

## Problems in Power

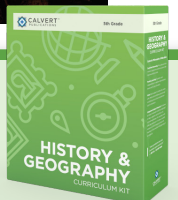
**Immigration.** In the past, the United States of America was called a “melting pot” because immigrants from all over the world have come here. They brought their ways, ideas, music, and food with them. The term “melting pot” is used less often today because it describes a process of all the different cultures melting into the American culture. While many people who immigrate to the U.S. do begin to speak English, enjoy American foods, and pick up some American habits, they usually also retain their own cultures, enjoying foods, religions, traditions, and more that come from their original country. Americans born in the U.S. also enjoy learning new languages, eating new foods, listening to new music, and learning about new traditions that come from other cultures, brought by immigrants from all over the world.

The huge growth of industry after the Civil War created a need for workers, and that would attract many newcomers. America became the “land of opportunity” for the desperately poor of Europe. America was a land where jobs and education could mean a better life. It was a land where poor immigrants, like Carnegie, could become millionaires. From the 1870s until the 1920s, millions of immigrants came from Europe to America. Every year during the last 30 years of the 19th century about 400,000 new arrivals came into the country.

Most of the immigrants before 1880 came from northern Europe: Germany, England, and Ireland. However, after that time more and more came from southern and eastern Europe: Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Russia. These people had a harder time fitting into American life. Their languages were much different. They usually could not read or write. They were



| Many immigrants lived in communities of people from the same country or culture.



## A Growing Nation

**Jackson.** Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1828. He was the first U.S. president who was not born into a wealthy family. He was born poor, earned his own fortune, and lived in the west (Tennessee). He was wildly popular and had strong ideas about being president. He vetoed more laws than all six of the presidents before him. The ordinary man began to be important in American politics after Andrew Jackson.

Jackson encouraged the “spoils system” which gave government jobs to his supporters. He vetoed a charter for the National Bank, which he did not trust, and took federal money out of it. The money was put in state banks (“pet banks”), and the National Bank was closed. Jackson also threatened to use force when South Carolina nullified the tariff in 1832 by refusing to allow it to be collected in their state. Henry Clay (“the Great Compromiser”) arranged for the tariff to be lowered, and Carolina backed down. Jackson also moved thousands of Native Americans from their land east of the Mississippi to Oklahoma so that American pioneers could have their land. Many died on the journey, later known as the “Trail of Tears.”

**After Jackson.** Andrew Jackson chose his vice president, Martin Van Buren, to run for the presidency when he retired. With Jackson’s support, Van Buren won the election in 1836. However, a depression in 1837 (also called a “panic”) made him very unpopular.



| Major acquisitions of the United States

