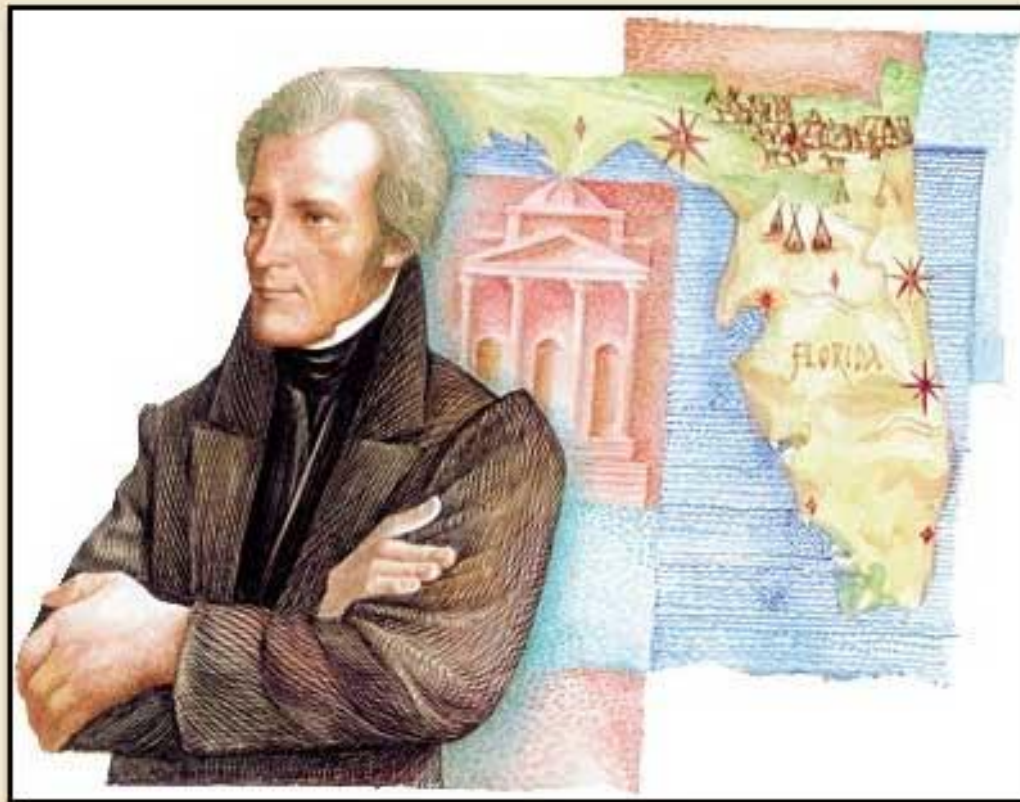


# Chapter 12 Democracy in the Age of Jackson (1824-1840)

(American Nation Textbook Pages 358-375)



## 1. A New Era in Politics

The spirit of Democracy, which was changing the political system, affected American ideas about social classes. Most Americans were unhappy with the rich people's special privileges. There was a growing spirit of equality spreading throughout the United States. American servants wanted to be treated as equals.



AS YOU  
READ

### Statue of Andrew Jackson

**Summarize** Write one or two sentences describing how people in Ohio felt about Jackson.



During the 1820's, more people gained suffrage, or the right to vote. Women, Native Americans and many African Americans were still denied the right to vote. Slaves had no rights under American law. Only northern African Americans had the right to vote. The election of 1824 was disputed. In the election, Andrew Jackson won a majority of the popular vote. No candidate won the majority of electoral votes. As a result, The House of Representatives had to choose the new President. They choose John Quincy Adams as the next President. Most Americans were unhappy with this decision.



The  
government  
is corrupt!

John Quincy Adams spent money to improve roads and canals. He also suggested building a national university and observatory. As Adams discovered, most Americans objected to spending money on such programs. In 1824, it was election time again. Andrew Jackson won the election easily pointed out in his campaign or a “corrupt bargain” he made for his election. Andrew Jackson became the new President in 1824.

## Growing Spirit of Democracy

### Growing Spirit of Equality

#### Suffrage Expands

- More white men are eligible to vote
- Property qualifications for voters end
- Voter turnout is nearly 80 percent in 1840 election

#### Political Parties Change

- The caucus system ends
- Nominating conventions are held to choose presidential candidates

#### The "Common Man" Rises

- The spoils system lets ordinary citizens participate in government
- Ideas about social classes change

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

### Skills

The election of Andrew Jackson in 1828 marked a change in ideas about democracy.

