

Tariffs and Tensions

Trace how regional economies shaped arguments about federal power.

7.8a "Early United States industrialization affected different parts of the country in different ways. Regional economic differences and values, as well as different conceptions of the Constitution..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline tariff effects on each region. Circle competing claims about federal and state power.

Different Regions, Different Priorities

- ① By the 1820s, northeastern mills turned cotton into cloth. Many factory owners favored protective tariffs, taxes on imported goods. By raising British cloth prices, tariffs could help American mills compete and protect factory jobs. Manufacturing interests often supported national policies that encouraged industry, even when those policies affected other regions differently.
- ② In the South, enslaved people grew much of the cotton that supplied northern and British textile mills. Plantation owners sold cotton abroad and bought many imported manufactured goods. A high tariff could raise the prices they paid for those goods, while offering them little direct help. Many southern leaders preferred lower tariffs and worried that northern industry was gaining too much influence. Their region's economy depended on plantation agriculture and slavery, so its interests differed sharply from the Northeast.
- ③ Economic disputes also raised constitutional questions. Supporters of strong federal power argued that Congress could tax imports and support national projects. Some states' rights advocates favored a narrow reading of federal powers and argued that states could judge federal laws. During the 1832 nullification crisis, South Carolina claimed it could reject federal tariffs. President Andrew Jackson rejected that claim and defended federal authority and the Union.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How could a protective tariff affect a northeastern mill owner and a southern planter?

2 Why did manufacturing and plantation agriculture encourage different tariff preferences?

3 How did the two sides disagree about federal and state power?

4 How did nullification turn a tariff dispute into a conflict over power?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a tariff on a product other than cloth. In four sentences, explain a northeastern manufacturer's view, a southern planter's view, and one constitutional argument.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline tariff effects on each region. Circle competing claims about federal and state power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a protective tariff affect a northeastern mill owner and a southern planter?	It could make imported British cloth cost more, helping American mills sell cloth and protect jobs. It could raise the prices southern plantation owners paid for imported manufactured goods.
2	Why did manufacturing and plantation agriculture encourage different tariff preferences?	The Northeast depended increasingly on manufacturing, so many leaders supported tariffs that protected factories. The South depended on plantation agriculture and cotton exports, so many leaders preferred lower tariffs.
3	How did the two sides disagree about federal and state power?	Federal-power supporters defended import taxes and national projects. Some states' rights advocates read federal powers narrowly and claimed states could judge federal laws.
4	How did nullification turn a tariff dispute into a conflict over power?	South Carolina claimed it could reject federal tariff laws, while President Jackson said federal laws were binding and the Union must be preserved.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress proposes a tariff on imported iron tools. A northeastern toolmaker supports it because higher import prices help domestic factories compete. A southern planter objects because tools would cost more. The manufacturer argues that Congress has constitutional authority to tax imports.

Accept plausible products and supported connections between regional interests and tariff preferences, including a constitutional argument.