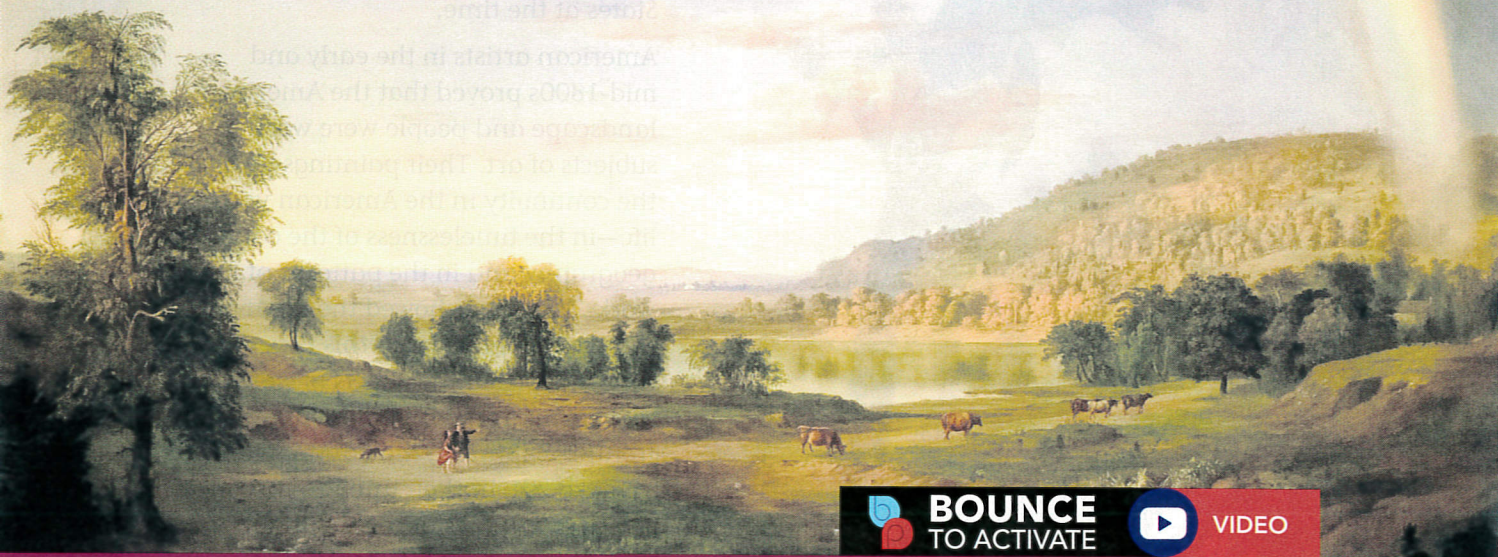


## LESSON 6

# Arts and Literature



 **BOUNCE**  
TO ACTIVATE

 **VIDEO**

## GET READY TO READ

### START UP


Examine the painting by American artist Robert S. Duncanson. Write a sentence or two suggesting how this painting might reflect a theme common to writers and artists of this period.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What was life like in the early years of the republic?
- What themes did American painters pursue in the early to mid-1800s?
- What themes marked the works of writers during this period?
- How did transcendentalism affect American culture?

### TAKE NOTES

#### Literacy Skills: Identify Cause and Effect

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

### PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

#### Vocabulary

Hudson River School  
transcendentalist  
individualism

#### Academic Vocabulary

idealize

Before 1800, most American painters studied in Europe. Benjamin West of Philadelphia was appointed historical painter to King George III. Many American painters journeyed to London to study with West. Two of them, Charles Wilson Peale and Gilbert Stuart, later painted famous portraits of George Washington.

### A New American Art Style

By the mid-1800s, American artists began to develop their own style. The first group to do so became known as the **Hudson River School**. Artists such as Thomas Cole and Asher B. Durand painted vivid landscapes of New York's Hudson River region and other parts of the Northeast. African American painter Robert S. Duncanson depicted the beauty of nature.

Other artists painted scenes of hard-working country people in a natural setting. George Caleb Bingham of Missouri created a timeless picture of frontier life. George Catlin and Alfred Jacob Miller traveled to the Far West to record the daily life of American Indians.





**Analyze Images** John James Audubon's paintings of birds, like these Columbia jays, and other wildlife are still admired for their beauty and scientific accuracy. **Infer** Why did Audubon find endless subjects to paint in the United States?

