

Democracy and Progress

An Age of Revolutions
(1750–1914)



Early European reform

Reform spreads further

The American experiment

An age of innovation

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



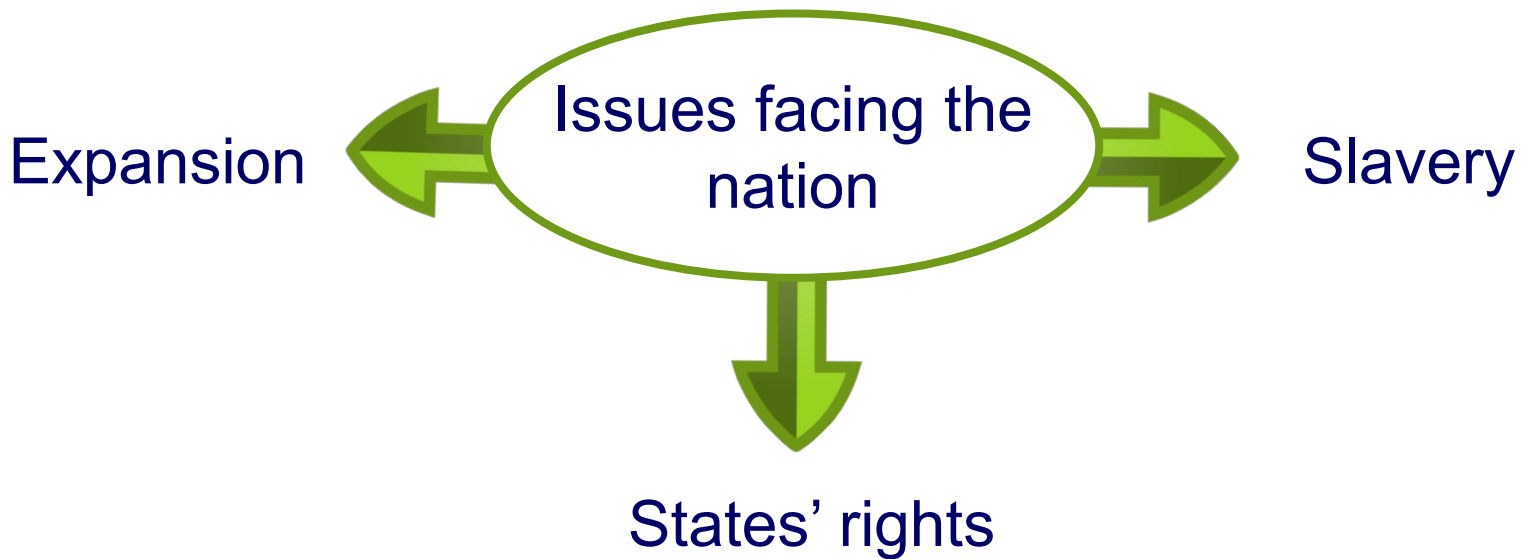
By the end of this section, you will have learned about changes in the United States during the 19th century, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What potential issues did the U.S. face?
- How did the U.S. expand, and what problems did this cause?
- What were the causes and impacts of the American Civil War?
- How did industrialization and immigration develop after the Civil War?



With the election of 1800, the United States proved that its democratic principles could work. The election peacefully transferred power from one political party to another.

However, there were several issues the young nation needed to address if it wished to remain united.





Thomas Jefferson once said that conquest
“is inconsistent with our government.”
Yet within 100 years of its founding, the
United States had conquered vast sections
of North America. Press the orange info
buttons to learn more.
Press **start** to begin.

start



How might expansion cause problems for the U.S.?



In 1845, a reporter wrote an article claiming that American expansion was ordained by God. He said that America's “**manifest destiny**” was to spread from coast to coast.

Most Americans agreed. In addition to farmland, precious reserves of gold and silver had been discovered in the West. The Pacific coast also offered access to Asian markets.



However, westward expansion forced Americans to confront the controversial issue of slavery.

