

Study Guide



Chapter 11, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 348–351

JACKSON AND THE BANK

KEY TERMS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| veto | To reject (page 349) |
| depression | A period in which business and employment fall to a very low level (page 350) |
| laissez-faire | The principle that government should interfere as little as possible in the nation's economy (page 350) |
| log cabin campaign | A campaign to show the laborers and farmers that the candidate was a "man of the people" (page 351) |

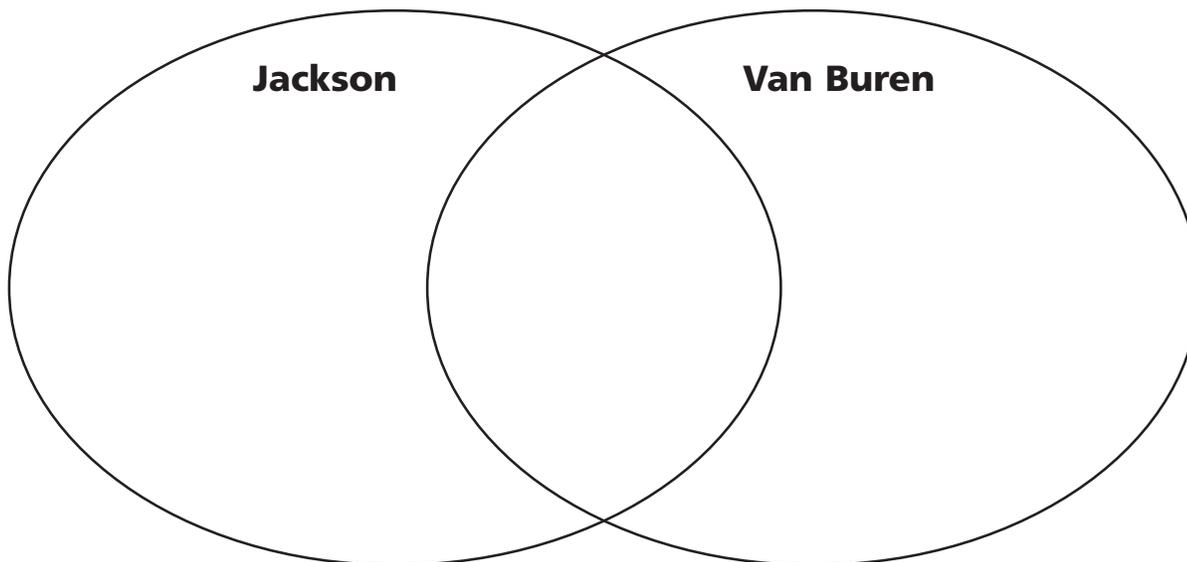
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Can you think of any catchy phrases or slogans that are used to advertise products, health campaigns, or political candidates? For example: An apple a day keeps the doctor away. What other slogans or catchy phrases can you think of?

In the last section, you read about the relocation of Native American peoples. This section focuses on how the economy affected politics in the mid-1800s.

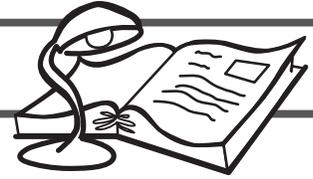
ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the presidencies of Jackson and Van Buren were affected by economic issues.



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READ TO LEARN

- **War Against the Bank** (pages 348–351)

Jackson opposed the Bank of the United States because it was run by wealthy Eastern private bankers. In 1832 Jackson’s opponents, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, devised a plan to beat Jackson and win the election. They believed the people would turn against Jackson when he *vetoed*, or rejected, the Bank’s request to renew its charter. They talked the Bank’s president into applying for a new charter before the old one expired in 1836. As planned, Jackson vetoed the bill. Jackson criticized the Bank for favoring the wealthy and ignoring the poor. Clay and Webster’s plan backfired. The people supported Jackson’s actions. Jackson was easily reelected to a second term. His friend, Martin Van Buren, became the vice president. After his reelection, Jackson devised a plan to put the powerful Bank out of business. He withdrew the government’s money and put it in smaller state banks. The Bank was forced to close.

In the election of 1836, Martin Van Buren easily defeated several opponents from the newly created Whig Party. His presidency was quickly overshadowed by a severe economic *depression*. It was a time when businesses lost money and people lost jobs. People lost faith in the economy. During the Panic of 1837, land values dropped, people lost money, and banks closed. Prices for basic goods were so high that people could not afford their food or rent. Van Buren lost the support of ordinary people because he failed to do anything about the economic crisis. Van Buren supported the principle of *laissez-faire*, the belief that government should not interfere with a nation’s economy.

1. How did economic issues affect Jackson and Van Buren’s presidencies?

- **The Whigs Come to Power** (page 351)

In the election of 1840, the Whigs chose William Henry Harrison and John Tyler as their candidates for president and vice president. Harrison was famous for defeating Tecumseh in the Battle of Tippecanoe during the War of 1812. The Whigs’ *log cabin campaign* used the slogan, “Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too.” A log cabin symbolized their candidate as an ordinary person. They tried to appeal to Jackson’s supporters. They accused Van Buren of being a wealthy man who spent money lavishly during his presidency. Harrison was elected the first Whig president, but he died of pneumonia on April 4, 1841. Under the terms of the Constitution, Tyler became president.

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Tyler upset the Whig party and many of his supporters with his actions as president. The Whigs had elected him, but he supported Democratic policies. Tyler was expelled from the Whig party. Most of the cabinet members resigned. The Whig party was divided and lost the next election in 1844 to the Democrats. James Polk was elected president.

2. How did the Whigs campaign for William Henry Harrison?