1. **Comprehension** How were candidates chosen for office?
2. **Critical Thinking**  
**Supporting a Point of View** Do you think the growing spirit of democracy helped Jackson in the 1828 election? Explain.

Civics



**As the populations increased in the western states, so did the number of voters. In the western states any white man over the age of 21 could vote. Women, Native Americans, and most African Americans did not have the right to vote.**

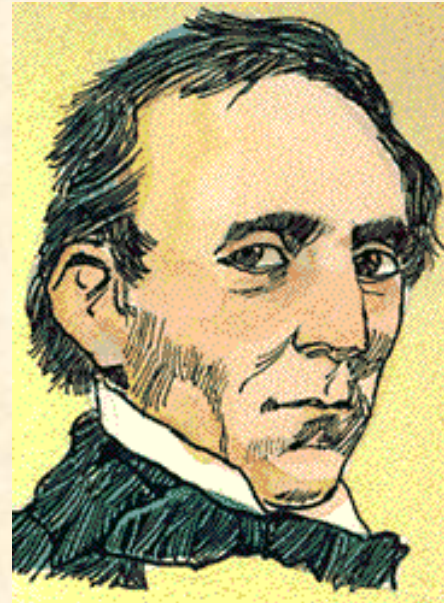


**What  
about  
women?**



## New Political Parties

In the 1830's new political parties were taking shape. They grew out of the conflict between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. Two new parties emerged, the Whigs and Democrats.



Hi, I'm William Henry Harrison. I founded the Whig Party.

# The Election of 1828



## GEOGRAPHY Skills

In the election of 1828, Andrew Jackson defeated John Quincy Adams. Unlike in the election of 1824, Jackson was a decisive winner in 1828.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate (a) Massachusetts, (b) Kentucky, (c) Tennessee.
- 2. Place** In which section of the country did Adams have the most support?
- 3. Critical Thinking Applying Information** Which of the two candidates would probably have won Florida and Arkansas if they had been states in 1828? Explain.



- The Whigs wanted the government to improve the country's economy. These were the rich business people and southern farmers.
- The Democrats included the average people, frontier farmers as well as factory workers.

Those Democrats are just average people!



Political parties held a [caucus](#), or private meeting to choose their candidates for an office. In the 1830's, both political parties began to hold [nominating conventions](#). At a convention, delegates from the states chose the party's candidate for President.

**I nominate  
Squidward  
Tentacles for  
President of the  
Democratic Party!**





**AS YOU  
READ**

### **Andrew Jackson con- fronts Russell Bean**

**Draw Inferences** What does this story tell you about Jackson and Bean?

## 2. Jackson in the White House

### Tough as Hickory

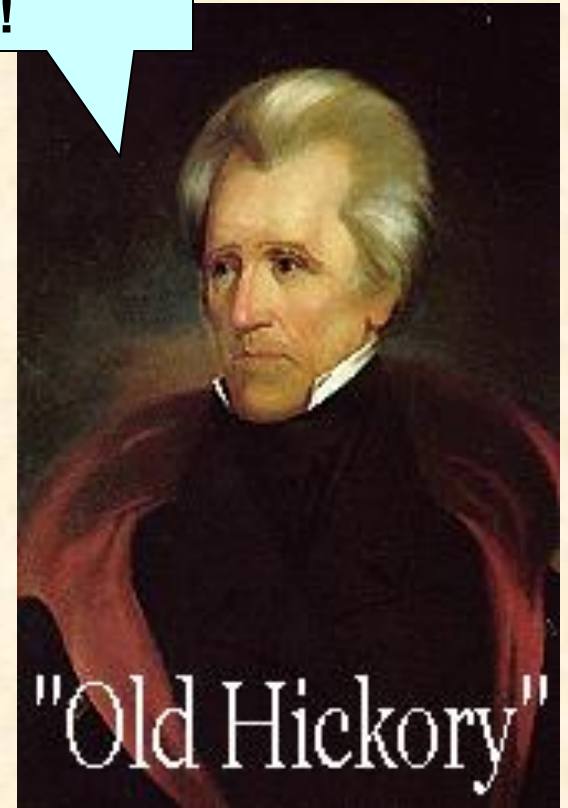
***Andrew Jackson* was a powerful President. Before Jackson was 15 years old both his parents died so he had to grow up quickly. During the American Revolution at age 13, Andrew Jackson joined the Patriots but was captured by the British. When a British officer ordered Jackson to clean his boots, he refused! The officer slashed his face and hand with a sword. Jackson bore those scars of the attack all of his life.**



**I'm a tough hickory tree!  
I am Andrew Jackson!**

As a young man, Jackson studied law in North Carolina. Later he set up a law practice in Tennessee. He became wealthy by buying and selling land. While still in his 20's he was elected to Congress. Jackson won his national fame in the war of 1812. He commanded American forces at New Orleans. He was nick-named *Old Hickory* because he was hard and as tough as an old hickory tree.

