**Sectionalism**

**How did the differences between the North and the South lead to disagreements?**

The differences in the North and the South in the first half of the 1800s led to increasing [**sectionalism**](http://app.discoveryeducation.com/techbook2:common/abcaf618-afc8-4e50-a336-9a9393942515). Sectionalism means strong loyalty to one region. For many people, sectional loyalty was far stronger than loyalty to the nation as a whole. During these years, Northerners and Southerners had very different priorities for the country, which led to disagreements about public policies.

Northerners, for example, wanted laws and policies that would help the manufacturing industry grow. They wanted the federal government to pay for improvements in roads and other means of transportation that would help them to ship goods around the country. Southerners used rivers to transport goods and had no need for additional roads to take goods to market. Northerners also tended to support [**tariffs**](http://app.discoveryeducation.com/techbook2:common/a0bf88f6-2361-45f7-9e17-e79719d46cc2), which were taxes on imported goods. The effect of tariffs was to make imported goods cost more, so that consumers would be more likely to buy goods manufactured domestically. Because manufacturing was such a large part of the Northern economy, people living in the North supported higher tariffs.

While Northern manufacturers benefited from higher prices on manufactured goods, Southerners were consumers of manufactured goods and did not benefit from the higher prices that tariffs would create. Southerners generally opposed tariffs. Southerners also worried that if the United States placed tariffs on manufactured goods from Great Britain, for example, Great Britain might retaliate by placing tariffs on Southern cotton, making Southern cotton harder to sell. Southern growers would suffer on both ends, paying more for manufactured goods and struggling in competition with cotton overseas.