### INTERACTIVE

Painting America

### Academic Vocabulary

**idealized** • *v.*, to see in the best possible light

John James Audubon, a wildlife artist, traveled across the country painting birds and mammals. His collection of 435 life-size prints, titled *The Birds of America*, portrayed every bird known in the United States at the time.

American artists in the early and mid-1800s proved that the American landscape and people were worthy subjects of art. Their paintings portrayed the continuity in the American way of life—in the timelessness of the country's geography and in the patterns of farm work. They also showed the great changes that were underway in this new era. Artists depicted the effects of westward movement and the settlement of the frontier, capturing the nation's expansion and growth. In their attention to these themes, the work of these painters reflected American society in their day.

### READING CHECK Identify Main Ideas

What were common themes in the works of American artists during the early to mid-1800s?

## New Forms of Literature and Music

Like painters, early American writers also depended on Europe for their ideas and inspiration. In the 1820s, however, a new crop of poets and fiction writers began to write about American themes. At the same time, uniquely American forms of music began to emerge. These new forms of literature and music reflected American society in the early and mid-1800s.

**American Poetry** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was the favorite poet of Americans in the mid-1800s. Longfellow based many of his poems on historical events. "Paul Revere's Ride" honored the Revolutionary War hero. "The Song of Hiawatha" **idealized** Native American life. His poems gave Americans a sense of where they came from and, in the process, helped establish a national identity.

Other poets spoke out on social issues. John Greenleaf Whittier, a Quaker from Massachusetts, and Frances Watkins Harper, an African American woman from Maryland, reflected change in American society as abolitionism gained supporters. They used their pens to make readers aware of the evils of slavery.



After a career as a journalist, Walt Whitman became a groundbreaking poet. His greatest work was *Leaves of Grass*. Like Longfellow, Whittier, and Harper, he focused on uniquely American themes. His poetry celebrated democracy. He wrote proudly of being part of a “nation of many nations”:

### Primary Source

**“At home on the hills of Vermont or in the woods of Maine, or the Texan ranch, comrade of Californians, comrade of free North-Westerners, . . . of every hue and caste am I, of every rank and religion.”**

—Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

Whitman was also one of the first modern poets to write about same-sex love. His romanticizing of same-sex friendship has given his work an important place in the modern gay rights movement.

Only seven of Emily Dickinson’s more than 1,700 poems were published in her lifetime. A shy woman who rarely left her home, Dickinson called her poetry “my letter to the world / That never wrote to me.” Her close friendship with her brother’s wife, Susan, has led some scholars to speculate that the two women had a romantic relationship, although there is no definite evidence of this. Today, Dickinson is recognized as one of the nation’s greatest poets.

**Writers Begin to Tell American Stories** One of the most popular American writers was Washington Irving, a New Yorker. Irving first became known for *The Sketch Book*, a collection of tales published in 1820. Two of his best-loved tales are “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

The exciting novels of James Fenimore Cooper were also set in the American past. Several of his novels, including *The Deerslayer* and *The Last of the Mohicans*, feature Natty Bumppo, a heroic model of a strong, solitary frontiersman. Cooper’s novels gave an idealized view of relations between whites and Native Americans on the frontier.

Like Longfellow’s poems, the stories of Cooper and Irving gave Americans a sense of the richness of their past. Their appeal went beyond the United States, however. Washington Irving was the first American writer to enjoy fame in Europe.

**Later Writers** In 1851, Herman Melville published *Moby-Dick*. The novel tells the story of Ahab, the crazed captain of a whaling ship. Ahab vows revenge on the white whale that years earlier bit off his leg. *Moby-Dick* had only limited success when it was first published. Today, however, critics rank it among the finest American novels.



### INTERACTIVE

Early American Music and Literature

**Analyze Images** Emily Dickinson, shown here in an early photograph, wrote poems that reflected the loneliness of her life. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Dickinson is still considered one of the greatest American poets?







▲ Whalers face the angry whale Moby-Dick in a scene from Herman Melville's epic tale *Moby-Dick*, considered one of the greatest American novels.

### Did you know?

The four sisters in *Little Women* were based on Alcott and her own sisters.

Nathaniel Hawthorne often drew on the history of New England in his novels and short stories. In *The Scarlet Letter*, published in 1850, Hawthorne explored Puritan notions of sin and salvation. The novel shows how a young man is consumed by guilt when he tries to hide his wrongdoing from the world.

Edgar Allan Poe became famous for his many tales of horror. His short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" is about a murderer, driven mad by guilt, who imagines he can hear his victim's heartbeat. Poe is also known as the father of the detective story for his mystery stories, such as "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."

William Wells Brown was the first African American to earn his living as a writer. He published *Clotel*, a novel about slave life, in 1853. Brown also wrote a play inspired by his own experiences as a fugitive slave and a conductor on the Underground Railroad. His lectures and readings drew large audiences in Europe as well as throughout the North.

**Women Writers Flourish** Women wrote many of the best-selling novels

of the period. Some novels told about young women who gained wealth and happiness through honesty and self-sacrifice. Others showed the hardships faced by widows and orphans.

Perhaps the best known of these women writers was Louisa May Alcott. Alcott wrote numerous short stories, poems, and books. Her most famous work was a novel written for girls, called *Little Women*. Centered on a strong-willed young woman who loves reading and writing, it remains a popular book today.

The novels of other writers, such as Catherine Sedgwick and Fanny Fern, have few readers today. Yet these writers earned far more than Hawthorne or Melville. Hawthorne complained about the success of a "mob of scribbling women."

**American Music** American classical music in the 1800s continued to follow European traditions. Yet, as American society changed and grew and different groups of people came into contact with one another, distinctly American musical forms began to emerge. Early songs were often patriotic or religious, such as "My Country 'Tis of Thee," written by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831, or "Amazing Grace," published in 1835.



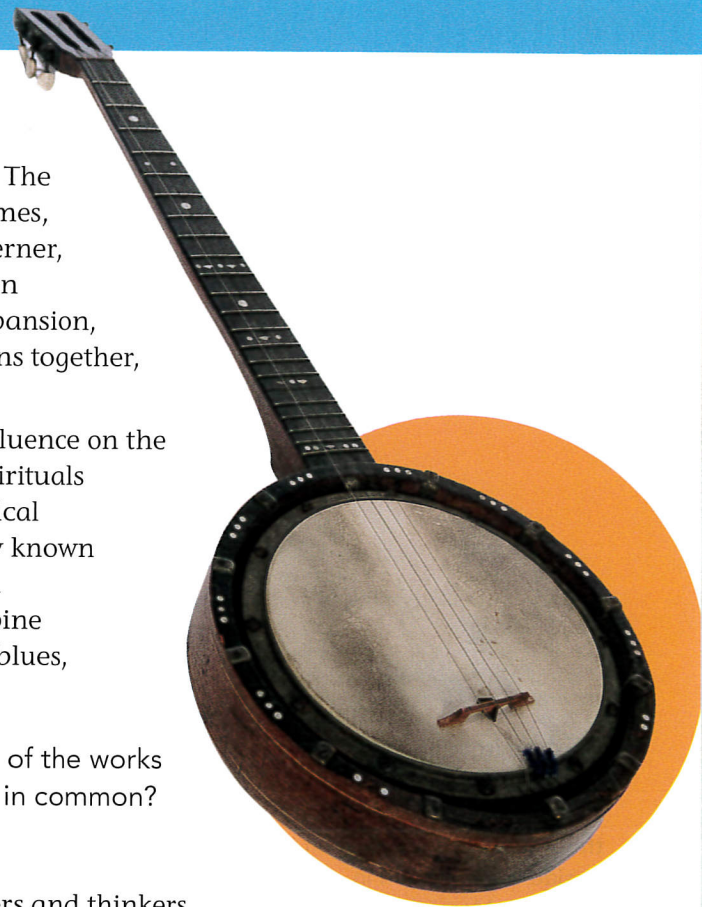
The 1800s saw the rise of a middle class interested in music that was entertaining and emotionally stirring. The songs of Stephen Foster, which drew on American themes, were especially popular. Although Foster was a northerner, many of his songs, such as “Dixie,” referred to southern traditions and were popular in the South. Western expansion, immigration, and migration mingled musical traditions together, creating new American sounds.

African American music in particular had a strong influence on the new forms that were developing. African American spirituals and work songs combined African and European musical traditions. During the 1800s, a new style of music now known as gospel music began to develop in African American religious congregations. These styles would later combine with European and American folk traditions to shape blues, jazz, country, and rock music.

