



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 6

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 806

## The Civil War (1855–1880)

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**Author:**

Theresa Buskey, B.A., J.D.

**Editor:**

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

**Westover Studios Design Team:**

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.**

**Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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# The Civil War (1855–1880)

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## Introduction

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.” Abraham Lincoln spoke these words in 1858, just two years before the beginning of his presidency and the Civil War. They reflected the storm gathering across the nation that would soon empty its heavy clouds on the heads of the Union in one of America’s costliest wars.

The years from 1855 to 1880 were some of the darkest in the history of our nation. In fact, the nation almost ceased to exist during those years. In some cases, the Civil War literally pitted brother against brother. It finally settled the issue of slavery and the permanence of the Union. The years that followed the war were blackened by revenge, greed, and failure to protect the newly freed slaves. The restoration of the Union was as much in question as its survival once was, but again the nation survived. A South without slavery was reintegrated into a stronger United States of America.

This LIFEPAC® will cover the critical years from 1855 to 1880. We will present the increasing hostility and distrust between the North and the South, the events within and those that led to the Civil War, and finally the difficult post-war Reconstruction.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Discuss why and how the North and South split.
2. Name the major events that led up to the Civil War.
3. Describe how secession occurred.
4. List the advantages of both sides in the Civil War.
5. Describe the major battles and the course of the Civil War.
6. Describe Reconstruction.
7. Describe the background and policies of Civil War-era presidents.
8. Describe the post-Civil War corruption.
9. Explain the status of black Americans during and after Reconstruction.



# 1. INCREASING DISUNION

The era of compromise had ended with the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. The Whig Party had fallen apart over the issue of slavery, and the Democratic Party was soon split over it also. Several denominations, including Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians also split between North and South over the issue. The two sides were becoming more hardened and less willing to discuss their positions. The Union was in grave danger.

The rhetoric of the two sides left less and less room for compromise during the last few years of the 1850s. The publicity of the Lincoln-Douglas debates gave a national following to Abraham Lincoln who steadfastly opposed slavery as immoral. The pro-slavery Dred Scott decision by the Supreme Court was denounced in the North as invalid. A financial crash that did not disturb the South as much as the North was seen in their own eyes as proof of the South's superior position.

A whole series of violent incidents marked the last five years before the Civil War. A small civil war broke out in "Bleeding Kansas" over the issue of whether or not it would be a slave state. On the Senate floor, a Southern congressman beat a Northern senator with a cane. John Brown led a raid into Virginia, intending to start up a slave revolt and instead became an abolitionist martyr. The verbal hostility of previous years became increasingly physical.

The South felt threatened by the growing abolitionist movement and political power of the North. The last straw was the election of a Republican president in 1860. The Republican Party was a Northern, anti-slavery party, and the South would not tolerate such a party to rule over them. Eleven states seceded from the Union. The war began in April of 1861 when the Southern army at Charleston fired on a federal outpost named Fort Sumter in their harbor.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Discuss why and how the North and South split.
2. Name the major events that led up to the Civil War.
3. Describe how secession occurred.
4. List the advantages of both sides in the Civil War.
7. Describe the background and policies of Civil War era presidents.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**arsenal** (är' se nal). A building for the manufacture or storage of arms, ammunition, and military equipment.

**disavow** (dis a vou'). To deny responsibility.

**egalitarian** (ē gal i ter' ē an). Marked by a belief in human equality, especially in respect to social, economic, and political rights and privileges.

**exacerbate** (ig zas' er bāt). To make more violent, bitter, or severe.



# AMERICA from 1855 to 1880



**Franklin Pierce**  
1853-1857  
Democratic



**James Buchanan**  
1857-1861  
Democratic



**Abraham Lincoln\***  
1861-1865  
Republican



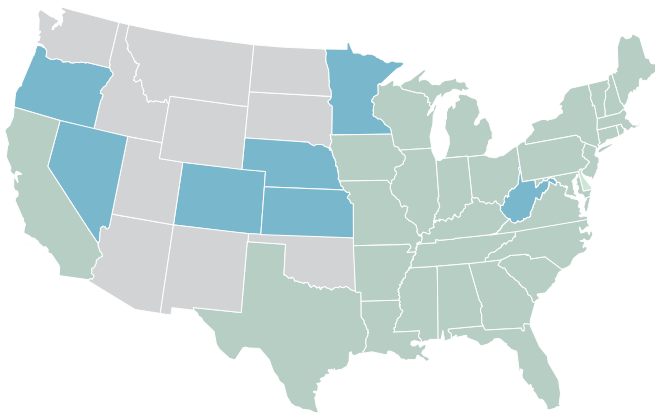
**Andrew Johnson**  
1865-1869  
Republican



**Ulysses S. Grant**  
1869-1877  
Republican



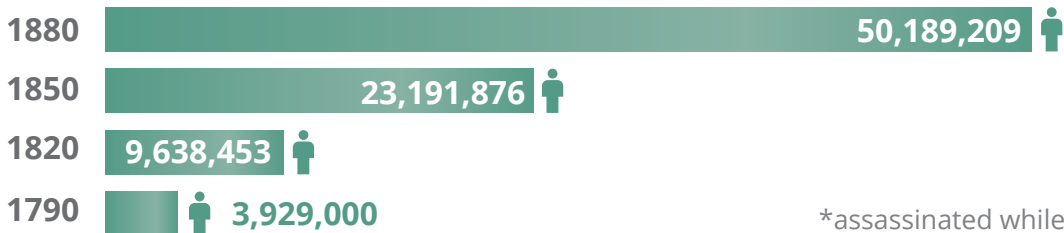
**Rutherford B. Hayes**  
1877-1881  
Republican



## STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

- Minnesota 1858
- Oregon 1859
- Kansas 1861
- West Virginia 1863
- Nevada 1864
- Nebraska 1867
- Colorado 1876

## POPULATION of the United States of America



\*assassinated while in office

**repercussion** (rē per kush' un). A widespread, indirect, or unforeseen effect of an act, action, or event.

**segregate** (seg' re gāt). To separate people of different races by having separate facilities like schools, restaurants, and theaters for each race.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ul/ represents /al/ in about, /el/ in taken, /il/ in pencil, /ol/ in lemon, and /ul/ in circus.

## Division and Violence

**The South.** The slave states of the South in 1855 had a unique culture; they thought of themselves as virtually a separate nation. They believed they had a better way of life than the North. The South clung to older notions of an “aristocratic” class long after it had been abandoned by the rest of the nation. Its population was stagnant, and few immigrants came to the South because there were few opportunities there. The population was more uniformly people of British background whose families had lived in America for generations. A strict class system existed with wealthy planters at the top and slaves at the bottom. Southerners believed this was an ideal society and looked down on the **egalitarian** North.

The South was agricultural. It had little manufacturing. The factories that did exist were smaller and employed fewer people than those in either the North or northwest. The main cash crop was cotton with tobacco, rice, and sugar cane as alternatives in some areas. These crops were very labor intensive and were raised primarily on large plantations by slaves. Only about one-quarter of Southern families owned slaves. Those that did not often practiced subsistence agriculture. Even those without slaves supported the plantation system. Even the poorest white man had status above the black slaves.

By 1855 the South was very concerned about the threat from the North to their way of life. The North’s growing population had given them

complete control of the House of Representatives. The Compromise of 1850 had left the North in control of the Senate. The North had its own political party, the Republicans, which was rapidly gaining popularity and offices. The South equated the Republican Party with the radical abolitionists who spoke of fighting and slave revolts in order to end slavery in the South. The Republican Party pledged not to attack slavery where it existed, but only to prevent its spread. Most southerners did not trust those statements. The Democratic Party still had supporters in both the North and South. Southerners looked to it as one of the last united institutions in the nation.

