

Resource 2 (1 of 4)**Creating a Timeline****Event Cards**

	<p>The First Bank of the United States was chartered for a 20-year period. Its most important backer was Alexander Hamilton, Treasury Secretary in the Washington administration. Hamilton, who supported a strong central government, wanted a national bank with significant private ownership to shore up the new nation's finances. Based on his vision, 80% of the bank was owned by private individuals. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, opposed the bank. He believed the nation's economy should be based on agriculture, not industry; he also favored letting states regulate banking.</p>
	<p>Disagreement over the First National Bank accelerated the formation of political parties. Alexander Hamilton's supporters, who favored a strong national government that they believed would help the new nation's industries develop, formed the Federalist Party. Thomas Jefferson's supporters wanted a smaller national government. They wanted banking to be regulated by state governments. These farmers, planters, and artisans formed the Democratic-Republican Party. Although the Founders had hoped that parties, or factions, would not develop, by the time Jefferson was elected president, parties were firmly established.</p>
	<p>The First Bank of the United States had a 20-year charter. When the time came for the bank to get a new charter, Democratic-Republicans (the party of Jefferson) controlled Congress. Congress let the charter expire, killing the First Bank.</p>
	<p>The War of 1812 created financial problems for the United States. The nation was in debt. Inflation—caused in part by new private banks issuing a large number of banknotes—was a serious issue that made it difficult for the government to pay for military operations. The government's ability to borrow money was severely impaired. Chartering a Second Bank of the United States seemed like a solution to the problems the United States was experiencing. The Second Bank was chartered for 20 years.</p>
	<p>In its first two years, the Second Bank of the United States loaned money freely. Many of the people who borrowed from the Bank were land speculators—they bought land with the idea of selling it when the price went up. And prices went up—they sometimes doubled or tripled in a very short time period. The U.S. economy was in a boom period, and fraud occurred regularly at the Bank. Two years after receiving its charter, the Bank's managers realized the Bank was overextended. The Bank began calling in loans, setting off a panic the following year.</p>
	<p>Maryland passed a law taxing banks that were not chartered by the state legislature. The Baltimore branch of the Second Bank of the United States was expected to pay this tax, but it refused. The state sued. The case, which brought the constitutionality of the Bank into question, made its way to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled in <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> that Congress had the power to charter the Bank and a state could not tax it.</p>
	<p>Nicholas Biddle became president of the Second Bank of the United States. Under his leadership, the Bank was generally well-regarded. Many people, including important members of Congress, felt it played an important role in maintaining the economic stability of the nation.</p>

Resource 2 (2 of 4)**Creating a Timeline**

	<p>Andrew Jackson ran for president and won the most electoral votes but did not have a majority; he lost the presidency when the race was decided in the House of Representatives. Speaker of the House Henry Clay reached an agreement to support John Quincy Adams, son of the second president. Jackson saw the outcome as an example of corruption—powerful elites working against the will of the people.</p>
	<p>Andrew Jackson was elected president. During the campaign, the Bank was not an issue. However, Jackson was outraged when he heard rumors that branches of the Bank provided funds for his opponents. Following Jackson’s election, more states began allowing white men who did not own property to vote.</p>
	<p>Nicholas Biddle met with President Jackson. He suggested that the Bank would pay off the national debt by the anniversary of one of Jackson’s military triumphs, the Battle of New Orleans. In exchange, he hoped Jackson would support an early recharter for the Bank. Jackson saw this request as further evidence that the Bank used its influence in a corrupt way, rather than for the nation’s benefit.</p>
	<p>President Jackson sent his first annual message to Congress. In it, he proposed that the Constitution be amended to change the way the president was elected. He stressed that “the will of the majority” ought to be paramount in electing the president, which he saw as the office that could protect the people from powerful elites. Of the Bank, he said, “Both the constitutionality and the expediency of the law creating this Bank are well questioned by a large portion of our fellow citizens, and it must be admitted by all that it has failed in the great end of establishing an uniform and sound currency.” He posed the question of whether the Bank ought to be reconfigured.</p>
	<p>Members of Congress reacted negatively to President Jackson’s first annual message. They saw in his ideas a desire to be a dictator. Senator David Barton of Missouri, a supporter of John Quincy Adams, reminded the president in a speech on the Senate floor that the Constitution had included checks and balances to prevent any one person from becoming too powerful.</p>
	<p>Nicholas Biddle and Henry Clay decided to seek recharter of the Second Bank 4 years early. They believed Jackson would be forced to sign the bill or risk losing the election that fall. Clay would be the opposing candidate in that election. The bill to recharter the Bank passed both houses of Congress, but fell short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto.</p>
	<p>Andrew Jackson decided to veto the Bank bill. In his veto message, he laid out several reasons for opposing the recharter, but he stressed that the Bank advantaged the “rich and powerful” at the expense of “the humble members of society—the farmers, mechanics, and laborers.”</p>

Resource 2 (3 of 4)**Creating a Timeline**

Option A for Creating a Timeline

You are working with your whole class to figure out together when, between 1791 and 1832, your event happened. Use the Timeline Base on this page, your knowledge of the period, and conversation with other groups to figure out when your event occurred. When you think you have the answer, write the date in the first column on your card and tape or pin it to the area designated for the timeline.

Timeline Base

Your group's event occurred sometime between 1791 and 1832. As one set of clues, the dates listed below are the years in which the events described on the cards occurred. Some years may have more than one event.

1791

1800

1811

1816

1818

1823

1824

1829

1832

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Option B for Creating a Timeline

You have been given a list of events that occurred between 1791 and 1832. These events are not listed in chronological order. Use the chart below to order the events by placing the boldface text for each event where you think it belongs. Some years have more than one event.

1791:
1800:
1811:
1816:
1818:
1823:
1824:
1829:
1832: