**General US History Chapter 7**

**Section 1: The Policies of Adams and Jackson**

**tariff**- a tax on goods brought into a country

**spoils system**- the system of giving government jobs to people who had helped to get the winner elected

In 1824, John Quincy Adams was elected the sixth President. Four years later, in 1828, Andrew Jackson, a hero of the War of 1812, was elected President. His way of **governing**, or running the country, was different from past Presidents. Jackson believed in helping the common man.

***John Quincy Adams***

Around the time of the 1824 election, the nation was becoming more and more divided. Each section had its own favorite candidate, or person running for public office. The candidates were John Quincy Adams, who was the son of John Adams, William Crawford, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Andrew Jackson.

Remember, electors were selected from each state to vote for the president and the Vice President.

When all the votes were counted, no one had more than one half of the electoral votes. Henry Clay, who was Speaker of the House of Representatives, convinced members of Congress to vote for Adams. With Clay’s votes, Adams became President.

Adams was not a popular President. He was a quiet, wealthy man who was not interested in pleasing the crowd. As Adams was completing his first term, Congress passed the Tariff of 1828. This tariff was placed on some goods coming into the United States from other countries. The tariff raised the price of these products.

The tariff of 1828 was unpopular. It made goods imported from Europe cost more. This affected manufacturing in the North and farming in the South and West.

***Andrew Jackson***

The year 1828 was an election year. The Tariff of 1828 made John Quincy Adams even less popular. In the election, Andrew Jackson received twice as many electoral votes as Adams and became President.

Jackson was unlike any other President. He was the first person from the West to be elected President. Jackson understood the common or ordinary man. He believed a person did not have to come from the upper class in order to lead the country. This belief was part of what became known as Jacksonian democracy.

Jackson was a hero from the War of 1812. He was known as a tough, brave man who was used to getting his way. Many of his enemies called him King Andrew when he took office.

***The Spoils System***

One of Jackson’s goals was to give many ordinary people jobs in government. He believed that the winners of elections should be able to give government jobs to people who had helped to get them elected. That practice came to be known as the **spoils system**.

Jackson did not like most of his official Cabinet members. So, he did not have regular Cabinet meetings. He preferred to talk about government matters with a small group of trusted friends. The group told Jackson what the people were thinking.

People who disliked Jackson called his group of friends the “Kitchen Cabinet.” That was a way of criticizing them. Kitchen Cabinet meant that the group did not enter the White House through the front door. They entered through the back door and met secretly.

***Jackson’s Native American Policies***

When Andrew Jackson took office in 1828, about 125,000 Native Americans lived east of the Mississippi River. About 60,000 lived in the South. These Native Americans lived in an area of about 33 million acres of land. Jackson wanted to take land away from Native Americans and give it to settlers.

Under pressure from Jackson, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. The act said that all Native Americans east of the Mississippi River had to give up their land. It also said that all Native Americans would be given new land west of the Mississippi River.

Some Native Americans went to the Supreme Court to speak out against the Indian Removal Act. The Supreme Court agreed with the Native Americans. Jackson ignored the Supreme Court and ordered the removal.

In 1838, more than 15,000 Cherokees were forced to leave their homes in parts of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama. They walked all the way to what is now Oklahoma. About 4,000 Cherokees died along the way. The Cherokees’ terrible journey became known as the Trail of Tears. By 1840, more than 60,000 Native Americans had been removed.

*Complete “Voices From the Past: George M. Harkins” on page 124 and complete the questions.*

**Section 2- Moving West**

**canal**- a human-made waterway

**mountain man**- a fur trapper and trader who lived in the mountains and knew the wilderness

The mid-1800’s was an exciting time in the United States. More and more Americans headed west. They wanted to know what the land was like. Was it good for farming? Could families settle there?

***Different Ways of Travelling***

To move west, Americans needed to develop better ways of travelling. In 1811, the federal government began building the National Road. By the 1830’s, the road ran west from Maryland to the Mississippi River. Families traveled the road west in covered wagons.

For the first part of the 1800’s, Americans had to travel long distances by water. Many people moved west along rivers. Americans also traveled along **canals**.

Travel by canal was slow. Boats traveled about 5 miles per hour. In the winter, when the canals were blocked by ice, travel was impossible.

In 1817, work began on the Erie Canal. It was finished in 1825. The Erie Canal was more than 350 miles long. It joined the Great Lakes with the Hudson River. It was the best way to move products between the Midwest and eastern cities.

***Railroads***

In April 1830, Peter Cooper tested his invention. It was a steam-powered train that traveled on iron rails. The train raced a wagon pulled by a horse. The train lost. However, the idea of a steam-powered train traveling over mountains caught on.

Soon, “railroad fever” spread everywhere east of the Mississippi. Trains could run in almost any weather. They were faster than wagons or canal boats. Trains could go wherever tracks had been laid down. By the 1850’s, the cities of Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and St. Louis were all joined to the East coast by railroads.

***Trails West***

After travelers crossed the Mississippi River, they faced problems. Roads became narrow trails. The rivers were either too shallow or too rough. There were no railroads.

In the early 1800’s, most people who traveled west were fur trappers and traders. Fur-trading companies usually hired these **mountain men** to travel through the Rocky Mountains. Mountain men lived in the mountains and knew the wilderness. They hunted, explored, and traded from the Great Plains to the Pacific coast. The Great Plains was a huge grassland that stretched from Canada into Texas and from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. Mountain men helped to find trails that settlers would follow.

***Settling the Far West***

In the late 1830’s, people began to travel from the East to the far West. They sent back news of green farmland and thick forests in the Oregon Territory.

To get to the Oregon Territory, people traveled about 2,000 miles over a trail called the Oregon Trail. The trip took about six months. It was often filled with hardship and danger. Travelers had to cross a desert and rough rivers. They often faced rainstorms.

The Santa Fe Trail carried travelers to the southwest. Wagons traveled from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. There, the trail joined the Old Spanish Trail. That trail crossed a desert to the present-day city of Los Angeles on the Pacific coast. It was a difficult journey. Still, by 1850, thousands of Americans had made their way to the far West.

*Complete the map study “Expansion of the United States and answer the questions on page 127.*

There were several reasons why many Americans moved west in the 1830’s and 1840’s. At the end of Jackson’s presidency, the economy became worse. Many banks failed. Farmers and business people lost millions of dollars. For many people, moving west was a way to start over.

In the 1840’s, many Americans were proud of their country. They wanted it to grow from coast to coast. In fact, they believed that Americans had the right to live on any land between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. This belief was called **Manifest Destiny**

In the early 1800’s, the land that we now call the state of Texas belonged to Mexico. In 1820, a businessman named Moses Austin traveled to the settlement of San Antonio. He talked with its governor about starting a U.S. colony there. The plan was approved, but Austin died the following year.

After Austin’s death, his son, Stephen F. Austin, carried out his father’s plan.

**forty-niner**- a person who went to California in 1849 to find gold

**ranch**- a large farm with grazing land for raising horses, cattle, or sheep