**Abolitionists.** Anti-slavery sentiment had existed in America for many years, but the serious, organized movement that so frightened the South began in the 1830s. In 1831 William Lloyd Garrison began publishing the anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator*. In 1833 Parliament voted to end slavery in the British West Indies. That same year, the American Anti-Slavery Society was formed with about sixty members. Within five years, it had grown to about 250,000 people. Hundreds of other societies devoted to the end of human bondage were formed all over the North in the late 1830s. Many of these people were Christians putting feet on their faith. These organizations worked by lobbying, organizing rallies, printing literature, publishing stories, and petitioning the government.



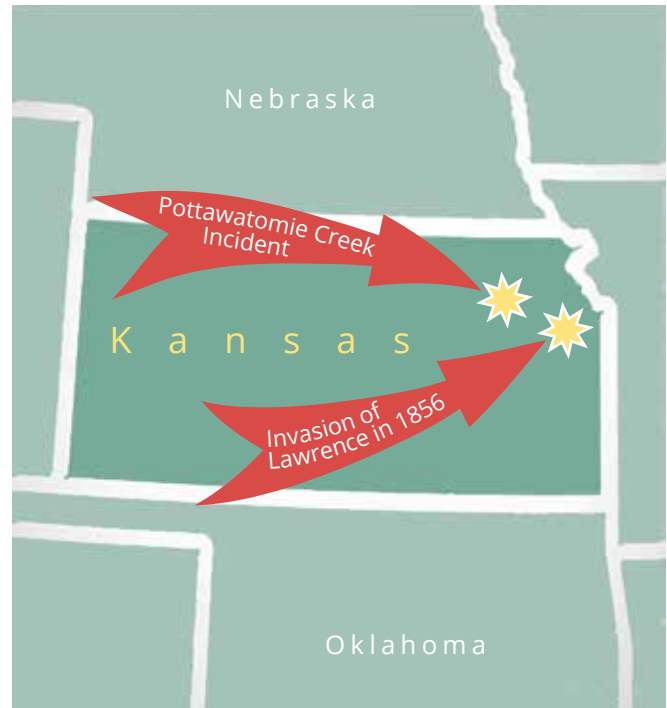


its first legislature in 1855, Missouri pro-slavers crossed the border and voted illegally, giving the pro-slavery people control of the new government. The free-soil supporters formed their own illegal government at Topeka to counter it. A pro-slavery “posse” invaded the anti-slavery town of Lawrence in 1856 to arrest members of the illegal government, looting and burning the town. A violent (and possibly insane) abolitionist named John Brown butchered five pro-slavery men in Potawatomie Creek in response.

By 1857 Kansas had enough people to apply for statehood. The majority of the population was anti-slavery, but the legislature was under the control of the pro-slavery group. The state had to vote on the issue of slavery to comply with “popular sovereignty,” so the legislature created a shifty document known as the Lecompton Constitution. The people were allowed to vote only on the constitution, with or without slavery. But the constitution itself protected slavery. Even if the people voted for it to be free, Kansas would still be a slave state. The free-soil people boycotted the election, and the constitution passed with slavery. It was sent to Washington as the basis for admitting Kansas to the Union.

**The Caning of Sumner.** Charles Sumner was a radical abolitionist member of the Senate. In May of 1856, he delivered a scathing two-day speech on “The Crime against Kansas.” His colorful rhetoric was very insulting to the South. He also made some vulgar insults against South Carolina’s Senator Andrew Butler. The speech was not well received by his Northern colleagues. Even William Seward, abolitionist leader of Congress, did not approve of his language.

Sumner’s speech was considered a personal insult by Congressman Preston Brooks, a relative of Butler’s. He decided to deal with the senator personally. Brooks decided against challenging him to a duel, since he believed Sumner to be his social inferior, and it was likely the



| Bleeding Kansas

northerner would refuse. Instead, he decided to beat him to redress the insult.

