



THE SETUP

Six factions share one board of six sliders.

Project the board. Split the class into the six groups below and hand each group its page. On its turn a group drags **one slider** up to **three notches** and presses **Done**. Turn order is redrawn every round. Three rounds, eighteen moves, 1828 to 1840.

BEFORE YOU START • 5 MIN

Keep page 1. Hand out pages 2–7, one per group.

Give the Native Nations to students who will argue. They have a stake in three sliders; every other group has five or six. The debrief asks about that.

EACH ROUND • 10–12 MIN

The group at the board drags a slider. **The graphs move as they drag**, before they press Done.

An arrow in the group's color under each slider marks where that group wants it.

WATCH FOR THE TUG OF WAR

The Bank can pull back what the Jacksonians just moved.

Undoing another group's move lowers Union Stability, whichever slider it is.

BETWEEN ROUNDS • 3 MIN

History moves sliders by itself. After round 1 the Nullification Crisis lowers the Tariff and raises Federal Supremacy. After round 2 the Specie Circular lowers the National Bank and the removal treaties raise Indian Removal.

Read the card aloud. Groups fill in their reflection lines while it is on screen.

THE SIX GROUPS

Jackson Democrats

The people rule, and the President is their man.

Clay's Whigs

A tariff, a bank, and roads to carry the goods.

The Nullifiers

A sovereign state may judge the compact.

The Bank

Somebody has to supply a currency.

The Native Nations

We hold this land by treaty.

The Working Men

Ten hours, hard money, free schools.

WHAT THE FOUR MEASURES MEAN

MEASURE	STARTS AT	WHERE IT STOOD IN 1840
Union stability	59	Nullification faced down, and the argument left standing for 1860
Economic confidence	54	The Panic of 1837 and six years of depression — call it 20
Democratic reach	35	Near-universal white manhood suffrage; everyone else still outside it
Broken promises	24	About sixty thousand people removed west; roughly a quarter of the Cherokee who set out died on the way

Groups do not see this table. The scores are estimates for discussion, not measurements.



Jackson Democrats

"The people rule, and the President is the only officer all of them elect."

You elected a general from Tennessee on the biggest turnout the country had seen. Your argument: for forty years the government has been run by men who inherited the habit, and now it will be run for the people who work. Every voter helps choose the President, so the President speaks for them and the rest of Washington does not.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 4	Bring the rates down far enough to keep the South in the Union.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 0	It is a monster, it is unelected, and it buys congressmen.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 10	The states will take the land anyway. Do it by treaty and be done.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 8	One state does not get to veto a law the whole nation passed.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 2	A road inside one state is that state's business, not ours.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 10	Every white man should vote, and vote for the President directly.

Gray box = where it starts. Colored box = where you want it. You get three moves, one per round, of up to three notches each. Any group can move any slider, including back.

PRIMARY SOURCE

It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes... The humble members of society – the farmers, mechanics, and laborers – who have neither the time nor the means of securing like favors to themselves, have a right to complain of the injustice of their Government.

Andrew Jackson, veto of the Bank recharter bill, 10 July 1832

Jackson claims to speak for farmers and laborers who never petitioned him. What makes that claim work in 1832, and which slider does it justify moving?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

Round 1: which slider did you move, and which one did you leave alone to do it?

Name a group that pulled a slider back the other way. What did that cost on the graphs?

After the final board: your group scored a percentage. Did the graphs improve while you got it? Cite one number.



Clay's Whigs

"An American System: a tariff, a bank, and roads to carry the goods."

You are the party of the American System: build the national economy and it will run. A protective tariff lets American factories start. A national bank gives two dozen states one currency. Roads and canals get the wheat to port. You see Jackson as a tyrant backed by an army of officeholders, and your newspapers call him King Andrew.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 ► push up to 9	American manufactures cannot start without a wall to start behind.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 ► push up to 9	A national currency is the one thing two dozen state legislatures cannot supply.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 hold at 3	Treaties are contracts. A government that breaks one breaks all of them.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 ► push up to 7	The Union is a nation, not a bargain that any state may quit.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 ► push up to 10	Roads and canals turn two dozen economies into one.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

The transformation of the condition of the country from gloom and distress to brightness and prosperity, has been mainly the work of American legislation, fostering American industry, instead of allowing it to be controlled by foreign legislation, cherishing foreign industry.

Henry Clay, speech in the Senate on the American System, 2 February 1832

Clay says legislation made the prosperity. Name the two sliders he means, and name the group in this room most likely to call that a fairy tale.

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

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The Nullifiers

"A sovereign state made this compact and a sovereign state may judge it."

