



**TEKS** 1A, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 7A, 7D,  
10B, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12D, 13A, 14B,  
18A, 18B, 18C, 21A, 22B, 27B

## What You Will Learn...

### Main Ideas

1. Growing nationalism led to improvements in the nation's transportation systems.
2. The Missouri Compromise settled an important regional conflict.
3. The outcome of the election of 1824 led to controversy.

### The Big Idea

A rising sense of national unity allowed some regional differences to be set aside and national interests to be served.

### Key Terms and People

nationalism, p. 302  
American System, p. 302  
Henry Clay, p. 302  
Cumberland Road, p. 304  
Erie Canal, p. 304  
Era of Good Feelings, p. 305  
sectionalism, p. 305  
Missouri Compromise, p. 305a  
John Quincy Adams, p. 305b



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**TAKING NOTES**

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on factors that contributed to national unity.

# Nationalism and Sectionalism

## If YOU were there...

You live near the western end of the newly completed Erie Canal in 1831. In fact, your older brothers helped build the canal. Every day you watch as mules pull the canal boats along the still water of the canal. Sometimes the boats carry passengers traveling from city to city. You have never been far from your home, and you are curious about their journey.

## What would you ask the travelers?

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** Peace, prosperity, and a growing country gave Americans a sense of national unity. In practical terms, building roads and canals also helped unify the nation. They made travel easier, linking people from different regions of the country. Nevertheless, some regional conflicts continued.

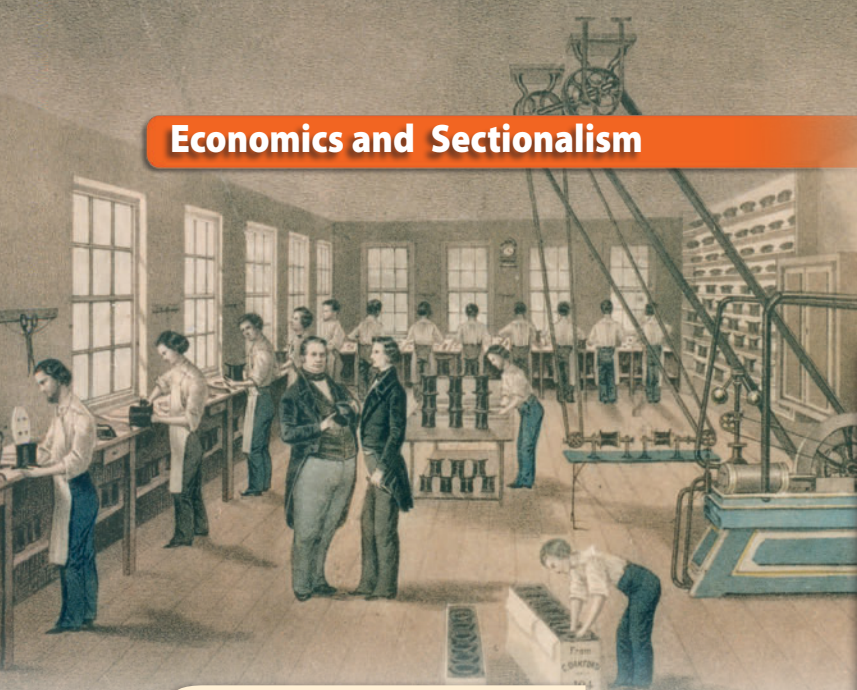
## Growing Nationalism

Pleased by successful negotiations with foreign powers, Americans enjoyed a rising sense of nationalism. **Nationalism** is feelings of pride in and loyalty to a nation. Americans believed in the nation's potential to build a society that was equal to European powers.

## The American System

The Democratic-Republicans wanted to build a strong national economy to promote the sense of a unified country and reduce sectional conflicts. They pushed forward a plan eventually known as the **American System** — a series of measures intended to make the United States economically self-sufficient. The most vocal supporter of the plan was U.S. representative **Henry Clay** from Kentucky. To build the economy, Clay pushed for a national bank that would provide a single currency, making interstate trade easier. And the lessons learned in the War of 1812 led many to think that a national bank would stabilize the economy. Clay wanted the money from a protective tariff to be used to improve and build roads and canals.

## Economics and Sectionalism



The North was becoming a center of industry and favored policies that made imported goods more expensive than American-made goods.

These internal improvements would unite the country. They would provide a way for both goods and people to travel more easily across the long distances of the nation. Agricultural products of the West and the South and manufactured goods made in the North would be easier to transport to distant markets.

Not everyone agreed with the plan, however. Most of the resistance was centered in the West and the South. These regions were more dependent on trade to acquire manufactured goods than the North was. The plan for a high tariff on imported manufactured goods resulted in higher prices for these goods. This increase in prices would be felt more in the West and the South, while benefiting the manufacturers in the North. Clay responded with the argument that the North would be dependent on those regions for food and cotton. The South, however, still opposed the possibility of higher prices.