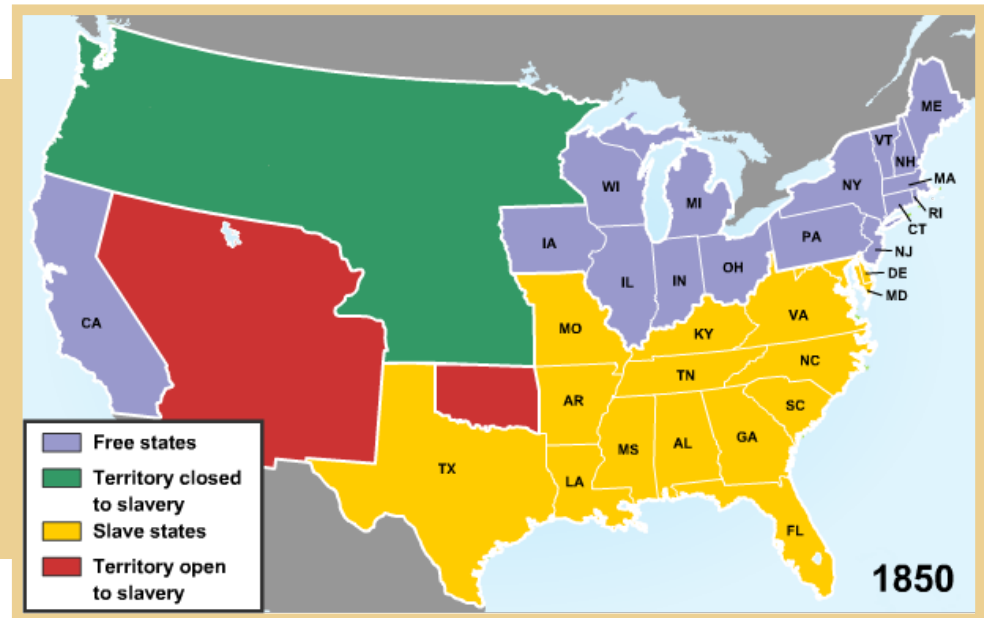




Slavery in early America

The authors of the Constitution had avoided the issue of slavery, recognizing that it would strain the new bonds between the states.

As more states joined the Union, Congress was careful to maintain a balance between free states and slave states, giving both sides equal representation.



By 1850, two very different cultures had developed in the United States.





As time went on, regional differences made Northerners and Southerners feel less connected to one another.
Drag each term to the correct box depending on whether it describes the North or the South in the early 1800s.

Press **start** to begin.

start



How might these differences affect the Union?



Although many Northern whites held racist beliefs, most opposed slavery.

As the West opened for settlement and Americans rushed to claim farmland, Northerners feared that Southern plantation owners would have an advantage because of slave labor.

Some Northerners believed that slavery was morally wrong. **Abolitionists** called for the **emancipation** of slaves throughout the United States.

The Southern economy depended on free slave labor to grow cash crops like cotton and sugar. Without slavery, most Southern whites believed their society would crumble.

Why had the Northern states abolished slavery?



The American Civil War



The slavery debate brought up another controversial issue: states' rights. Southern politicians believed that any state could leave the Union if it no longer served that state's needs.

Northerners claimed that the Union was a permanent and unbreakable contract. This conflict eventually erupted into the **American Civil War**.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Reconstruction



Between 1865 and 1877, Congress passed various laws to protect the civil rights of black Americans. This period is known as **Reconstruction**.

Union troops remained in the South to enforce these laws. When the troops left, Southern politicians passed new laws to restrict the rights of black citizens.

Black Americans continued to face discrimination, violence and **segregation** in both the North and South.



What does this cartoon suggest about Reconstruction?





The American **Industrial Revolution** began in the early 1800s and expanded during the Civil War.

In the second half of the 19th century, large industries such as steel, oil and meatpacking came to dominate the American economy. By the turn of the century, the U.S. was a major industrial power.



America's first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. By 1900, the U.S. boasted nearly 200,000 miles of railroad track. The rail lines facilitated the transportation of goods throughout the U.S.

How did railroads contribute to industrialization?



Much of the industrial workforce was made up of recent immigrants. Between 1880 and 1930, over 20 million people arrived in the United States. Many Americans did not welcome these newcomers, and the government began seeking ways to decrease immigration. Use this graph to guess how many people immigrated in each decade, then press the play buttons below each bar to reveal the actual figures.

Press **start** to begin.

start



How and why might a country limit immigration?



True or false?



Read the following statements
about the U.S. in the 19th century
and decide whether each one is
true or false.

Press **start** to begin.

start

