



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 504

A GROWING NATION

CONTENTS

I. THE TIME OF JACKSON	3
Jackson in Charge	3
Crisis and Cruelty	5
After Jackson	8
II. MANIFEST DESTINY	13
Lone Star Republic	14
Oregon	16
Mexican War	18
Changing America	21
III. DIVIDING THE NATION	28
Compromise of 1850	28
Abolition	31
Fuel for the Fire	33

Author: Theresa Buskey, J.D.
Editor: Alan Christopherson, M.S.
Illustrations: Brian Ring



Alpha Omega Publications®

804 N. 2nd Ave. E., Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759
© MM by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
LIFEPAC is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates', and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

A GROWING NATION

The election of Andrew Jackson was a change in U.S. government. Things changed so much that historians call it *Jacksonian Democracy*. Jackson was a westerner who had been born poor. He was a man of the people. The power of the ordinary man grew when he became president. Jackson made the presidency into a very powerful office, much as it is today. The first section of this LIFEPAC® will discuss him and how he changed American government.

The second section will discuss *Manifest Destiny*. That was an idea most Americans held in the 1800s. They believed it was their

obvious (manifest) future (destiny) to expand all across the American continent. This section will discuss how that was done.

The last section will talk about the growing problems between the North and the South. They had never gone away, but in the 1840s and 1850s they got much worse. Several events like Bleeding Kansas, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Dred Scott Decision, and John Brown's Raid made the North and South truly distrust each other. More compromise became impossible. The North was no longer willing to protect slavery to keep the country united. The arguments would soon divide the nation.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you should 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 events and importance of the presidency of Andrew Jackson.
2. Describe the debates and crisis over the tariff and slavery in the years before the Civil War.
3. Describe Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James Polk, and the events of their presidencies.
4. Describe how America got the Texas Annexation, Oregon **Cession**, the Mexican Cession, and the Gadsden Purchase.
5. Describe changes in America from 1830-1860s.
6. Describe the incidents that led the North and South to divide.
7. Explain why the first seven southern states seceded.

VOCABULARY

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

annex (ə nɛks'). To join or add a smaller thing to a larger thing

bill (bil). a. A statement of money owed for work done or things supplied

b. A proposed law presented to a lawmaking group for its approval

campaign (kam pān'). A number of connected activities to do something, like get someone elected to office

cession (sesh' ən). Something yielded or given to another; land given to another nation

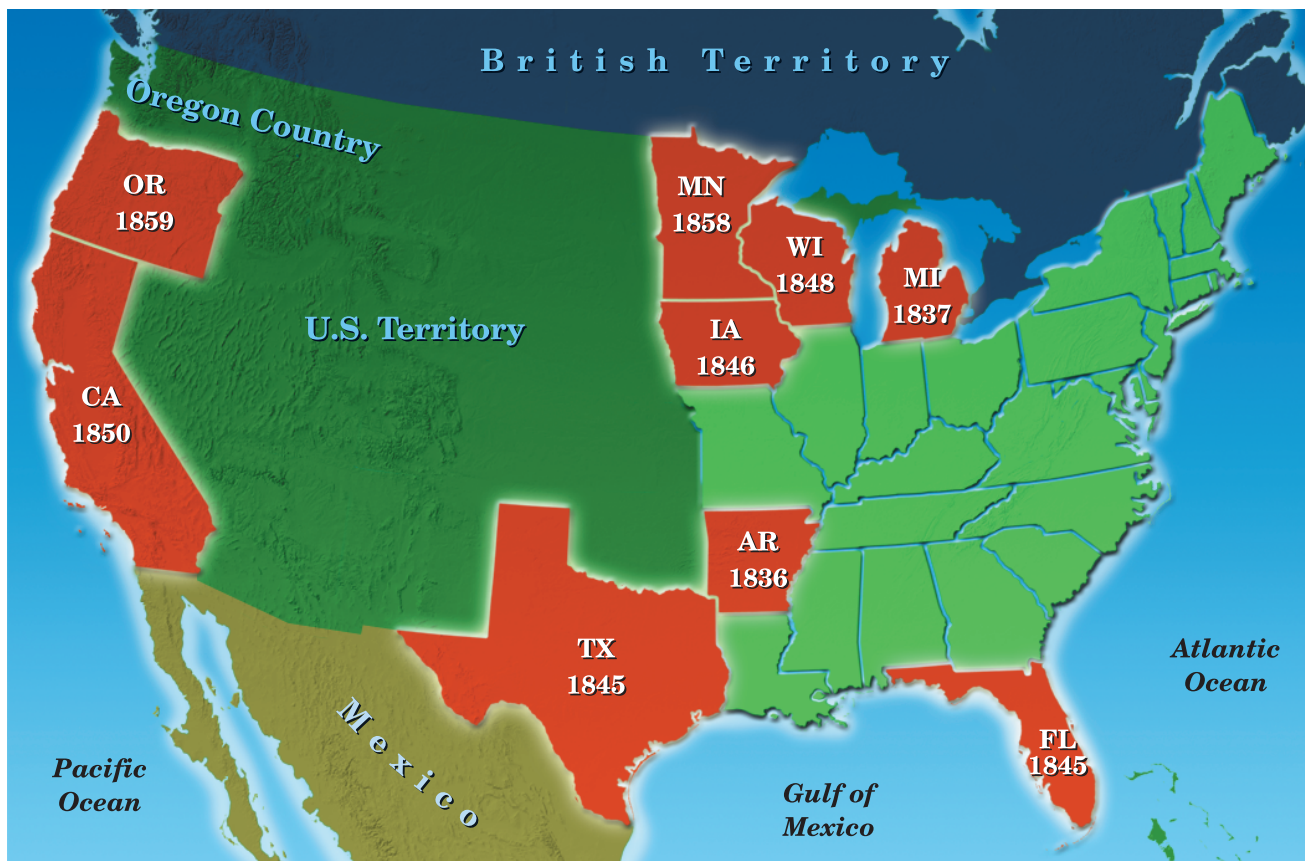
corrupt (kə rupt'). Influenced by bribes; dishonest