Respected Congressman Daniel Webster spoke against the tariff because he believed it would help one industry over others. Webster and his supporters argued that using a federal law that benefited one region of the nation more than others violated the ideals

Government policies such as taxes, tariffs, and subsidies affected the three regions differently.

*What do these photographs reveal about the economies of the three regions?*

### Effects of Government Policies

#### Economic Policies

- Tariffs on imported foreign goods
- Rules on exporting raw materials
- Subsidies for manufacturing businesses
- Embargoes on trade with other nations

#### Results

- American-made goods were cheaper, leading to higher sales and great profits for U.S. businesses.
- Iron and cotton would be used by U.S. businesses instead of foreign businesses.
- American businesses would receive help in order to expand.
- Trade within the nation would increase.

The West produced many food crops and favored policies that encouraged trade and lower prices on goods.



The South exported enormous amounts of cotton and favored policies that allowed them to trade with European textile manufacturers.



of the Constitution. They also believed that it put too much control of the nation in the hands of the central government and acted against the principles of a free-market economy. Some members of Congress believed that the Constitution did not permit the federal government to spend money on internal improvements. Clay argued that the possible gains for the country justified federal action.

## Roads and Canals

In the early 1800s most roads in the United States were made of dirt, making travel difficult. British actress Frances Kemble described one New York road she had struggled along during a visit in the 1830s.

“The wickedest road, I do think, the cruellest, hard-heartedest road, that ever [a] wheel rumbled upon.”

—Frances Anne (Kemble) Butler, *Journal*

To improve the nation’s roads, Congress agreed with Clay and invested in road building. The **Cumberland Road** was the first road built by the federal government.

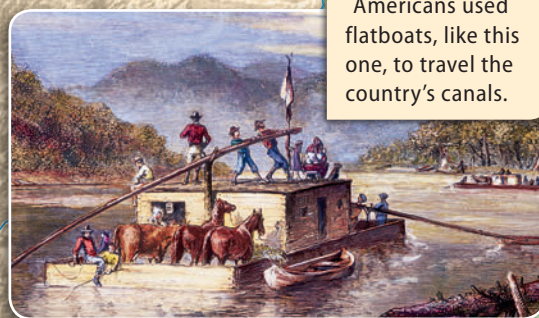
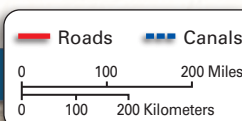
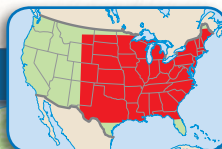
It ran from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, a town on the Ohio River in present-day West Virginia. Construction began in 1815. Workers had to cut a 66-foot-wide band, sometimes through forest, to make way for the road. Then they had to use shovels and pickaxes to dig a 12- to 18-inch roadbed, which they filled with crushed stone. All of the work had to be done without the benefit of today’s bulldozers and steamrollers.

By 1818 the road reached Wheeling. By 1833 the National Road, as the expansion was called, stretched to Columbus, Ohio. By 1850 it reached all the way to Illinois.

Meanwhile, Americans tried to make water transportation easier by building canals. One of the largest projects was the **Erie Canal**, which ran from Albany to Buffalo, New York.

Construction of the canal began in 1817 and was completed in 1825. Using shovels, British, German, and Irish immigrants dug the entire canal by hand. The canal cost millions of dollars, but it proved

## U.S. Roads and Canals, 1850



Americans used flatboats, like this one, to travel the country’s canals.



Travelers on the National Road stopped at inns to eat and rest from a long day’s journey.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Region** In what region of the United States were most canals located?
- 2. Movement** About how long was the National Road?

to be worth the expense. The Erie Canal allowed goods and people to move between towns on Lake Erie and New York City and the East Coast. Its success served as an **incentive** for a canal-building boom across the country.

The construction of canals and roads had direct and indirect effects on the environment. The landscape was changed by the clearing of forests, and rivers and streams were redirected or dammed. Once the canals and roads were built, new farms and towns developed and further changed the environment. Even in rural areas, the natural environment was changed to accommodate the needs of humans.

### Era of Good Feelings

From 1815 to 1825 the United States enjoyed the **Era of Good Feelings**, a time of peace, pride, and progress. The phrase was coined by a Boston editor in 1817 during James Monroe's visit to New England early in his presidency.

