

Name: _____

Date: _____

History: _____

Who is that dude on the 20?

What type of person or group of people voted for Andrew Jackson in 1828? Why did this make his election as president significant?

Do Now:

1. What was the #1 most fun thing you did over vacation?

2. In your own words, describe the importance of the Mississippi River in the 1800s.

3. How did the United States first gain land in the West?

- a. War with Mexico
- b. War with Great Britain
- c. Buying it from France
- d. Stealing it from Russia

4. Who did Thomas Jefferson send to explore the Louisiana Territory?



Whose interests were and were not served by westward expansion? What did it mean to be, and who was considered "American" during the era of Westward Expansion?

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Quick Brainstorm:

List as many words as you can that describe the people who could vote and win elections during the early years of American history.



Quick Guidelines for

- After each paragraph you read, write a quick paraphrase on what the *purpose of the paragraph* was
- The notes should include the main idea of the paragraph, any key facts/information, but should not be complete sentences.

Andrew Jackson and the Growth of American Democracy

The presidential campaign of 1828 was one of the dirtiest in American history. The election pitted John Quincy Adams, the nation's sixth president, against Andrew Jackson, a popular war hero.

During the campaign both sides hurled reckless accusations at each other, a practice called *mudslinging*. Adams was called a "Sabbath-breaker" for traveling on Sunday. He was falsely accused of being an alcoholic. He was accused of using "public money" to purchase "gambling furniture for the White House. In reality, he had used his own money to purchase a billiard table. Strangely, his opponents missed the one truth that might have shocked most Americans of the day. The very formal and proper Adams had a habit of swimming naked in the Potomac River.

The president's supporters lashed back. They called Jackson a crude and ignorant man who was not fit to be president. They also raked up old scandals about his wife, Rachel. She was accused of marrying Jackson while she was still knowingly wed to her first husband (not true). Jackson was called "Old Hickory" by his troops because he was as tough as "the hardest wood in creation." But when he read these lies he broke down and cried.

When the votes were counted, Jackson was clearly the people's choice. But he was not the choice of the rich and *well-born* people who were used to running the country—the planters, merchants, bankers, and lawyers. "Nobody knows what he will do," wrote Senator Daniel Webster gloomily. "My fear is stronger than my hope."

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The Inauguration of Andrew Jackson

On March 4, 1829, more than 10,000 people from every state crowded into Washington D.C., to witness the inauguration of their hero. The visitors overwhelmed local hotels, sleeping five to a bed and drinking the city dry of whiskey. "I have never seen such a crowd here before," observed Senator Webster. "Persons have come 500 miles to see General Jackson, and they really seem to think the country has been rescued from some...disaster."

Many of the people flocking into the capital were first time voters. Until the 1820s, the right to vote had been limited to the rich and well-born. Only white men with property, it was said, had the education and experience to vote wisely.

The new states forming west of the Appalachian Mountains challenged this argument. Along the frontier, all men—rich or poor, educated or not—shared the same opportunities and dangers. They believed they should also share the same rights, including the right to vote.

With the western states leading the way, voting laws were changed to give the "common man" the right to vote. This expansion of democracy did not yet include African Americans, Native Americans, or women. Still, over one million Americans voted in 1828, more than three times as many as voted in 1824.

Many of these new voters did not believe that they had rescued the country from disaster. In their view, the national government had been taken over by corrupt "monied interests"—that is, the rich. During his campaign, Jackson had promised to throw these rascals out and return the government to "the people."

According to eye witnesses Margaret Bayard Smith, Jackson's inauguration was "an



imposing and majestic spectacle." Afterward, a huge crowd followed Jackson to the White House to celebrate. As they crowded in, the celebration turned into a near riot.

"Ladies fainted, men were seen with bloody noses, and such a scene of confusion took place as is impossible to describe," wrote Smith. Jackson was nearly "pressed to death and suffocated by the people" before escaping out a back door. "But it was the people's day, and the people's president," Smith concluded. "And the people would rule."

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From the Frontier to the White House

The “people’s president” was the first “self-made man” to occupy the White House. Jackson was born in 1767, on the South Carolina frontier. His father died before he was born, leaving Jackson, his mother, and two brothers in poverty. Young Andrew loved sports more than schoolwork. He also had a hot temper. He would pick a fight at the drop of a hat, a friend recalled, and “he’d drop the hat himself.”

The American Revolution ended Jackson’s childhood. When he was just 13, Jackson joined the local militia and was captured by the British. One day, a British officer ordered Jackson to polish his boots. “Sir,” he replied boldly, “I am a prisoner of war and demand to be treated as such.” The outraged officer lashed out with his sword, slicing the boy’s head and hand. Jackson carried the scars to his grave.

The Frontier Lawyer

After the war, Jackson decided to become a lawyer. He went to work in a law office in Salisbury, North Carolina. He quickly became known as “the most roaring, rollicking, game-cocking, horse-racing, card-playing, mischievous fellow” in town. The wonder is that he learned any law at all.

In 1788, Jackson headed west to Nashville, Tennessee, to practice law. At the time Nashville was a tiny clump of rough cabins and tents beside the Cumberland River. But the town grew quickly, and Jackson’s practice grew with it. He soon earned enough money to buy land and slaved and set himself up as a gentleman planter.

Despite his success, Jackson never outgrew his temper. A slave trader named Charles Dickinson found this out when he called Jackson “a worthless scoundrel” and insulted his wife, Rachel. Enraged, Jackson to a duel (fight) with pistols, even though the slave trader was said to be the best shot in Tennessee. At that time, duels were accepted as a way of settling disputes between gentlemen.

Dickinson shot first, hitting Jackson on the chest. Jackson stiffened, raised his pistol, and fired a single shot. Dickinson fell dead to the ground.

“My God,” a friend exclaimed on spotting Jackson’s wound. “He missed your heart only by an inch.” In fact, Dickinson’s bullet was lodged so close to Jackson’s heart that doctors were not able to remove it. “I would have hit him if he’d shot me through the brain!” Jackson said.



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The People's Choice

Jackson entered politics in Tennessee, serving in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. But he did not become widely known until the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. His glorious defense of the city made "Old Hickory" a national hero.

Jackson's supporters worked feverishly to reach the nation's new voters. Besides hurling insults at Adams, they organized huge parades, picnics, and rallies. At these events, supporters sang "The Hunter of Kentucky"—the nation's first campaign song—and cheered for Old Hickory. They wore Jackson badges, carried hickory sticks, and chanted catchy campaign slogans like "Adams can write, but Jackson can fight."

The result was a great victory for Jackson. But it was also a victory for the idea that the common people should control their government. This idea became known as Jacksonian Democracy.

Elections Before 1828	Election of 1828

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Exit Ticket

___/4

1.) What type of person or groups of people voted for Andrew Jackson in the election of 1828?

2.) Why did this make his election as president significant?