I am tough  
as a  
hickory  
stick!



## The Spoils System

In 1828, Jackson knew Americans wanted changes so he fired many of the federal employees and replaced them with his own supporters. The practice of rewarding supporters with government jobs became known as the spoils system. In the years later the spoils system grew even larger.



## Bank War

Andrew Jackson waged war on the Bank of the United States. He felt the bank was too powerful. He thought the bank was giving out too many loans and they limited the amount of money they would lend. Jackson saw the bank as undemocratic because private bankers not elected officials ran it. Jackson waged a “war” against the bank claiming that it was a “monster that helped the rich get richer at the expense of the common people.”





## POLITICAL CARTOON

### Skills

**Andrew Jackson Battles the Bank of the United States** In this cartoon, President Jackson battles the Bank of the United States and its branches (represented by the multiple heads).

**1. Comprehension**

Read the canoe Jackson is holding. What does it say?

**2. Understanding Main Ideas**

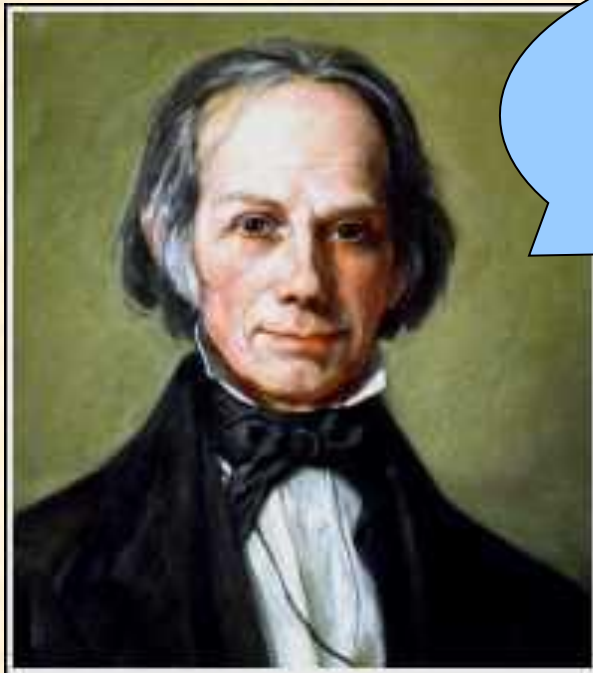
How does Jackson fight the Bank?

**3. Critical Thinking**

**Identifying Bias** How do you think the cartoonist felt about the Bank of the United States?



In the election of 1832, the closing of the bank became the major issue. Jackson defeated Henry Clay in the election and was President for a second term. In 1836, the bank closed, without a new charter. Jackson ordered the money be deposited into state banks.

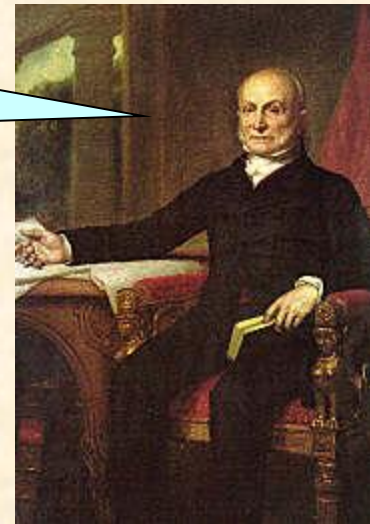


I am Henry Clay. I lost the election for President of the United States!

