HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Born in the frontier of South Carolina, Andrew Jackson rose to national prominence first as a war hero and later as the seventh president of the United States. Orphaned at a young age, Jackson traveled west to Tennessee. He settled in Nashville where he practiced law, speculated in land, and became a politician. After marrying Rachel Donelson, daughter of one of the founders of Nashville, he bought the Poplar Grove farm and began work on the original Hermitage.

During the Creek Wars and the War of 1812, Jackson distinguished himself as the major general of the Tennessee militia. Jackson is most well-known for his victories at Horseshoe Bend and the Battle of New Orleans. His decisive victory over the British in New Orleans at the end of the War of 1812 launched his rise to the presidency.

Jackson narrowly lost the presidential election in 1824, but won in 1828. Billed the “common man”’s president,” Jackson worked to reform the problems that he saw in the federal government by taking on how appointments were made and later challenging the charter for the Bank of the United States. Jackson fought to maintain the integrity of the union during the nullification crisis. He also instituted the policies that led to Native American removal east of the Mississippi River and the Trail of Tears.

Additional Links:

- Andrew Jackson—Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture
- The Hermitage
- Age of Jackson—Tennessee 4 Me
- Andrew Jackson—America’s Library

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

The Library of Congress offers a variety of sources that can be used in the classroom to discuss Andrew Jackson. The sources included here focus on his military career and presidency. Jackson is often a controversial figure especially for his role in Indian removal and the Trail of Tears. Challenge students to explore Jackson’s own point-of-view on these issues and to judge him by the standards of his time.

TPS-MTSU also offers a lesson plan “Tennessee’s Presidents” that examines the major themes and issues of the Jackson, Polk, and Johnson presidencies. The lesson plan incorporates several of the sources included here, and challenges students to use their research skills after analyzing the primary sources to explore how the three Tennessee presidents tested executive power.
General orders .... Andrew Jackson, Major-General 2d Division, Tennessee. November 24, 1812. [1812]

Battle of New Orleans and defeat of the British under the command of Sir Edward Packenham [sic] by Genl. Andrew Jackson 8th Jan. 1815 / drawn by S. Seymour ; engraved by J. W. Steel. [1815]

A correct view of the battle near the city of New Orleans, on the eighth of January 1815, under the command of Genl. Andw. Jackson, over 10,000 British troops, in which 3 of their most distinguished generals were killed, & several wounded and upwards of 3,000 of their choicest soldiers were killed, wounded, and made prisoners, &c. / Francis Scacki. [between 1815 and 1820]

Glorious news from New Orleans! Splendid victory over the British forces Essex, Register Office, Feb. 9... [1815; detail]
Huzzah! for General Jackson.

Come all who are our country's friends, And unto these few lines attend, Perhaps before you reach the end You'll find something for to mend, But listen to my story, I hope we shall be like the sun, A steady course to always run, In freedom's cause as we began, And he united all as one, And never turn a Tory.

Our opposition party say, If Jackson should but gain the day, There will be war without delay, And proclamies they gain this way, To build their federal faction. But all who are for liberty, Their deepest plans can sometimes see, But always let our motto be, "We're determined to be free.

Huzzah! for Gen'l Jackson.

We have great numbers on our side, Old men who have been well tried, And never yet have turn'd aside, All opposition still outside, Who screech the fed'r'al faction, And when they're call'd for to defend, Their country's rights they will attend, And all that's in their power they'll spend, And will stand by their old tried friends,

General Andrew Jackson.

Our States can of their freedom boast, Although our foes should be a host, We quick can drive them from our coast— Fill up your glass and drink a toast 'T' the health of Gen'l Jackson. Remember New Orleans I say, Where Jackson show'd them Yankee play, And beat them off and gain'd the day. And then we heard the people say—

Huzzah! for Gen'l Jackson.

By Randolph Hinson.

If Jackson should be President, We'll borrow guns of Government, And you may load and I'll tend 'em, Then touch her off and let her go, With huzzah for Andrew Jackson.

And when the people hear the gun, The men and boys they all will run, Expecting for to see the fun, When they get there they'll all be one, Huzzah! for Andrew Jackson.

It was November the fourth day, Some Jackson men did try away, Some powder they obtain'd that day, To pass a pleasant hour away,

But back to the conclusion: There when they set a cannon fly, Then up went rockets in the sky, Huzzah! for Jackson was the cry, But Adams was a standing by, Pronounced it all confusion.

