

Coming Together—Nationalism Ascendant

Part A.

In his 1837 lecture entitled "The American Scholar," Ralph Waldo Emerson formulated the American "Intellectual Declaration of Independence": "We have listened too long to the courtly muses of Europe. We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak with our own minds."¹ This project will help you to pull together elements of emerging nationalism and interpret its significance as a turning point in national thought and action in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Section I: Political Developments

In a brief paragraph for each, explain how the following items contributed to a greater sense of independence and nationhood:

- a. Louisiana Purchase
- b. Embargo
- c. War of 1812
- d. John Marshall Supreme Court decisions
 1. *McCulloch v. Maryland*
 2. *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*
 3. *Gibbons v. Ogden*
- e. Adams-Onis Treaty
- f. Monroe Doctrine

Section II: Economic Developments

Create a visual to illustrate how enactment of Henry Clay's American System would help to unify New England, the South, and the West and create a self-sufficient, interdependent country. Be sure to give your poster an appropriate and descriptive title.

Section III: Cultural Developments

- a. *Art*: Find and photocopy at least two examples of each of following and write a brief statement beneath each grouping indicating how it illustrates the theme of nationalism.
 1. Hudson River School (Thomas Cole or Asher Durand, for example)
 2. Rocky Mountain School (Thomas Moran or Albert Bierstadt, for example)
 3. Genre artists (William Sydney Mount or John Quidor, for example)
- b. *Architecture*: Find and photocopy at least two examples of Thomas Jefferson's architecture (Monticello, University of Virginia, Virginia Capitol, for example) and beneath the pictures explain why Jefferson believed Classical Revival was a more appropriate style than Georgian for public buildings in the new United States.

¹ Lewis Mumford, ed., *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Essays and Journals* (Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1968), 47-48.

c. *Literature*: Select any three of the following writers, and for each one identify one of his writings, its theme, and how it illustrates the theme of your project.

1. Ralph Waldo Emerson
2. John Greenleaf Whittier
3. Oliver Wendell Holmes
4. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
5. Nathaniel Hawthorne

Your completed project will serve as a resource in your class discussion of emerging nationalism and its importance to the new nation.

Part B.

A political cartoon allows the creator to present an editorial view in pictures. To conclude this lesson, assume the role of either an American or a Continental cartoonist to create a political cartoon that conveys your perspective on the significance of the growing sense of national identity in the new American nation.