## A Strong President

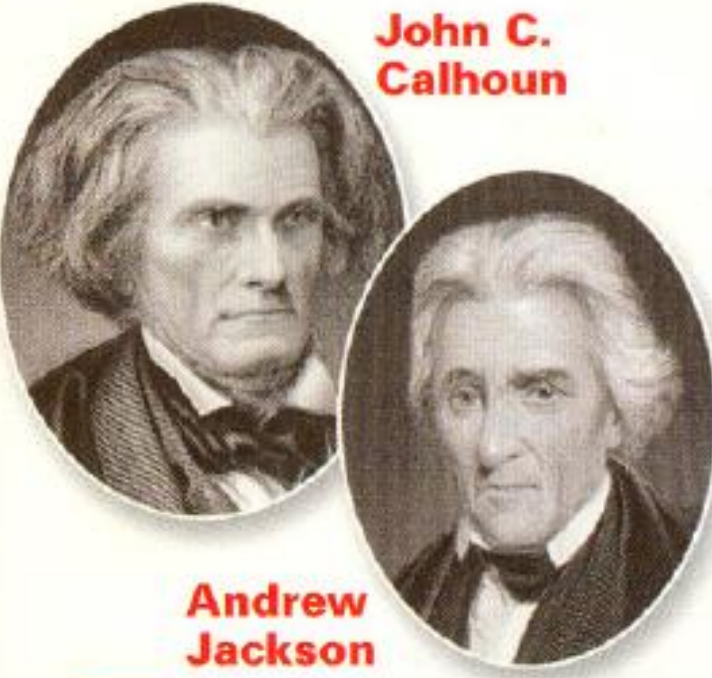
The war over the Bank made Jackson more popular than ever. Now Jackson had to face some new obstacles in his 2nd term as President.

I hate high taxes!



### 3. A New Crisis

Andrew Jackson and James C. Calhoun were once friends. They became fierce opponents in a quarrel over state's rights, or the right of the states to limit the power of the federal government.



**John C. Calhoun**

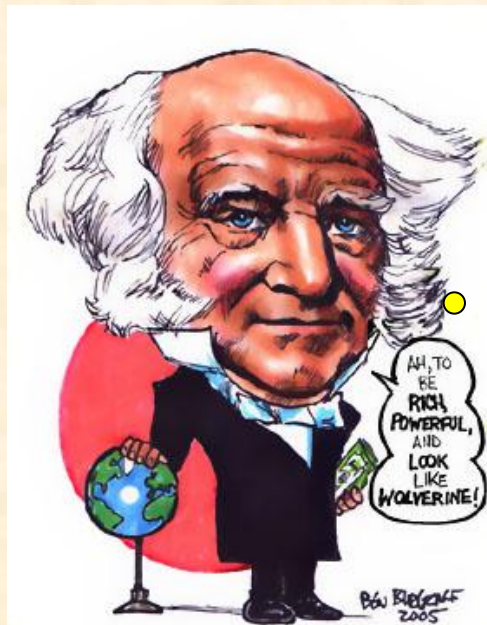
**Andrew Jackson**

**AS YOU READ** Find main ideas  
Explain Jackson's and Calhoun's views on states' rights.

In 1828 Congress passed the highest tariff (or tax) in the nation's history. Southerners called the new tax, the *Tariff of Abominations*. An *abomination* is something that is hated. The high tax meant that the southerners had to pay more for imported goods. Vice President, *James C. Calhoun* led the South's fight against the tariff. Calhoun claimed that each state had the right to cancel a federal law that they thought was unconstitutional. The idea of a state declaring a federal law illegal is called *nullification*. Calhoun felt that the states had rights.

## The Vice President Resigns

The states created the federal government and they should have the right to limit the federal government's power. Calhoun's supported the idea known as states' s rights. The President disagreed with Vice President Calhoun. Calhoun soon afterward resigned his office of Vice President. Martin Van Buren became Jackson's Vice President in 1833.

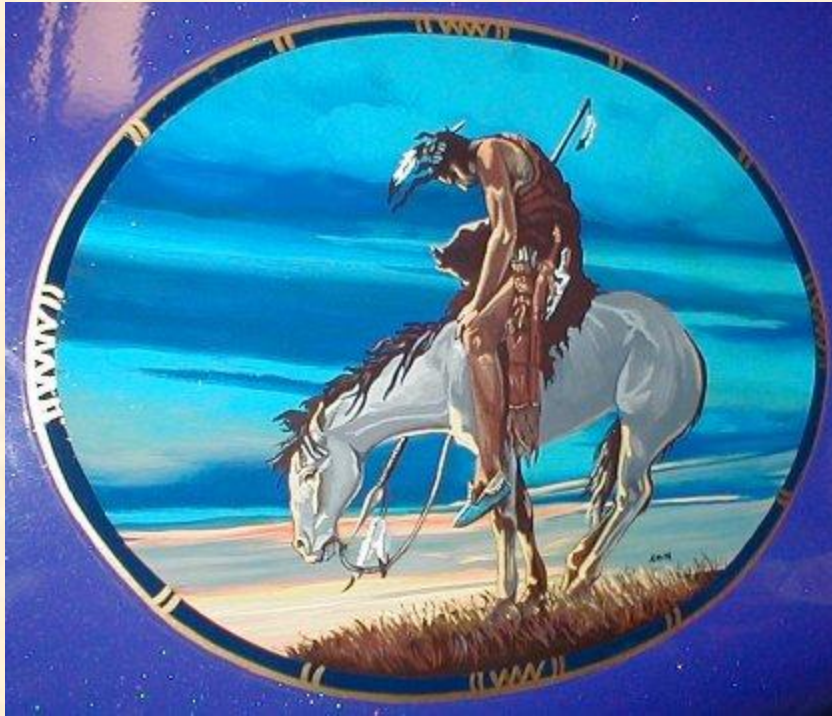


I am the new  
Vice-president of  
1833

## New Threats to Native Americans



Jackson took a firm stand on another issue. For 300 years Europeans have been pushing n Native Americans of their lands. White settles have forced Native Americans to move further west. Indian leaders like Pontiac and Tecumseh were unsuccessful in stopping the invasions. In the 1820's, only 125,000 Indians still lived east of the Mississippi. Many of the Indians were Cherokee, Chickasaw or Seminole nations.



**The Native Americans wanted to live in peace with their white neighbors; however, the land was great for growing cotton. The Indians stood in the way of progress. Like earlier Presidents, Jackson sided with the white settlers urging the U.S. government to set lands aside the Mississippi and forced the Indians to move there. Few Indians wanted to move there.**

In 1830, Jackson pushed through the [Indian Removal Act](#). Under it, Native Americans were forced to sign treaties agreeing to move west of the Mississippi. The Cherokees held out the longest. In 1838, the United States Army forced them to leave at gunpoint. The Cherokees traveled hundreds of miles to lands they never seen before. They had little food or shelter. Thousands died during the march, mostly children and the elderly. The Cherokees' long sorrowful journey west became known as the [Trail of Tears](#).



Get off  
my land!