**READING CHECK** **Draw Conclusions** What do many of the works of American literature of the early to mid-1800s have in common?

## Transcendentalism Develops

In New England, a small but influential group of writers and thinkers emerged. They called themselves **transcendentalists**, because they believed that the most important truths in life transcended, or went beyond, human reason. They produced a unique body of literature reflecting transcendentalist thought. Transcendentalists valued the spark of deeply felt insights more than reason.



**Analyze Images** Although considered uniquely American, the banjo has roots in sub-Saharan Africa. **Cite Evidence** What other American musical traditions or instruments have African origins?

## 5 BIOGRAPHY Things to Know About

### LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Author of *Little Women* (1832–1888)



- Her father was an educator, philosopher, abolitionist, and women’s rights supporter.
- As a child, she spent time with her father’s Boston-area friends Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.
- At the start of the Civil War, she served as a nurse at a Union hospital, where she contracted typhoid fever.
- She published two *Little Women* books, in 1868 and 1869, and their success allowed her to pay off her family’s extensive debts.
- She wrote in her book *Little Men* (1871): “Money is the root of all evil, and yet it is such a useful root that we cannot get on without it any more than we can without potatoes.”

**Critical Thinking** Why do you think Alcott immediately began a second *Little Women* book after publishing the first?



## Did you know?

The land where Thoreau built his cabin was owned by Emerson and was about 20 minutes by foot from Thoreau's family home.

**Analyze Images** This replica of Henry David Thoreau's cabin sits near the site of his original cabin beside Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts.

**Understand Effects** How might living in a small cabin like this have inspired Thoreau?

They believed that each individual should live up to the divine possibilities within. This belief influenced many transcendentalists to support social reform.

**Emerson on the Importance of the Individual** The leading transcendentalist was Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emerson was the most popular essayist and lecturer of his day. Audiences flocked to hear him talk on subjects such as self-reliance and character. Emerson believed that the human spirit was reflected in nature. Civilization might provide material wealth, he said, but nature exhibited higher values that came from God.

In his essays and lectures, Emerson stressed **individualism**, or the importance of each individual. In its individual focus, transcendentalism is unique to American culture. Individualism and individual responsibility are central to America's democracy. Each person, Emerson said, has an "inner light." He urged people to use this inner light to guide their lives and improve society. "Trust thyself," he wrote. "Every heart vibrates to that iron string."

**Thoreau and Civil Disobedience** Henry David Thoreau (thuh ROH), Emerson's friend and neighbor, believed that the growth of industry and the rise of cities were ruining the nation. He urged people to live as simply and as close to nature as possible. In *Walden*, his best-known work, Thoreau describes spending a year alone in a cabin on Walden Pond in Massachusetts.





Like Emerson, Thoreau believed that each individual must decide what is right or wrong. “If a man does not keep pace with his companions,” he wrote, in *Walden*, “perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears.”

Thoreau’s “different drummer” told him that slavery was wrong. He argued in favor of civil disobedience and once went to jail for refusing to pay taxes to support the U.S.-Mexican War, which he felt promoted slavery. Thoreau wrote an essay titled “Civil Disobedience” that explained why an individual may feel the need to break laws that are unjust without resorting to violence.

He argued, though, that anyone who chooses this course has to be prepared to be imprisoned or otherwise punished. This essay had a great impact on future leaders. Thoreau’s ideas on civil disobedience and nonviolence later influenced Mohandas Gandhi, who led a struggle in India for independence from Britain, and Martin Luther King, Jr., an American civil rights leader during the mid-1900s.

 **READING CHECK** **Identify Main Ideas** What was the core belief of the transcendentalists?



▲ Ralph Waldo Emerson was one of the most influential of the transcendentalists.

## Lesson Check

### Practice Vocabulary

1. What role did **individualism** play in the beliefs of the **transcendentalists**?
2. What distinguished the artists of **Hudson River School** from other artists?

