

The group activity is to outline various aspects of economic growth during the antebellum period using Chapter 14 of Kennedy's *American Pageant*. Divide the topics below among your group members. Each member should read the relevant information in the textbook, as well as the AMSCO text, and make notes for the topic. **With this information, you should create a one-page, typed fact sheet for the members of your group. You should have copies of this fact sheet ready to handout to your group on Monday (D & E mods)/Tuesday (F). Also, you must turn-in a copy to me online at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) by Sunday night.**

In addition to these notes, make sure that your group discusses the questions at the bottom of the page and be prepared to answer these questions in class and on next week's exam.

**TOPICS:** NOTE: Areas that could be combined are annotated below with lines.

- [ Movement West
- [ Population Growth
- [ Immigration: Ireland and Germany
- [ Nativism
- [ Mechanization and new technology
- [ Western Farming
- Women and the Economy (including the cult of domesticity)
- Transportation Revolution
- Market Revolution

**QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION:** (this content will re-appear on exams and writing assignments)

- How does the image of the frontier compare with the reality of pioneer life as described in the chapter?
- Review the push factors that forced Europeans (specifically the Irish and Germans) from their home countries. What were the pull factors that attracted them to the United States? Why was the United States more appealing than other locations for European immigrants?
- Why did Nativists believe that immigrant poverty and Catholicism posed a threat to American democracy?
- How did the change from a subsistence economy to a market economy affect workers, farmers, and women?
- What is the relation between the growing national economy and the regional economic specialization of the Northeast, South, and Midwest? (Did these factors unite and divide the nation?)
- Why was transportation – particularly the canals and railroads – so important in the early stages of industrialization? Would industrialization have occurred more quickly if the federal government had been unimpeded in offering financial assistance to transportation projects?
- Which technological invention was most important for early nineteenth-century economic development?
- Compare the life of factory workers to that of slaves in the South. Is “wage slave” an appropriate description for factory workers?
- To what degree was American industrialization made possible by foreign contributions, such as immigration and “stolen” mill plans?