## An American Profile



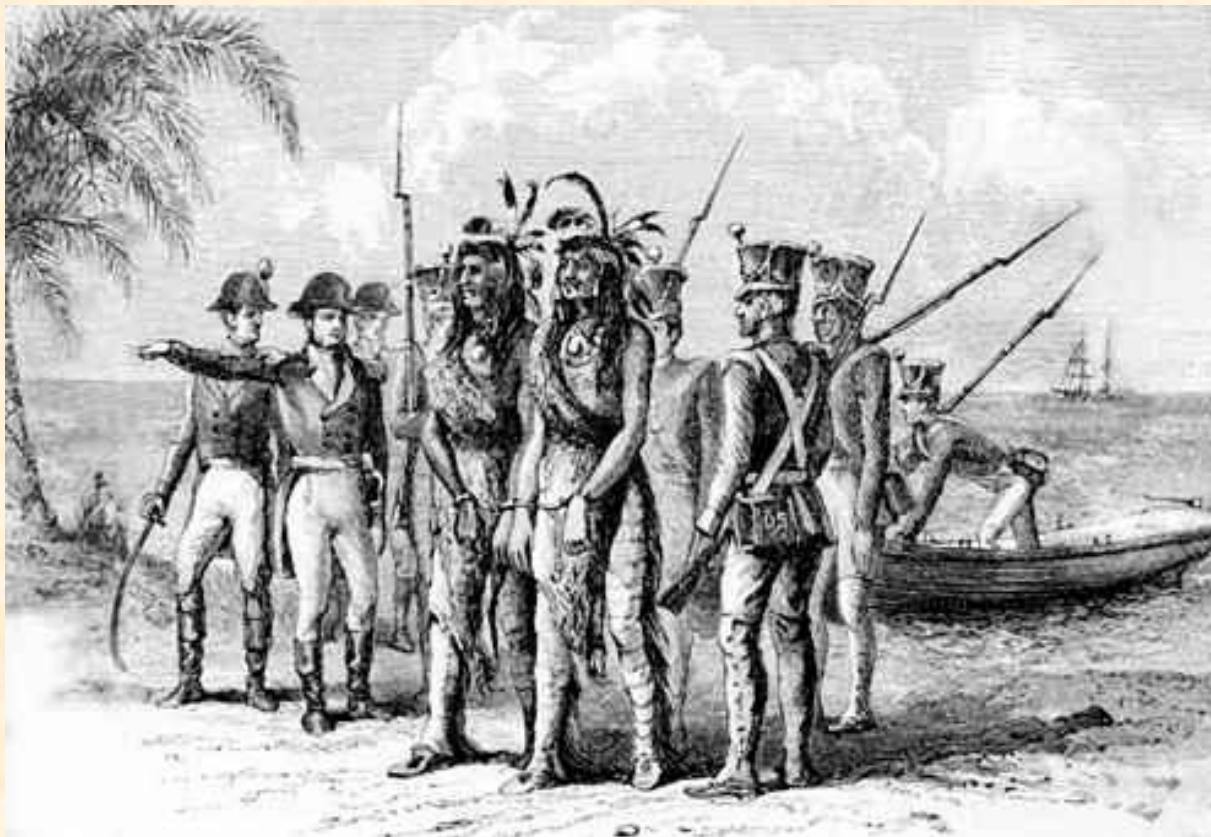
**Sequoyah** 1775?–1843

To the Cherokee Sequoyah, written words were power. He knew that white people collected and passed on knowledge with writing. Sequoyah wanted the same for his own people. In 1809 he began developing a writing system for the Cherokees. In his system, each symbol represented a syllable of the spoken Cherokee language.

Sequoyah's system was easy to learn, and it caught on quickly. Cherokees were soon writing and publishing books and newspapers in their own language and teaching the writing system in their schools.

***Why do you think Sequoyah believed a writing system could help keep his people independent?***

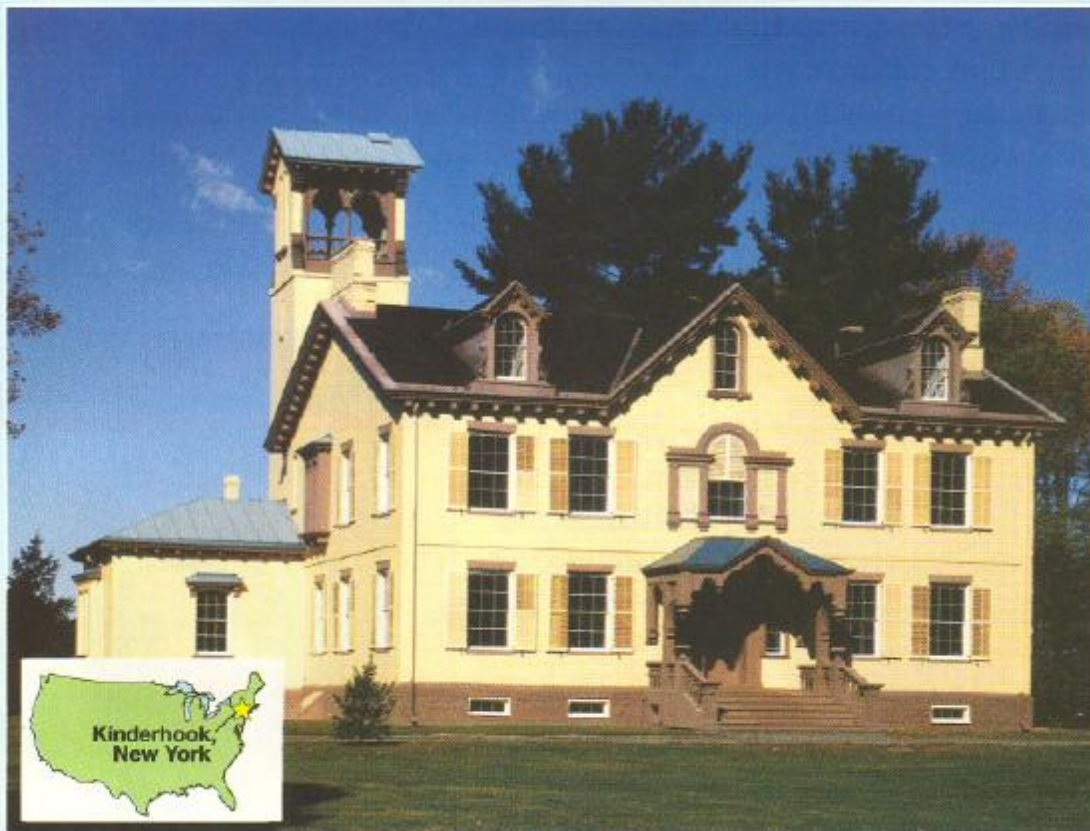
In Florida the Seminole Indians resisted their removal. They fought the U.S. Army in the [Seminole War](#). The War lasted from 1835-1842. In the end the Seminoles were defeated and were forced to move off their lands.