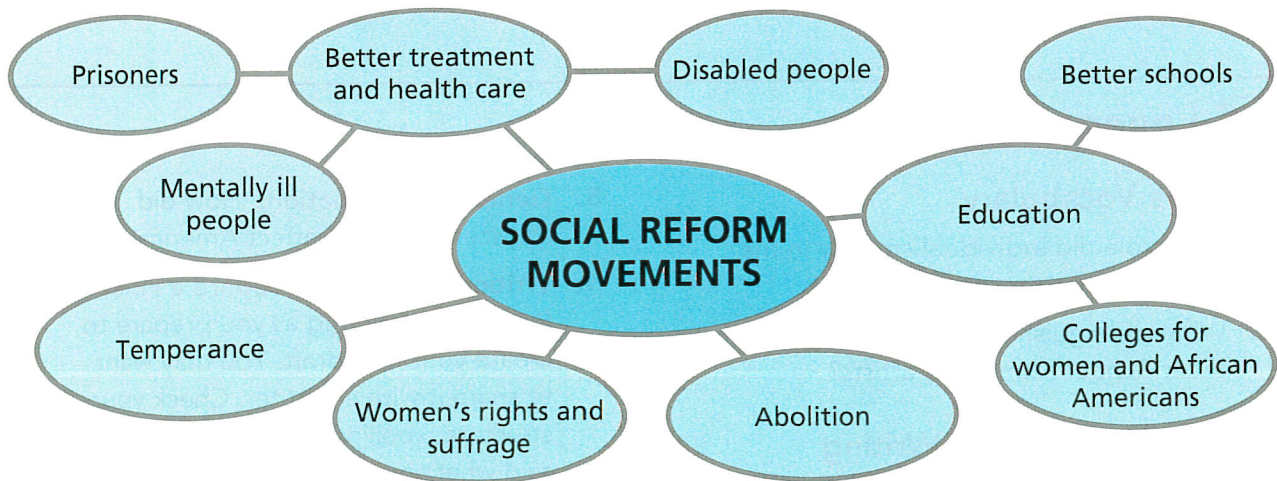
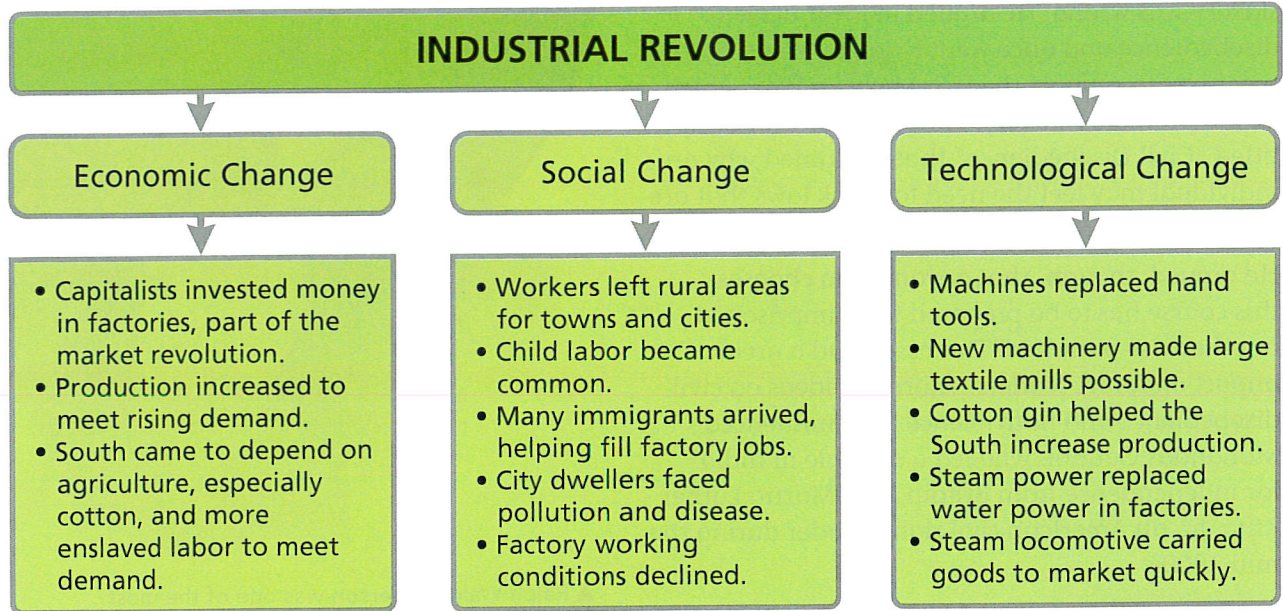
### Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Summarize** How did writers in the 1800s contribute to social reform movements?
4. **Evaluate Arguments** How would you respond to the argument that American artists and writers explored common themes during this period?
5. **Generate Explanations** How did transcendentalism affect American culture?
6. **Writing Workshop: Prepare a Final Draft** Review your writing as you prepare to create your final draft. You may want to share it with a partner. Check your structure, spelling, and grammar. Have you said what you wanted to say?



