

Sectionalism

“In the early 19th century, as the United States expanded economically, each section of the country developed its own special characteristics:

The Northeast	The South	The Northwest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became a center of manufacturing, shipping, fishing and small farms • Witnessed the growth of a new class of factory workers • Factories and cities began to dramatically change traditional lifestyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its dominant institution was slavery • Although most Southerners never owned slaves, much of the region’s economy was based on profits from the use of slave labor on large plantations, which grew crops such as cotton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included present-day Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio • Became the nation’s breadbasket • Its grain was shipped by river and canal to the Northeast and South • Small farmers predominated in this area

“These regional differences led to the rise of sectionalism as early as the 1820s. Sectionalism referred to the greater loyalty many Americans felt towards their section (North, South, or West) than towards the country as a whole. Each section wanted the federal government to follow policies favorable to itself. These differences between sections made a clash appear almost inevitable.”~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History & Gov

1. What happened economically in the United States by the early 19th century?

2. Define sectionalism.

3. State three economic characteristics of the Northeast.

4. State three economic characteristics of the South.

5. State three economic characteristics of the Northwest.

6. What issue might divide the nation?

Quote:

“Our political problem now is ‘Can we, as a nation, continue together *permanently forever* – half slave, and half free?’ The problem is too mighty for me. May God, in his mercy, superintend the solution.”

~ Abraham Lincoln to George Robertson, August 15, 1855

7. Explain the issue concerning President Abraham Lincoln.

8. What is the relationship between this issue and sectionalism?

9. What was the solution?

American Manufacturing by Region, 1860

Region	Number of Manufacturing Establishments	Average Number of Workers	Annual Value of Products
New England states	20,671	391,836	\$468,599,287
Middle states	53,387	546,243	\$802,338,392
Southern states	20,631	110,721	\$155,531,281
Western states	36,785	209,909	\$384,606,530

Source: Bailey and Kennedy, *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*, D.C. Heath and Company, 1987 (adapted)

10. Which conclusion can best be drawn from the information in this chart?
 - A. The Southern states led the nation in manufacturing.
 - B. Manufacturing production in the Western states exceeded that of the New England states.
 - C. The Middle states led the nation in all categories related to manufacturing.
 - D. The New England states depended more on agriculture than on manufacturing.

11. Which geographic feature connected the iron ore fields of the upper Midwest to major steel centers?
 - A. Great Lakes
 - B. Gulf of Mexico
 - C. Hudson River
 - D. Tennessee River valley

12. In the late 1800s, rapid industrial development resulted in
 - A. A decrease in tariff rates
 - B. A decrease in population growth
 - C. An increase in the rate of urbanization
 - D. An increase in the price of farm products

13. Which term refers to the idea that settlers had the right to decide whether slavery would be legal in their territory?
 - A. Nullification
 - B. Sectionalism
 - C. Popular sovereignty
 - D. Southern secession

14. The annexation of Texas and the Mexican Cession are best described as efforts by the United States to
 - A. Remove European threats
 - B. Limit the spread of slavery
 - C. End wars of aggression
 - D. Fulfill Manifest Destiny

Thinking Question:

Compromise is generally considered a good thing. However, Mohandas K. Gandhi once said that “Noncooperation with evil is a duty.” How would someone like Mohandas K. Gandhi view the Missouri Compromise? Explain your answer.