A weary Andrew Jackson retired from office after two years. At the end of Andrew Jackson's two terms of office, Martin Van Buren was elected as the new President in 1837.

I am the new President in 1837, Martin Van Buren!





### **Martin Van Buren Historic Site**

*While serving as President in 1839, Van Buren purchased the estate that would become his retirement home. Located near his birthplace, Kinderhook, New York, the estate was named Lindenwald. During his stay there, the estate grew to 226 acres and became a profitable farm. Much of the estate remains as it was during Van Buren's lifetime.*



**Take It to the NET**

**Virtual Field Trip** For an interactive look at the Van Buren Historic Site, visit *The American Nation* section of [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com).

## Martin Van Buren and Hard Times

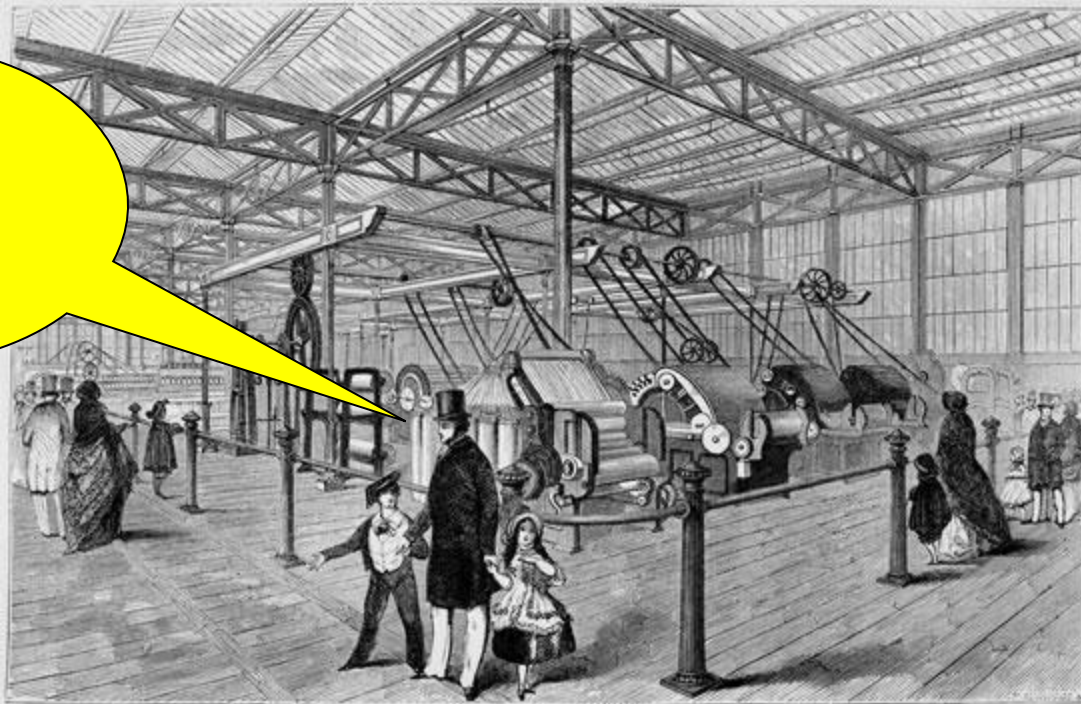
Two months after taking office, Van Buren faced the worst economic crisis of the nation's history. It was called the [Panic of 1837](#). In 1837 the U.S. government sold millions of acres of public land to farmers. To pay for the land the farmers borrowed money from the state banks. After the Bank of the United States closed, the state banks could lend money without a limit. To meet the demand for loans, the banks printed up more paper money. Often the paper money was not backed with gold and silver. This drove the country into an [economic depression](#). Jackson ordered all land to be paid by gold before he left office. When people went to exchange their paper money for gold, many banks could not do it so they were forced to close. This event spread panic everywhere in the country. In addition, the panic caused the prices of cotton to lower. As a result, farmers could not pay back their farm loans for their crops. Many farmers lost their farms and our country was forced into a deep economic depression.



The bank is closing, Oh no!

Ninety percent of the factories in the nation closed. Thousands of people were out of work. President Van Buren took little action to correct the economic depression. For this reason, President Van Buren was not reelected for a next term as President.

Son,  
the  
factories  
are  
closing!



122. PERSPECTIVE VIEW, LOOKING EAST, OF MESSRS. HIBBERT AND PLATT'S COTTON MACHINES, AND MESSRS. HICK AND SON'S HIGH-PRESSURE STEAM-ENGINE AND DRIVING GEAR. THE MACHINE IN FRONT IS THE LAP MACHINE, AND BEYOND IT ARE THE CARDING MACHINES.