economy (i kon' ə mē). The way a country, area or business manages its resources

fiction (fik' shən). A story that is not true
gallery (gal' ər ē). The highest balcony above a stage or area of public events
immoral (i mōr' əl). Morally wrong, wicked
influential (in' flü en' shəl). Having the power of affecting the beliefs or actions of others without using force
martyr (mär' tər). A person who suffers or is killed for their beliefs
mission (mish' ən). A center or headquarters for religious or social work
pneumonia (nü mō' nyə). A serious disease that can cause swelling of the lungs, high fever, and difficulty in breathing
popular (pop' yə lər). Liked by most people
prospector (pros' pek tər). A person who searches a region looking for gold, silver, oil or other valuable resources
reform (ri fōrm'). To make better; improve by removing faults
retreat (ri trēt'). To go back; move back; withdraw
slaughter (slō' tər). Brutal killing; much or needless killing
spoils (spoilz). Things taken by force; things won
treason (trē' zn). Being false or disloyal to one's country

Note: These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFEPAC. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

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



THE UNITED STATES IN 1860

I. THE TIME OF JACKSON

All of the presidents before Andrew Jackson had been born wealthy. They were from the “nobility” of America, born in the older, eastern states. Andrew Jackson had been born poor and lived in the West. He had very little education in school. He became rich by his own work and effort. He was what we call a “self-made man.”

It was a real change in the way Americans thought of their leaders when Jackson was elected. Suddenly, the president was an ordinary man, like any other man who started with nothing on the frontier. Jackson was incredibly **popular**. He also believed that he, not the Congress, represented the whole

nation. He acted boldly as president, using his powers and leading the nation more than any president before him.

After the time of Andrew Jackson, presidents were expected to be ordinary people. It was a very good thing for a man to be born in a log cabin if he wanted to be president. The old idea that the rich and well born should rule died in America. After Andrew Jackson, it was the common man who was held up as the best leader in our country. Politics was still a game for the rich, but leaders now had to appear to be ordinary people if they wanted to win elections.

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

1. Describe the events and importance of the presidency of Andrew Jackson.
2. Describe the debates and crisis over the tariff and slavery in the years before the Civil War.
3. Describe Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James Polk, and the events of their presidency.
5. Describe changes in America from 1830-1860s.
6. Describe the incidents that led the North and South to divide.