The emphasis on national unity was strengthened by two Supreme Court case decisions that reinforced the power of the federal government. In the 1819 case *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Court asserted the implied powers of Congress in allowing for the creation of a national bank. In the 1824 case *Gibbons v. Ogden*, the Court said that the states could not interfere with the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

Both of these court cases, along with others, showed the increasing control of the national government over the decisions of state governments. Congress began to make more laws based on the loose interpretation of the necessary and proper clause. The system of federalism that was framed by the Constitution was still debated, however, and many people disagreed with the growing power of the central government.

**READING CHECK** **Drawing Inferences** How did new roads and canals affect the economy?

## The Issue of Sectionalism

Even as many Americans felt a growing national pride, tensions between the three geographic regions of the nation began to grow. The three regions—the West, the North, and the South—had different economies, political goals, and social customs. **Disagreements between the different regions, or sectionalism**, were a common part of the political debates of the era of the early to mid-1800s.

When the nation was founded, the main political divisions between states followed the regional lines between those in the North and those in the South. From the beginning, the two regions had different economic and political concerns. The North worked for laws supporting trade and commerce, while the South favored policies that benefited agricultural production. Northern states insisted on equal representation for states with lower populations to make sure they were not overpowered by the more populous southern states. But the biggest difference between the regions was the southern system of slavery. From the beginning of the nation, leaders in the two regions debated how to handle the difference.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 had established a new kind of political region in the country. Territories were not states, but they were under the direct administration of the federal government. The ordinances established the policies and political structures for new land acquired in the future. As Americans settled the regions, new states were created. Their economies and political goals, however, were different than those of the northern and southern states along the Atlantic coast.

### Slavery and Expansion

The most heated debates about sectionalism were often linked with slavery. Leaders in the southern states knew that many in the North wanted the practice to be abolished. They knew that if enough votes from free states

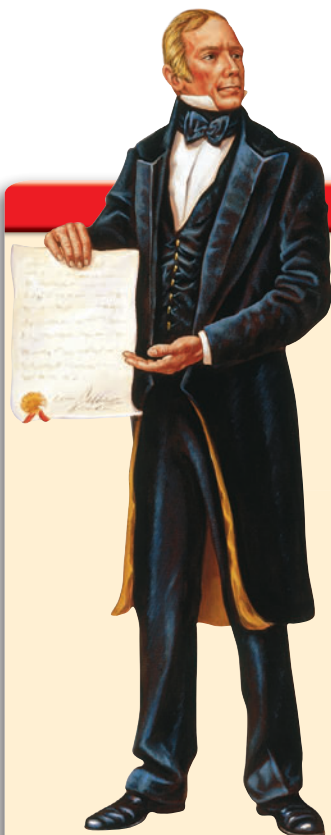
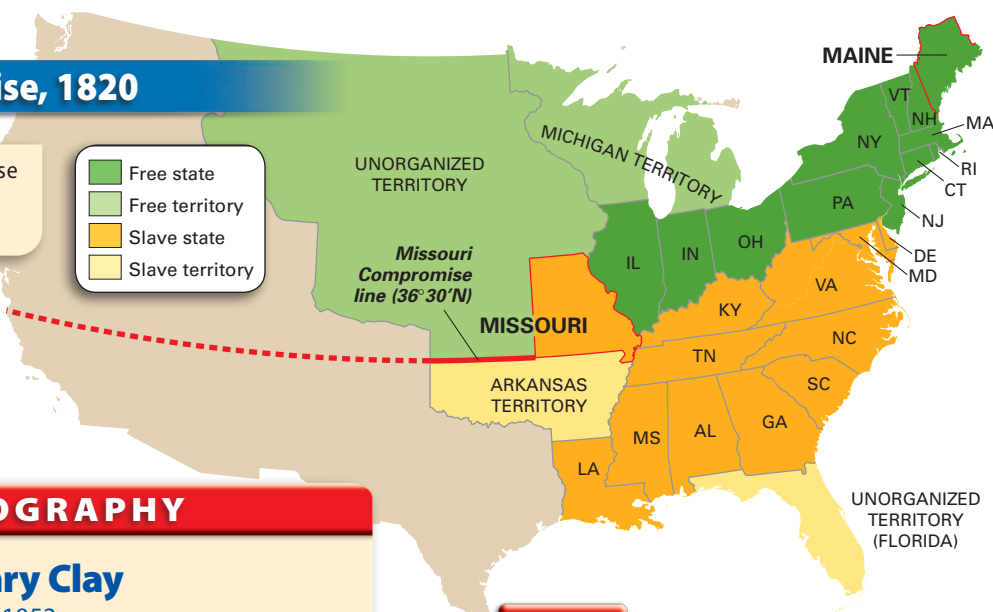
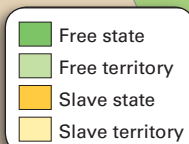
#### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**incentive**  
something that leads people to follow a certain course of action



## The Missouri Compromise, 1820

The Missouri Compromise banned slavery in the region north of 36° 30' N.