# Review and Assessment

## VISUAL REVIEW



## READING REVIEW

Use the Take Notes and Practice Vocabulary activities in your Active Journal to review the topic.

**INTERACTIVE**

Practice vocabulary using the Topic Mini-Games.

**Quest FINDINGS**

**Write Your Essay**

Get help for writing your essay in your Active Journal.




## ASSESSMENT

### Vocabulary and Key Ideas

- 1. Check Understanding** Why did the spread of the factory system rely on **capitalists**?
- 2. Identify Supporting Details** How did work in a factory differ from farm work?
- 3. Identify** Who were the people in the South said to make up the **"cottonocracy"**?
- 4. Define** What was the **Underground Railroad**?
- 5. Recall** What political advantage did the **Know-Nothing Party** gain by opposing Irish immigrants?
- 6. Locate** Which state took the lead in reforming its educational system and establishing public schools?
- 7. Identify** What philosophy is associated with **individualism** and reliance on nature?

### Critical Thinking and Writing

- 8. Compare and Contrast** How did interchangeable parts differ from the parts that had been used before in manufacturing products, and why did that matter?
- 9. Draw Conclusions** Do you think social reforms such as the abolition of slavery would have been pursued even if the Second Great Awakening had not occurred? Why or why not?
- 10. Sequence** How could the building of a factory along a river in the early 1800s lead eventually to the existence of a growing city?
- 11. Infer** What role did the Seneca Falls Convention play in sparking the women's rights movement?
- 12. Revisit the Essential Question** American writers, artists, and musicians of the 1800s focused on themes that were unique to American culture. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.
- 13. Writing Workshop: Write Narratives** Using the outline you created in your  Active Journal, write a three-paragraph narrative from the point of view of a young person working in northern industry during this time period.

### Analyze Primary Sources

- 14.** Who was the author of this dialogue?
  - A. Emily Dickinson
  - B. Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - C. Louisa May Alcott
  - D. Herman Melville

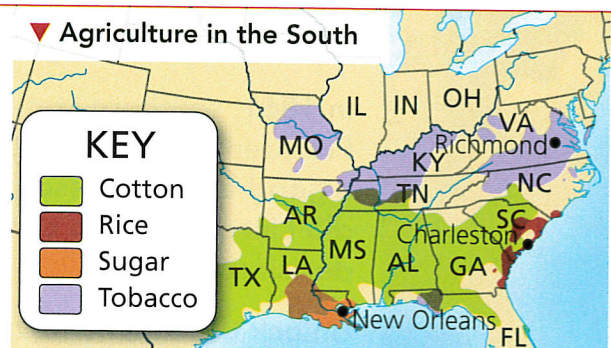
"Well, sir, I want to see what whaling is. I want to see the world."

"Want to see what whaling is, eh? Have ye clapped eye on Captain Ahab?"

### Analyze Maps

Use the map at right to answer the following questions:

- 15.** What does the dark green area in Tennessee indicate?
- 16.** Which state had the largest area devoted to producing sugar?

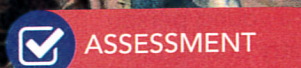
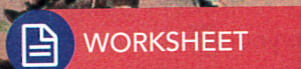
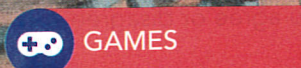
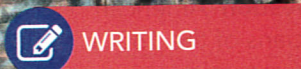
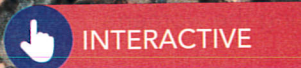
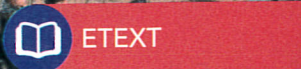
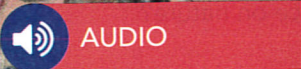




# Sectionalism and Civil War

(1820–1865)

GO ONLINE  
to access your  
digital course



## Go back to the 1820s

and the era of **SECTIONALISM AND THE CIVIL WAR**.

Why? Because it was during this time that the seeds of the Civil War were sown. Learn what caused this terrible conflict.

## Explore The Essential Question

### When is war justified?

In 1861, southern states quit the Union. President Lincoln had to decide if that was a good enough reason to go to war. What did Lincoln have to consider in making the decision?

Unlock the Essential Question in your Active Journal.