Restudy these words.

bill
gallery
spoils

campaign
pneumonia

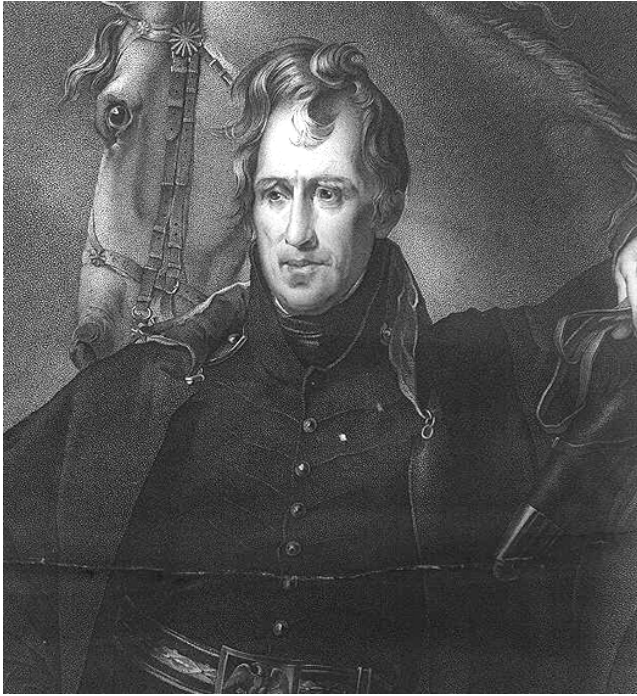
corrupt
popular

Jackson in Charge

Old Hickory. Andrew Jackson, our seventh president, was a tall, thin man with bushy eyebrows. He had a bad temper and made enemies easily. He had been in many fights during his life. In fact, when he became president he had two bullets still in his body from them. As a general, he was used to giving orders and being obeyed. He earned his nickname, “Old Hickory,” for how tough and hard he was. He was not a man you wanted to

have get angry at you, but he also made many devoted friends in his life. Men who would obey him to the death.

Every president is sworn into office at an *inauguration*. It is a ceremony in which the new president takes the oath of office, gives a speech, and often watches a parade. Andrew Jackson’s party after his inauguration in 1829 was a wild one! People came from all over the country to see their hero. They were all



Library of Congress

PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON

allowed into the White House. They stood on the chairs and knocked over tables trying to see the new president. The crowd around Jackson pushed so hard he had to leave to avoid being hurt. The crowd finally left when the White House staff cleverly began serving refreshments—outside on the lawn.

Spoils System. Andrew Jackson began a very bad system during his presidency. We call it the *Spoils System*. It comes from the saying, “To the victor belong the **spoils** of the enemy.” It meant that the winner in the election gave jobs in the government to his supporters. Government clerks who collected taxes were fired so that men who worked to help Jackson get elected could have their jobs. The same was true of inspectors, office workers, secretaries, and sometimes even janitors.

This was a very bad idea. After Jackson, people who helped someone win the presidency expected to get a job for it. They did not have to be good at the job. They just had to support the right candidate. Often they were required to pay part of their salary to the Democratic or Whig party to keep the job. Sometimes they would steal money on the job,

and they often did not bother to work hard. As long as they supported the president, they would not be fired. Even worse, a man who did work hard and do his job well would still be fired just because a new president wanted his job for someone else. The Spoils System would be a problem for many years in America.

The National Bank. Andrew Jackson did not really understand or trust banks. Like most westerners he usually heard about banks only when they came to take a man’s land for not paying his debts. Jackson did not understand how the National Bank helped the country by making paper money that could be trusted and keeping national finances in good order. Also, the head of the National Bank in Jackson’s time, Nicholas Biddle, was **corrupt**. Biddle gave money to all sorts of people in Congress to make sure that the bank got what he wanted it to have.

Jackson believed the National Bank was a “moneyed monster” that should be destroyed. The Bank could only do business if it had a charter from the government, and it had to get a new one every few years. When Congress granted the Bank a new charter in 1832, Jackson vetoed (refused) the **bill**. He sent back an angry letter explaining why it was hurting the people. His enemies tried to use the veto to embarrass him in the election of 1832, but it did not work. He was easily re-elected to a second term.

After his re-election, Jackson decided it was time to get rid of the Bank for good. He began taking all of the federal money out of the Bank. He put the money in state banks he liked, called “pet banks.” Nicholas Biddle tried to make him stop, but Jackson was too stubborn. Biddle finally gave up and closed the National Bank.

Jackson acted as he thought best as president. He vetoed more laws than all six men who had been president before him put together. He made it clear that, as president, he was in charge, not Congress. This is something we expect now, but it was started by Andrew Jackson.