February 11, 2013

Unit 6, Lesson 1, Day 1

Andrew Jackson

*Bell-Ringer: Pick up a blue scholastic at the front of the room. Read pages 6-9, and write a ½ page to 1 page response explaining your opinion on the issue.*

Lesson:

**Introduction**
Over the next two days you are going to be investigating the life and presidency of Andrew Jackson. Think of yourself as an amateur historian trying to unlock some of the mysteries and controversies of the 1820's and 1830's. Using the PBS Andrew Jackson Web site, you will be looking at some short video clips, maps, and primary source documents written over 150 years ago. For each activity you will answer a big-picture question and then report back to class where you will explore the topic more thoroughly. Good luck, and have fun!

**Here's our first mystery: Who was Andrew Jackson?** Today, it is up to you to try to understand who this guy really was. You've been given a short video, a document written by a historian soon after Jackson's death, and a series of portraits that Jackson sat for during his life. You know that Jackson was a controversial president, but that's about it. It's time to see what you can figure out about Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States.

**Task**
Use your skills of historical reasoning to answer the question "Who was Andrew Jackson?"

Process

* Read the excerpt from [James Parton's biography of Andrew Jackson](http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/edu/jamespartondescription.pdf). Use a dictionary and the Andrew Jackson [glossary](http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/glossary/) if necessary, to look up words you don't understand.
* Closely examine each of [Jackson's portraits](http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/features/galleries/portraits/gallery.html?id=portraits&KeepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=610&width=810). What do you see? How does Jackson change over time? What do we know about Jackson based upon these portraits?
* Watch the [Introduction](http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/video/video_pop.html?id=35&KeepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=335&width=500) video.
* Think about the quote and the images and then answer the question "Who was Andrew Jackson?" on your piece of notebook paper.
* Be ready to share your responses with the class.