Unit 6: Government in Modern America - Jacksonian Democracy

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **U.S. History 1 CP, U.S. History 1 Honors**
Time Period: **January**
Length: **10 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer Skills

- The role of the common man expands in the political process.
- The role of the executive branch is forever transformed through Jackson's interpretation of the power of the presidency.
- Jackson's Native American policies left a legacy of dislocation and continued discrimination.
- Sectional interests serve as the catalyst renewing the debate of states rights versus national sovereignty.

Enduring Understandings

- **Big Idea: Government in Modern America: Jacksonian Democracy**
    - Ideas of democracy reflect the values, beliefs, and political realities of a particular time and people.
    - Sectionalism both reflected and contributed to changes in the American political system.
    - Democratic practices expanded and led to a growth of the American economy which led to regional conflict, social reform, and a variety of political compromises.
    - A “true” democracy is a government of the people, by the people, for the people and the US continued its pursuit of this ideal during the early 19th century by widening the voting population, taking into account the needs of the new voices and thereby included more Americans in the process of governing.
    - Grassroots democracy altered the uniparty system by embracing the needs and concerns of the majority common man which led to a new approach in the staffing and policies of the Central Government.
    - Slavery was rationalized throughout the US during the 19th century by the manipulation of economic, social and religious factors, which led to the political rift over the sovereignty of State v. Federal governments and the lengths to which each was willing to go to exert its power over the other.
    - The long series of treaties with the Native American tribes, and broken by the federal government directly resulted in the loss of Native land, culture and lives;, all of which have culminated in the present day creation of the Reservation system and legal cases filed by the native tribes to land and underlying resources.
    - The distinct sectional geography of the US created the development and dependence of each economy on either free or slave agriculture, industrialization and trade, and these rooted economic ties pushed the Federal government sway between unification under a National Bank and the preference of the individual for State Banks.

Essential Questions

- What is a "true" democracy and did the US move closer to this during the mid 1800s?
- How did the rise of the Grassroots/Jacksonian Democratic Party change the landscape of the American political party system and affect the practices and policies of the Central Government?
- In what ways was slavery rationalized during the 19th century in the US, and how did its existence and defense shape national policies?
- What were the effects of the treaties signed between the US government and Native American tribes and how do those effects impact the lives of Americans today?
- How did the geographical resources of the growing US effect the development of sectional economies and what impact did this have on National and State Financial Institutions?

Content

Events/People:

Jackson, Calhoun, Clay, BUS, Worcester v GA, Indian Removal Act, Trail of Tears, Tariff of Abominations,

Vocabulary:

Nullification, true democracy, grassroots, sectionalism, state's rights, sovereignty, rationalization, common man, spoils system, specie circular

Skills

- Define a true democracy and identify specific steps taken during the early 1800s which widened the America's democratic base.
- Identify the new platform of the Grassroots Democrats and how it differed from that of the National Republicans.
- Analyze ways in which Jackson truly represented the common man during his 1st term .and determine specific examples during his 2nd term where Jackson used the common man's cry to implement national policies which later had detrimental results.
- Examine the reasons that slave owners presented for needing slavery and identify how each was a rationalization v. a truth
- Determine how the defense of slavery nearly led to Civil War through the long standing feud between Calhoun and Jackson.
- Analyze how the case of Worcester v. GA was an attempt to fix unfair Indian laws.
- Determine how the Black Hawk war was an attempt to stand up to broken Indian treaties.
- Recount the conditions and atrocities of the Trail of Tears and compare them to lives of reservation Indians today.
- Defend Jackson's destruction of the BUS and trace the financial system that was created to present

day.

Resources

Standards

SOC.6.1.12.A.3.e	Judge the fairness of government treaties, policies, and actions that resulted in Native American migration and removal.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.h	Examine multiple perspectives on slavery and evaluate the claims used to justify the arguments.
SOC.6.1.12.C.3.a	Analyze how technological developments transformed the economy, created international markets, and affected the environment in New Jersey and the nation.
SOC.6.1.12.C.3.b	Relate the wealth of natural resources to the economic development of the United States and to the quality of life of individuals.