

Geography Challenge Reading – Unit 4

Setting the Stage — Launching the New Republic



The 50 years following the drafting of the Constitution were a time of great change for the United States. By 1838, a total of 13 new states had joined the original 13, as shown on the map below. New territory had been added to the republic as well. The nation's first 50 years also saw the birth of the first political parties, another war fought with Great Britain, and

the election of the nation's first western president. In addition, transportation links had been built, and many of the nation's American Indians had been relocated west of the Mississippi River.

Along with new states and territories came a steady increase in population, as the graph below shows. Seven presidents served in office from 1789 to 1837, beginning with George Washington and ending with Andrew Jackson. Both men came to the presidency as military heroes—Washington from the American Revolution and Jackson from the War of 1812.

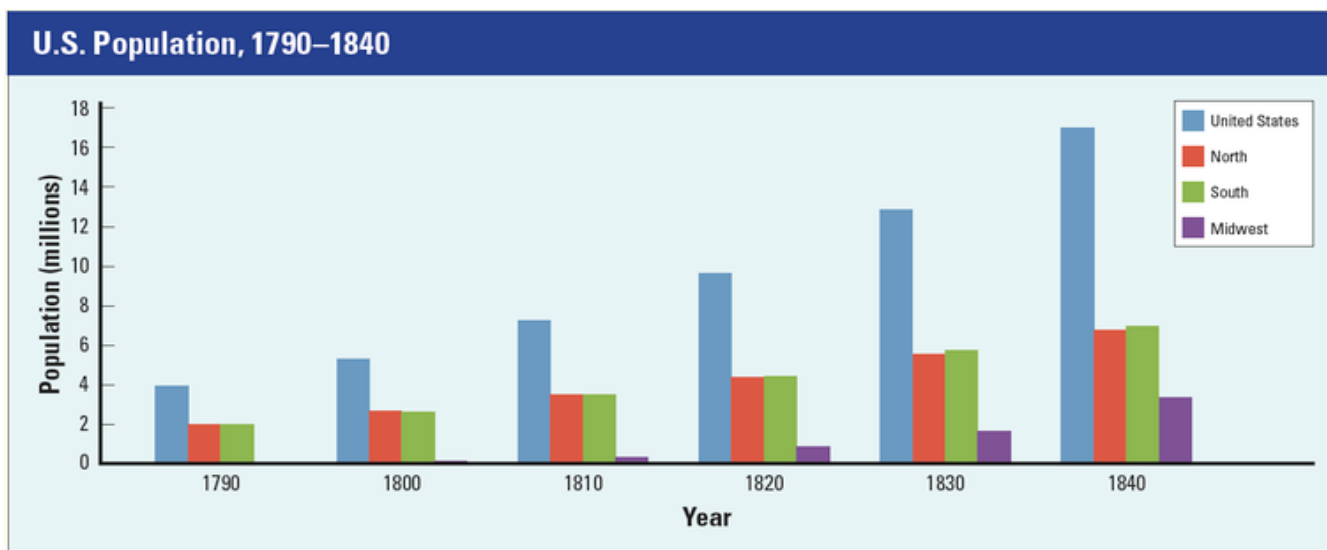
In this unit, you will learn about key events that took place during the administrations of Washington through Jackson. Some of those events are listed below.

1789: George Washington takes the oath of office as the first president of the United States in New York City, the nation's capital at the time.

1794: An army led by President Washington crushes the Whiskey Rebellion, an uprising by some frontier farmers who resisted paying certain taxes.

1800: John Adams, the nation's second president, is the first president to live in Washington, D.C., the new capital city, in the still-unfinished White House.

1814: In a conflict between the United States and Great Britain known as the War of 1812, British forces capture Washington, D.C. The British burn the White House, the Capitol building, and other government buildings.



During the War of 1812, U.S. forces turn back a British attack on Baltimore, Maryland. The Americans' defense of Fort McHenry inspires Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner," which later becomes the country's national anthem.

1815: An American army led by General Andrew Jackson defeats the British in the Battle of New Orleans. It is the final battle of the War of 1812. It is also the greatest U.S. victory of the war and it makes Jackson a national hero.

1825: The Erie Canal opens. Begun in 1817, the canal creates a water route connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River. Its success sets off a canal-building boom in the United States. You can locate the Erie Canal on the map on the opposite page. It is located in the state of New York.

1828: Andrew Jackson of Tennessee is elected the nation's seventh president. He is the first president to come from a state other than Virginia or Massachusetts.

1838–1839: Troops round up the remaining Cherokee in the East and move them west along a route that becomes known as the Trail of Tears. The Trail of Tears is shown on the map on the opposite page. It is located in the southern United States.