

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## AIM: To what extent was Andrew Jackson a nationalist/sectionalist president?



**DO-NOW:** As you watch the short video clip, identify at least 1 argument supporting and 1 argument opposing the inclusion of President Andrew Jackson's image on the \$20 bill.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
<p><b>Andrew Jackson should be on the \$20 bill.</b></p> <p>He was an uneducated orphan who fought his way up to the top. He is the American dream personified</p>	<p><b>Andrew Jackson should not be on the \$20 bill.</b></p> <p>He did not treat Native Americans well. He did not like paper money</p>

### A Historian's Perspective:

In 1860, less than fifteen years after the death of Andrew Jackson, the journalist James Parton wrote the first scholarly biography of the seventh president. In the preface to his book, Parton notes the difficulties that attended the research he conducted on Jackson. Parton found that the different accounts of Jackson that he read did not agree with one another. Jackson, apparently, was a man of many faces, some of which contradicted each other. In the following excerpt, Parton explains how, after years of study, instead of discovering the real Andrew Jackson he found an enigma.

For many months I was immersed in this unique, bewildering collection, reading endless newspapers, pamphlets, books, without arriving at any conclusion whatever. If anyone, at the end of a year even, had asked what I had yet discovered respecting General Jackson, I might have answered thus: "Andrew Jackson, I am given to understand, was a patriot and a traitor. He was one of the greatest of generals, and wholly ignorant of the art of war. A writer brilliant, elegant, eloquent, without being able to compose a correct sentence, or spell words of four syllables. The first of statesmen, he never devised, he never framed a measure. He was the most candid of men, and was capable of the profoundest dissimulation. A most law-defying, law-obeying citizen. A stickler for discipline, he never hesitated to disobey his superior. A democratic autocrat. An urbane savage. An atrocious saint." So difficult is it to attain information respecting a man whom two thirds of his fellow citizens deified, and the other third vilified, for space of twelve years or more.

Source: James Parton, *The Life of Andrew Jackson. In Three Volumes* (New York: Mason Brothers, 1860), vol. 1, pp. vii-viii.

**Discussion Question:** According to James Parton, is Andrew Jackson a man whom we should admire or one we should apologize for? Explain your answer.

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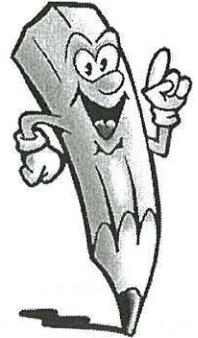
# Prompt: To what extent was Andrew Jackson a nationalist/sectionalist president?

## Argument Writing Activity

### Task:

It is 2015 and the Treasury Department is trying to determine whether Andrew Jackson's portrait should remain on the twenty-dollar bill. You are either a critic or supporter of Jackson, and you will engage in a debate to help the Treasury Department make up its mind.

You will be provided with a series of documents about President Jackson's policies and the impact of Jackson's policies on the nation. You will use those documents to prepare an argument statement that identifies Andrew Jackson as either a nationalist or sectionalist. You should support your argument with AT LEAST 2 specific policies and actions of Jackson. You will decide what to praise or condemn by considering the perspectives of the individuals or groups that have interacted with Jackson during his presidency.



### Introduce your claim hooking your reader and establishing a formal style:

President Jackson was a sectionalist because he tends to support the working class ~~too~~ rather than try to form unity.

\*\*\*Support your claim using two pieces of evidence. Remember, relevant, accurate data and evidence should demonstrate an understanding of the topic and support your argument. For each piece of evidence give an explanation of why this evidence supports your claim.\*\*\*

### Evidence #1:

He vetoed the Bank of the United States

### Explanation of Evidence #1:

The Bank of the United States for the most part benefited rich people rather than working class. According to document C Jackson vetoed the Bank recharter bill thus showing that he supports the common man more.

**Evidence #2:**

The Indian Removal Act

**Explanation of Evidence #2:**

Jackson wants to remove Indians from American territory in order to give more land to southern farmers.

