Connected, Yet Divided

Trace how regional economies shaped national policy debates.

SS24.US1.9 "Explain how economic and social divisions led to heightened sectionalism between the North and the South, examining their geographical and economic distinctions and the disparities between agrarian and industrial interests..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle one geographic feature of each region, underline two changes in northern life, and label the opposing tariff views N and S. Use your marks to trace how economic differences led to conflict.

Cotton, Cloth, and Conflict

1 In the 1820s, a bolt of cloth might begin as cotton grown by enslaved workers in the South and end in a northern mill. The regions were connected, but their economies differed. The South's long growing season supported cotton plantations that relied on enslaved labor and exported crops. Northern rivers powered mills, while ports linked merchants to distant buyers. Many northerners still farmed, yet manufacturing and trade became increasingly important to their region.

2 During the Market Revolution, new canals and railroads lowered shipping costs and widened markets for northern goods. Factories hired wage workers, including immigrants who arrived in growing numbers during the 1840s and 1850s. As towns expanded, more people worked for wages rather than producing most goods at home. Cheaper printed newspapers carried news and reform ideas among growing cities. These changes strengthened northern support for transportation projects and policies that aided manufacturing, though northerners did not all agree.

3 Henry Clay proposed an American System: a national bank to stabilize credit, tariffs to protect U.S. manufacturers, and federal support for roads and canals to connect markets. Better connections and credit could expand trade, while tariffs encouraged domestic production. Many northern manufacturers welcomed protection, but many southern planters opposed tariffs because they raised the cost of imported goods. In 1832, South Carolina declared federal tariffs invalid within the state, creating a crisis that exposed the political force of sectional divisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did geography help shape a different major economic activity in each region?

2. How did the Market Revolution change northern work and population?

3. Choose two parts of Clay's American System. How could each help the economy grow?

4. Why did northern manufacturers and southern planters often disagree about tariffs, and what conflict followed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A canal is proposed to link a southern cotton port to northern mills, alongside a protective tariff. In four sentences, explain what each region might gain or fear, then predict whether each would support the package and why.

ANSWER KEY

Connected, Yet Divided

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one geographic feature of each region, underline two changes in northern life, and label the opposing tariff views N and S. Use your marks to trace how economic differences led to conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did geography help shape a different major economic activity in each region?	**The South's long growing season supported cotton plantations, while northern rivers powered mills.**
2	How did the Market Revolution change northern work and population?	**Factories expanded wage work and hired immigrants, whose numbers grew during the 1840s and 1850s.**
3	Choose two parts of Clay's American System. How could each help the economy grow?	**A national bank could stabilize credit, and federal support for roads and canals could connect markets and expand trade. Accept tariffs encouraging domestic production.**
4	Why did northern manufacturers and southern planters often disagree about tariffs, and what conflict followed?	**Manufacturers welcomed protection from foreign competition, while planters objected to higher prices for imports. South Carolina declared federal tariffs invalid within the state in 1832.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northern mill owners could receive cotton more easily through the canal and gain protection from foreign cloth. Southern cotton growers could use the canal to reach buyers but might pay more for imported goods. Mill owners would likely support the package because both policies could help their businesses. Some cotton growers might oppose it because they would see the tariff's costs as greater than the canal's benefits.

Accept other supported predictions about the package if students explain both regions' interests. Students should distinguish shared gains from the canal from disagreement over the tariff.