On May 22nd Brooks walked into the Senate chamber and approached Sumner, who was sitting at his desk. He raised his cane and proceeded to beat the helpless man about the head and shoulders until the cane broke. Finally, someone stopped Brooks, and Sumner was carried away unconscious.

What was remarkable about the incident was the difference between the reactions in the North and the South. People in the North saw it as a use of force to stop anti-slavery speech, and it drew a great deal of abolitionist publicity. Sumner was voted back into his seat in the Senate, even though it was three years before he was well enough to serve. In the South, Brooks was hailed as a hero. Hundreds of people sent him new canes to replace the one he had broken. His constituents voted him back into the House of Representatives after he resigned because of the incident. The difference in the reactions highlighted a dangerous separation between the two sides.

**Election of 1856.** In 1856 the Democrats managed to unite behind one candidate, James Buchanan. Most of the potential candidates for president were tainted by the Kansas-Nebraska Act and could not gain the support of Northern Democrats. Buchanan had been acting as the American minister in Great Britain from 1852–1856 and was therefore “safe” on the issue. Buchanan avoided the slavery issue as much as possible and argued for the preservation of the Union.

Buchanan was opposed by the Republican candidate John Frémont, called “the Pathfinder” for his work mapping routes and sites for forts in the west. The Republicans campaigned on the issue of no slavery in the territories. “Free soil, free men, and Frémont” was their slogan. Millard Fillmore was a candidate for the Know-Nothing Party and also had the support of the dying Whig Party. The two-year-old Republican Party made a remarkable showing, winning eleven states, all in the North. However, the still barely unified Democrats won the election, putting James Buchanan in the White House.

**James Buchanan.** James Buchanan (1791–1868) was the only U.S. president never to marry. He entered the White House with impressive credentials. He had been born to immigrant parents in Pennsylvania and became a prosperous lawyer in that state. He began his political career as a Federalist, but eventually became a strong Democrat supporter of Andrew Jackson. He had served in the Pennsylvania legislature and as a soldier in the War of 1812. He had served in both the House and Senate in Washington. He was secretary of state under James Polk and represented America in both Russia and Britain.



| James Buchanan, the Only President Never to Marry

Buchanan lacked strong convictions on the issue of slavery and tended to be pro-Southern in his policies. He did not have the fortitude or the foresight to deal with the rising divisions in the nation. When the Lecompton Constitution was presented to Congress, Buchanan backed it without quibbling about its origins. Stephen Douglas showed that he was made of sterner stuff. He had proposed popular sovereignty for the territories, and he meant it to be just that! He successfully opposed the admission of Kansas under the dubious document. Instead, it was sent back for a vote on the whole constitution. The anti-slavery voters in Kansas rejected it. But with the ongoing conflict, it was not until 1861 that the state was finally able to organize a genuine constitution and be admitted to the Union.



### Complete these sentences.

- 1.1 Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ beat Senator \_\_\_\_\_ with a cane over a speech the senator made.
- 1.2 The three candidates in the 1856 election were: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.3 One of the last united political institutions in 1855 was the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.
- 1.4 The Lecompton Constitution was supported in Washington by \_\_\_\_\_, but was successfully opposed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5 The anti-slavery movement seriously took off in the decade of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.6 The main source of livelihood in the South was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.7 Buchanan’s policies tended to favor the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.8 Pro-slavery partisans looted and burned the town of \_\_\_\_\_, Kansas in 1856.
- 1.9 By 1857 most of the people in Kansas were \_\_\_\_\_ slavery.
- 1.10 The speech that got Charles Sumner into trouble was entitled “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ murdered five pro-slavery men in Potawatomie Creek in response to the invasion of Lawrence.
- 1.12 The Republican slogan in 1856 was \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer these questions.

- 1.13 What made the South think the North was a threat to their way of life?