**\*\*Provide a counterclaim (the opposing side of argument) and provide facts or examples to refute it, thus, supporting your claim.\*\***

**Counterclaim & Example(s) :**

Jackson signed a tariff which taxed imported goods from Europe with the goal of producing national unity and industry.

**Refutation:**

Although he did this for nationalistic reasons, it ended up promoting sectionalism because the tariff benefited the North more than the South.

**Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument supported.**

Andrew Jackson was a sectionalist because he did not like the bank, therefore supporting the working class. The Indian Removal Act which only benefited Southern farmers. More supported the South.

**ARGUMENTS FOR  
ANDREW JACKSON AS A NATIONALIST**

**ARGUMENTS FOR  
ANDREW JACKSON AS A SECTIONALIST**

**Was Andrew Jackson a nationalist or sectionalist?**

**Exit Slip:** In a personal reflection, do you think Andrew Jackson, based upon the arguments heard in class and his impact on the various groups of people within the United States, was a nationalist or a sectionalist? Explain with at least 3 supporting details.

Personally, I believe Andrew Jackson was a Sectionalist. The things he did while in office for the most part promoted sectionalism. He vetoed the bank recharter because it hurt the common man. Thus promoting sectionalism within the working class. The Indian Removal Act only benefited the South and the tariff only benefited the North. Jackson rarely issued policies that benefited the whole nation.

Historians have debated whether President Jackson was a nationalist or sectionalist figure since his presidency ended. Many have come to the conclusion President Andrew Jackson was more of a sectionalist than a nationalist due to his Bank Recharter Veto, Indian Removal Policy, and his opposition to Henry Clay's American System, which demonstrated his sectionalistic tendencies.

As a southern farmer and slave owner, Jackson was an ardent opponent of the National Bank of the United States because he thought it gave too much power to the national government and promoted the interests of northern business elites at the expense of the poor southern farmers. As a man from humble beginnings, he strongly advocated for the "common people" as was evident in his "Bank Veto" statement where he blamed the Panic of 1819 on the Bank's policies and the subsequent hardship of many poor farmers. Although his intentions were nationalistic in supporting the "common people" across the nation, the outcome of his policies and actions were sectionalistic in nature and contributed to hardship for many businesses in the northern states.

In addition, Jackson claimed to be a nationalist since he received a majority of the electoral votes and popular votes in the Election of 1828 as he was able to convince the people that his policies would benefit all "common people" piqued the majority's interests like farmers. But, in reality, his policies largely supported the South, the farmers, and the common people. African American slaves and Native Americans were not included in his definition of the "common people" that he sought to aid in his public life. In 1830, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act which kicked Cherokee Indians off their tribal lands in Georgia for the sake of expanding the nation for the "common people" and supporting the farmers of the South and the West. The Indian Removal Act only benefitted southern farmers who were looking to expand slavery, and did not directly benefit the North. In his speech to Congress, Jackson claimed that the land would be better suited for the Anglo-Saxon race and that Native Americans would be better moving out west with the rest of their tribal members. As is evident in this example, his Indian Removal policy ended up supporting only one group, the South, which was very sectionalistic in nature.

Some historians may argue that he was a nationalist figure because of his stance on the tariff controversy with South Carolina. Jackson's actions toward South Carolina may have been nationalistic in intention, but ultimately his policies were sectionalistic in reality. Many political figures including Vice President John C. Calhoun believed that Jackson was a demagogue who was trying to get as much

support as possible, as he was an autocrat. Jackson's tariff policy would end up benefitting northern businesses at the expense of southern farmers who preferred lower priced foreign products. The northern and southern economies were very polarized back then and Jackson's policies often pitted northerners and southerners against one another. Overall, Jackson may have done some things to help the North, but as a sectional political figure, it had nothing to do with him being a nationalist.

President Andrew Jackson was largely a sectionalist because he did not approve of the Second National Bank, therefore pledging his support to the working class. His Indian Removal policy only benefitted the Southern farmers which made uniting the nation a very difficult task for Andrew Jackson. Jackson's views on the American System's tariffs and the National Bank were contradictory and reflect his polarizing, sectionalist effect on the nation. Jackson often resorted to supporting one group over the other in the hopes of a maintaining his political advantage over his opponents as the "People's President".