You are South Carolina. The tariff protects northern factories and raises the price of everything your cotton buys, and your share of Congress shrinks with every census. Your argument is constitutional and deliberately broad: the states made the compact, so a state may judge whether it has been broken and refuse to enforce a law. Behind the tariff is slavery. A Congress that can overrule a state on cloth can overrule it on slaves.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 ◀ pull down to 0	The Tariff of Abominations taxes cotton to pay for northern mills.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 ◀ pull down to 3	A national bank is one more power the Constitution never granted.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 ▶ push up to 8	Georgia will decide what happens inside Georgia.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 ◀ pull down to 0	The states made the federal government. It does not outrank its makers.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 ◀ pull down to 1	Federal roads mean federal power, and federal power reaches slavery next.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

The right of judging, in such cases, is an essential attribute of sovereignty, of which the States cannot be divested without losing their sovereignty itself.

John C. Calhoun (published anonymously), South Carolina Exposition and Protest, 1828

Calhoun wrote this while serving as Vice President of the United States, and published it without his name on it. What does that tell you about the argument?

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The Bank

"A stable currency is the one thing no state can supply for itself."

You are the Second Bank of the United States: a private corporation with a federal charter. You hold the government's deposits, and you keep hundreds of state banks honest by presenting their notes for gold. Without you, every state bank's paper is its own currency. Your president, Nicholas Biddle, believes he can force a recharter by tightening credit until the country misses you.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 hold at 7	A protected industry borrows, and a borrower is a customer.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 ► push up to 10	Without us there are nine hundred state banks printing nine hundred currencies.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 ► push up to 7	Contracts are worthless if a state can nullify the law behind them.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 ► push up to 8	Someone has to finance the canals, and it will not be the states.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 ◄ pull down to 2	Currency policy decided by whoever shouts loudest is not policy.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

It manifestly seeks to inflame the poor against the rich... It sows, in an unsparing manner, the seeds of jealousy and ill-will against that institution which the law has created.

Daniel Webster, Senate speech answering Jackson's Bank veto, 11 July 1832

Webster is accusing the President of class politics. Was he wrong, and does being right about that win the argument?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

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The Native Nations

"We hold this land by treaty, and the treaty is with the United States."

You are the Cherokee, the Creek, the Choctaw, the Chickasaw and the Seminole, and you hold treaties with the United States. The Cherokee also have a written constitution, a syllabary, a newspaper and their own courts. Georgia has declared Cherokee law void and is giving your land away by lottery. You have a stake in only three sliders. Your case rests on one question: will federal law hold against a state?

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 ◀ pull down to 0	We are farming, we have a constitution and a newspaper, and we are not leaving.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 ▶ push up to 10	Worcester v. Georgia says federal law protects us. Make Georgia obey it.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 ◀ pull down to 2	Every federal road brings settlers who do not stop at the boundary.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

We wish to remain on the land of our fathers. We have a perfect and original right to remain without interruption or molestation. The treaties with us, and laws of the United States made in pursuance of treaties, guarantee our residence and our privileges, and secure us against intruders.

Memorial of the Cherokee Nation to the Congress of the United States, 1830

The Cherokee won in court and still lost the land. Point at the slider that decided it, and name who moved it.

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The Working Men

"Ten hours, hard money, and free schools. We are done being deferential."

You are the Working Men's parties of New York, Philadelphia and Boston: printers, shoemakers, carpenters and mechanics who have just won the vote. You want a ten-hour day, an end to prison for debt, free public schools, and money that holds its value from payday to market day. Every other group is trying to recruit you.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
The Tariff	7 – High duties on manufactured goods	 ◀ pull down to 6	A duty on British cloth is a job in a Philadelphia shop.
The National Bank	7 – A national bank with real power	 ◀ pull down to 2	Paper money issued by bankers pays us in notes that lose value by Friday.
Indian Removal	3 – Pressure to sell, but no force	 no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.
Federal Supremacy	5 – Contested, and nobody wants to test it	 hold at 5	We will take whichever government will actually hear a petition.
Internal Improvements	4 – Only projects that cross state lines	 ► push up to 7	Public works are public jobs, and we need the jobs.
Who Votes	4 – Property bars coming down in some states	 ► push up to 10	A man who owns no land is still a man. Let him vote.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

We claim by the blood of our fathers, shed on our battle-fields in the War of the Revolution, the rights of American Freemen, and no earthly power shall resist our righteous claims with impunity.

The Ten-Hour Circular, issued by the Boston house carpenters, masons and stone cutters, 1835

They are claiming the Revolution, not asking for charity. Why frame a wage demand that way in 1835, and who is it aimed at?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

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