If Adams he should gain the day, Our Jackson men would have us say, 'Tis fairly done, yet show fair play, And after all we hope we may With pleasure have to lead them. And if we should but turn the scale, And have the news come in the mail, I'm apt to think we shall not fail, In this our happy land to hail

The joyful song of freedom.

There's some who at our party mill, Call us the rag-tag and bob-tail, But we have one within our pole,

Who we are sure will never fail, To vote for General Jackson. The Jackson Ticket they do say, Is blood and courage, by the way Of slander, yet we hope we may Join with our southern friends and say—

Huzzah! for Andrew Jackson.

Huzzah! for General Jackson [n.d.]

Andrew Jackson during the Battle of New Orleans [c.1822]

Jackson ticket. "Firm united let us be, rallying round our Hickory tree" [1828]

Andrew Jackson's inaugural address, on being sworn into office, as President of the United States, March 4th, 1829... Washington. Printed at the office of the United States Telegraph [1829].

Monumental inscriptions! [1828]

President's Levee, or all Creation going to the White House / Robert Cruikshank fect. [1841]
Old Jack, the famous New Orleans mouser, clearing Uncle Sam's barn of bank and Clay rats. [1832]

Veto message from the President of the United States, returning the bank bill, with his objections, &c. To the Senate... Andrew Jackson, Washington, July 10, 1832, Herald Office, [1832]

Letter, Andrew Jackson to Martin Van Buren discussing the nullification crisis, 13 January 1833, [1833]

Jackson and the nullifiers... Printed and sold, wholesale and retail, at 257 Hudson-street, and 138 Division-street. [1832], [1832]
JACKSON’S PRESIDENCY

General Jackson slaying the many headed monster [1836]

Andrew Jackson "The Union must and shall be preserved" / / painted by J.R. Lambdin ; engraved by J. Sartain. [between 1830 and 1870]

King Andrew the First [1833]
Chap. CXLVIII.—An Act to provide for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to cause so much of any territory belonging to the United States, west of the river Mississippi, not included in any state or organized territory, and to which the Indian title has been extinguished, as he may judge necessary, to be divided

Statutes at Large, 21st Congress, 1st Session [1830]


Major Ridge, a Cherokee Chief. [1836–1844]
Death of Genl. Andrew Jackson [1845]

MEMORIALS TO JACKSON

Death of Genl. Andrew Jackson: President of the United States from 1829 to 1837 [1845]

General Andrew Jackson: the hero, the sage and the patriot [1845]

Democracy 1832, 1864, [1864]

The Hermitage, Jackson's tomb, and Andrew J. Donelson's residence 12 miles from Nashville, Tennessee. Taken at the spot, March 29th, 1856 / Lith. of Endicott & Co., N.Y. [1856]

Mill's colossal equestrian statue. Of General Andrew Jackson [n.d.]
Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date. The access date for each of these entries is April 1, 2013.


Scacki, Francisco, engraver. “A correct view of the battle near the city of New Orleans, on the eighth of January 1815, under the command of Genl. Andw. Jackson, over 10,000 British troops, in which 3 of their most distinguised generals were killed, & several wounded and upwards of 3,000 of their choisest soldiers were killed, wounded, and made prisoners, &c. / Francis Scacki.” Engraving. [Between 1815 and 1820]. From Library of Congress, Popular Graphic Arts. http://www.loc.gov/item/2006677463/]


CITATIONS, cont.


U. S. President, 1829-1837. Andrew Jackson. *Letter, Andrew Jackson to Martin Van Buren discussing the nullification crisis, 13 January 1833.* Letter. From Library of Congress, Words and Deeds in American History: Selected Documents Celebrating the Manuscript Division’s First 100 Years. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28mcc/050))](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28mcc/050))

Jackson and the nullifiers ... Printed and sold, wholesale and retail, at 257 Hudson-street, and 138 Division-street. [1832]. Broadside. 1832. From Library of Congress, An American Time Capsule: Three Centuries of Broadsides and Other Printed Ephemera. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/rbpebib:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28rbpe+11800800))](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/rbpebib:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28rbpe+11800800))


Chap. CXLVIII.—An Act to provide an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi. Statutes at Large, 21st Congress, 1st Session. May 28, 1930. From Library of Congress, A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=004/llsl004.db&recNum=458](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=004/llsl004.db&recNum=458)


