



# Andrew Jackson Lesson Plan

How did Andrew Jackson's presidency shape the course of American history?

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Students will understand how Andrew Jackson expanded the role of the President, fought for the "common man," and implemented controversial policies, such as the Indian Removal Act.

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key life events of Andrew Jackson.
- Explain how Andrew Jackson's presidency was different from his predecessors, focusing on his appeal to the "common man."
- Evaluate the impact of Andrew Jackson's policies, including the Indian Removal Act and his battle with the National Bank.
- Discuss the controversies surrounding Andrew Jackson's presidency and his lasting legacy in American history.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Indian Removal Act:** A law signed by Andrew Jackson in 1830 that authorized the forced relocation of Native American tribes to lands west of the Mississippi River.
- **Jacksonian Democracy:** A political movement during Jackson's presidency that sought greater democratic rights for the "common man."
- **National Bank:** A federal bank that Jackson opposed, believing it concentrated too much power in the hands of wealthy individuals.
- **Trail of Tears:** The forced march of Native American tribes from their homelands to designated areas in the West, leading to the deaths of thousands.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, U.S. Presidents, Historical Figures

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Guess or Mess: Andrew Jackson* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: Andrew Jackson* (Click [Here](#))
- PragerU Kids biographical book: (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper or poster board for each group, along with markers

## Lesson Plan: Read and Discuss (60 minutes)

**Introduction to Jackson:** (5 minutes)



1. Start by briefly discussing Andrew Jackson's role in U.S. history and his reputation as a "common man" President. Then, ask students what they think it means to be a "common man."
2. Display the *Andrew Jackson* digital book using an electronic device. Highlight Jackson's significance as the 7th President, his appeal to everyday Americans, and the controversies he faced. Show images from the digital book to provide a visual overview.

**Jackson History Huddle:** (25 minutes)

1. Read the "Meet Andrew Jackson" section together as a class, with the teacher leading this page to model fluent reading and set the tone for the lesson.
2. After completing the teacher-led reading, explain that students will explore other key aspects of Jackson's life in small groups.
3. Split the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore:
  - Group 1: *Young Andrew, Interesting Facts* (page 3)
  - Group 2: *Duels, Rise to Power* (page 4)
  - Group 3: *Seventh U.S. President, Adopted Children, Cheese at the White House* (page 5)
  - Group 4: *Leadership, National Debt, Democratic, Whig* (page 6)
  - Group 5: *Retirement, Legacy* (page 7)
4. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. As students read, they should discuss the main ideas.
5. Provide each group with a large piece of paper or a poster board and markers to write down key points and any interesting facts or quotes they find.
6. Allow each group one to two minutes to present their findings to the class. After each presentation, provide time for classmates to ask questions and discuss the content.

**Worksheet Workshop:** (15 minutes)

1. Hand out individual copies of the worksheet to each student. Explain how to fill out each section of the worksheet with these instructions:
2. **Timeline:** Students should select key dates and events mentioned throughout the digital book. The following are recommendations:
  - 1767 - Birth of Andrew Jackson
  - 1815 - Battle of New Orleans
  - 1828 - Election of Andrew Jackson
  - 1830 - Indian Removal Act
  - 1845 - Death of Andrew Jackson
3. **Interesting Quote:** Have students choose a meaningful quote from the book to fill in the quote section on their worksheet.
4. **Interesting Fact:** Ask students to select an interesting fact about Andrew Jackson that stood out to them and write it in the space provided.

5. **Vocabulary Builder:** Instruct students to choose a word from the Glossary on page 10 that they find interesting and use it in a sentence that conveys its meaning.
6. **Multiple Choice:** Explain that students should complete the multiple-choice section of the worksheet individually. (Note: The multiple-choice section corresponds to the *Guess or Mess* episode about Andrew Jackson and can also be used to play along while watching. See “Extension Activity” below.)

**Reflection Round-Up:** (10 minutes)

1. Briefly summarize the key points covered about Andrew Jackson, focusing on his life, presidency, and legacy.
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to recall one fact about Andrew Jackson and share it with a partner. Encourage them to discuss why that fact was significant.
3. Give each student a sticky note or index card and ask them to answer one of these three sample reflection questions:
  - What did you find most interesting about Andrew Jackson?
  - How do you think his presidency impacted the United States?
  - Can you think of a modern issue that relates to something Jackson dealt with?
4. **Bonus Activities:** If time allows, allow students to complete the puzzle on page 2 by finding hidden letters throughout the book. They can also explore and engage with the other interactive activities included in the book.

**Extension Activity:** (20 minutes)

*Guess or Mess* Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for Andrew Jackson—direct students to the multiple-choice section of the worksheet. Students can play along with the contestants to see if they can answer the trivia questions correctly.

**Don't have time for a full lesson? Quick Activity (30 minutes)**

Read the *Abraham Lincoln* book together as a class, with students taking turns reading aloud. Then, watch the *Guess or Mess* video and play along with the trivia questions.