### BIOGRAPHY

#### Henry Clay

1777–1852

Known as the silver-tongued Kentuckian, Henry Clay was a gifted speaker. He became involved in local politics early in his life, and by age 29 he was appointed to the U.S. Senate. Throughout his career in the Senate, he was dedicated to preserving the Union. The Missouri Compromise and a later agreement, the Compromise of 1850, helped to ease sectional tensions, at least temporarily.

**Analyzing** Why did Henry Clay work for compromises between regions?

could be gained in Congress, slavery would be ended. Leaders in free states, however, knew that if the South gained more votes in the Senate, policies that favored the slave states would be passed. For this reason, Congress worked to maintain an equal number of free and slave states in the Union.

### Missouri Compromise

As new states were added, leaders argued over whether or not slavery should spread into new states. One such disagreement arose in 1819 when Congress considered Missouri's application to enter the Union as a slave state. At the time, the Union had 11 free states and 11 slave states. Adding a new slave state would have tipped the balance in the Senate in favor of the South.

### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Region** In which part of the country was slavery permitted?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** Why did leaders choose 36° 30' as the compromise line?

To protect the power of the free states, the House passed a special amendment. It declared that the United States would accept Missouri as a slave state, but importing enslaved Africans into Missouri would be illegal. It also set free the children of Missouri slaves. Southern politicians angrily opposed this plan.

North Carolina senator Nathaniel Macon wanted to continue adding slave states. "Why depart from the good old way, which has kept us in quiet, peace, and harmony?" he asked. Eventually, the Senate rejected the amendment. Missouri was still not a state.

Henry Clay convinced Congress to agree to the **Missouri Compromise**, which settled the conflict that had arisen from Missouri's application for statehood. This compromise had three main conditions:

- 1.** Missouri would enter the Union as a slave state.
- 2.** Maine would join the Union as a free state, keeping the number of slave and free states equal.
- 3.** Slavery would be prohibited in any new territories or states north of 36° 30' latitude—Missouri's southern border.

Congress passed the Missouri Compromise in 1820. Despite the success of the compromise, there were still strong disagreements between the North and South over the expansion of slavery. Although people hoped that the compromise would end the debate, the issue would continue to arise with each new application for statehood.

**READING CHECK** **Drawing Conclusions** Why did Henry Clay propose the Missouri Compromise to resolve the issue of Missouri statehood?

## The Election of 1824

Soon, a presidential election also brought controversy. Andrew Jackson won the most popular votes in 1824, although he did not win a majority. However, he did not have enough electoral votes to win office. Under the Constitution, the House of Representatives

had to choose the winner. When the House chose **John Quincy Adams** as president, Jackson's supporters claimed that Adams had made a corrupt bargain with Speaker of the House Henry Clay in order to be named president. These accusations grew after Adams chose Clay to be secretary of state. The controversy weakened Adams's support and encouraged more political action by Jackson's supporters in the Democratic Party.

**READING CHECK** **Drawing Inferences** Why did Adams have weak support during his presidency?

### FOCUS ON READING

Compare and contrast opinions about John Quincy Adams.

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** Strong nationalistic feeling contributed to the development of America's politics and economy. In the next section you will read about the development of a new national culture.

## Section 2 Assessment

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**ONLINE QUIZ**

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Define** What was the **Era of Good Feelings**?
- b. Describe** What positions did **Henry Clay** and Daniel Webster take in the Congressional debates on the **American System**?
- c. Explain** How did the War of 1812 affect the U.S. economy?
- d. Analyze** Explain the issues behind the decisions and the importance of the Supreme Court cases *McCulloch v. Maryland* and *Gibbons v. Ogden*. How did they affect life in the United States?
- e. Predict** How would transportation improvements eventually aid the growth and stability of the U.S. economy?
2. **a. Recall** What role did Henry Clay play in the debate over Missouri's statehood?
- b. Explain** What problem did Missouri's request for statehood cause?
- c. Elaborate** Was the **Missouri Compromise** a good solution to the debate between free states and slave states? Explain your answer.
3. **a. Identify** Who were the candidates in the presidential election of 1824? How was the winner determined?

- b. Draw Conclusions** Why did **John Quincy Adams** lose popular support following the election of 1824?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Evaluating** Review your notes on nationalism during the Era of Good Feelings. Then copy the following graphic organizer and use it to identify how threats to nationalism were resolved by the Missouri Compromise.



### FOCUS ON WRITING



5. **Judging Self-Esteem** Another way you can tell about people's characters is by how they view themselves. Are they self-confident? Do they make healthy choices? Think of the United States as a person and jot down notes about the view the United States had of itself. Is the new nation pleased with itself? Does it feel confident or confused?