# Primary Source

## Van Buren Opposes Handouts

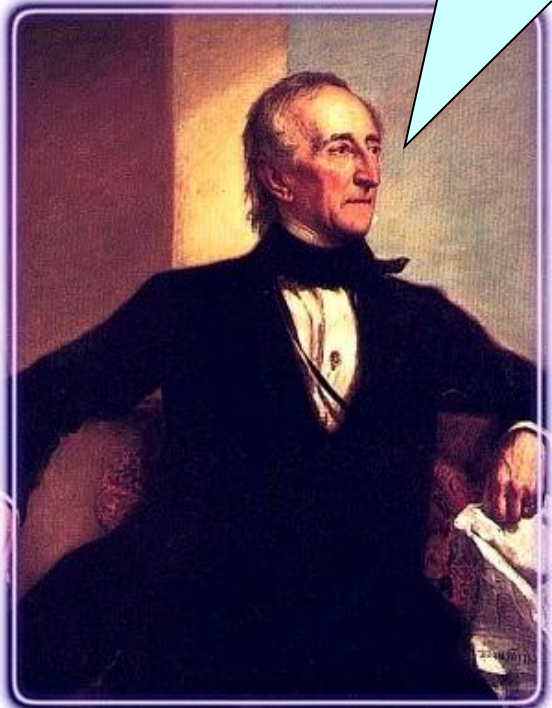
*Van Buren had scarcely taken office before he was faced with the depression of 1837. His critics blamed his administration for the failing economy, calling it "Van Ruin's Depression." In the following excerpt, Van Buren defends his plan for helping the economy:*

*"The framers of our excellent Constitution, and the people who approved it . . . acted at a time on a sounder principle. They judged that the less government interferes with private interests, the better for the general prosperity. It is not [the government's] purpose to make men rich, or to repair . . . losses not [received] in the public service. "*

*—President Martin Van Buren,  
Letter to Congress, 1837*

**Analyzing Primary Sources**  
*According to Van Buren, what is the relationship between citizens and the federal government?*

When the President died of pneumonia , I became the new President

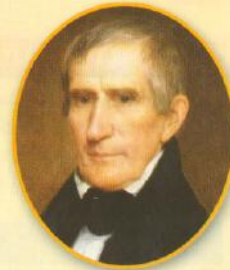


Campaigns of 1840  
William Henry Harrison won the next election for President. William Henry Harrison was a war hero and a man of the people. He attacked Van Buren for not helping the country. They called him “Martin Van Ruin.” He used mudslinging, or the use of insults to attack an opponent’s reputation. Shortly after Harrison became President he died of pneumonia and John Tyler, the Vice President, became our country’s new leader.



# The LOG CABIN Campaign

In *The Log Cabin Minstrel*, William Henry Harrison is portrayed as a poor farmer who “lives at his cabin, enjoying crackers, hard cider and cheese,” while President Van Buren “drank up the milk of the Treasury Cow.”



William Henry Harrison

## Harrison Song

Tune: “Yankee Doodle”  
When our frontiers were drench’d in tears,  
Their cabins sack’d and gory,  
He struck the blow, chastis’d the foe,  
And conquer’d peace with glory.

Then join the throng and swell the song,  
Extend the circle wider;  
and let us on for HARRISON,  
“Log Cabin and Hard Cider.”

With HARRISON, our country’s one,  
No treachery can divide her,  
The thing is done with “HARRISON,  
Log Cabin and Hard Cider.”

Come farmers all, attend the call,  
’Tis working like a charmer,  
Hitch on the team, and start for him,  
For he’s a *brother farmer*.

His cabin’s fit, and snug and neat,  
And full and free his larder,  
And though his cider may be hard,  
The times are vastly harder.

The South and West will stand the test,  
In spite of every spoiler,  
And we’ll engage to seal the pledge  
For HARRISON and TYLER.

—from *The Log Cabin Minstrel*, 1840

## Fast Facts

- *The Log Cabin Minstrel* or *Tippecanoe Songster* was compiled in 1840 by the Roxbury, Massachusetts, Democratic Whig Association, and sold for 12 cents per copy.
- More people voted in 1840 than in any previous presidential election.

## ACTIVITY

Prepare for a class discussion about the way in which political campaigns are conducted today. How can this affect voter turnout and the results of an election?

**The End**