, more people lived in the cities of the Northeast to find work than in either the West or the South.



In the years preceding the Civil War, a new wave of immigrants came to the United States, fleeing the potato famine of 1845 and 1846 in Ireland. A few of the immigrants remained in the southern entry ports of Charleston and New Orleans. However, the majority swelled the numbers in the northern cities where they found work in the factories. By 1857 the number of factory workers had risen to 1.2 million, and the industrial labor force to almost 1 million people working an average of sixty-eight to seventy-two hours a week.