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- 1.14 How had the Democrats and Whigs dealt with the slavery issue before 1855?

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1.15 What was wrong with the Lecompton Constitution?

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1.16 Why did Kansas become known as “Bleeding Kansas”?

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1.17 Why was Buchanan chosen as the Democratic candidate in 1856?

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**Dred Scott Decision.** The tense situation in 1857 was **exacerbated** by the decision of the Supreme Court in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. Dred Scott was a slave who had lived for five years in the North with his master. He sued for his freedom on the basis of his long residence on free soil. It was a test case financed by abolitionists. It eventually reached the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of 1857 had nine justices, five from the South. Seven of the justices were Democrats, and two were Republicans. The Chief Justice, Roger Taney, was a southerner and wrote the opinion of the court. The court ruled that Scott was not a citizen and could not sue in federal court. That is all the court needed to rule to end the case; unfortunately, it went further. Taney ruled that Scott was not free. He was property protected under the Fifth Amendment. It was therefore unconstitutional for the federal government to bar slavery *anywhere* in the United States!

The **repercussions** of the decision were vast. At one stroke, the Supreme Court claimed all of the country to be slave territory. Popular sovereignty no longer applied because people could not vote to keep constitutionally-protected slaves out of their states. All of the compromises to limit the spread of slavery were in one swoop declared unconstitutional. The court

made a political decision based on its own prejudices.

The South rejoiced at the decision. The North swore to defy it, justifiably believing that it was a political decision by a Southern-dominated court that went beyond the issues of the case. Northern Democrats who supported popular sovereignty were now forced farther away from their Southern counterparts who supported the Dred Scott decision. Southerners were alarmed by the voices in the North that threatened to defy the courts and deny slave owners protection for their “property.” The decision widened the North-South rift still further.

**Panic of 1857.** The nation was struck with one of its periodic depressions in 1857. Businesses had over-extended themselves during a boom time by speculating in land and railroads. The collapse closed thousands of businesses and caused widespread unemployment. It hit the manufacturing and grain-growing sections of the nation the hardest. The South rode out the panic comfortably because of the high international demand for cotton. Southerners saw the entire depression as proof of their superior way of life.

The Panic of 1857 created a clamor for higher tariffs in the North. Tariffs had been lowered in order to please the South. Northerners resented what they saw as a Southern blockade

on Northern prosperity. Thus, the depression contributed to the division in the nation.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debates.** Democratic Senator Stephen Douglas was up for re-election in 1858. His Republican opponent was a tall, thin, back-country lawyer named Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln challenged Douglas to a series of debates which were held all over Illinois. Because of the prominence of Douglas and the growing reputation of Lincoln, the debates drew nationwide attention.

Douglas had a substantial advantage in the election. He was a well-known figure with several years of experience in Washington and an excellent orator. In Illinois he had redeemed himself for the Kansas-Nebraska Act by his opposition to the Lecompton Constitution. Illinois still generally favored popular sovereignty which was Douglas' primary position. In contrast, Lincoln had only served one term in the House of Representatives at the national level and had a high, thin voice. His Republican party was considered a threat to the Union in the South. Northern voters took that into consideration.

However, Lincoln was passionate about his subject and addressed the issues in clear, honest terms. He openly stated that he believed slavery was morally wrong. He did not believe it could be constitutionally ended where it already existed, but the spread of it should be prevented at all costs. He challenged Douglas on the issue of popular sovereignty, saying that slavery was an issue for the entire nation, not just the people who happened to move to a territory before a specific date. Moreover, Douglas and popular sovereignty denied the moral issues entirely, treating slavery and slaves as just another choice for voters. Lincoln also asked how Douglas could support popular sovereignty in the light of the Dred Scott decision, which stripped it of all constitutional support.

Douglas responded with a mix of politics and reasoning. He pointedly poked fun at Lincoln's



| The Capture of John Brown, Depicted by an Early Sketch Artist

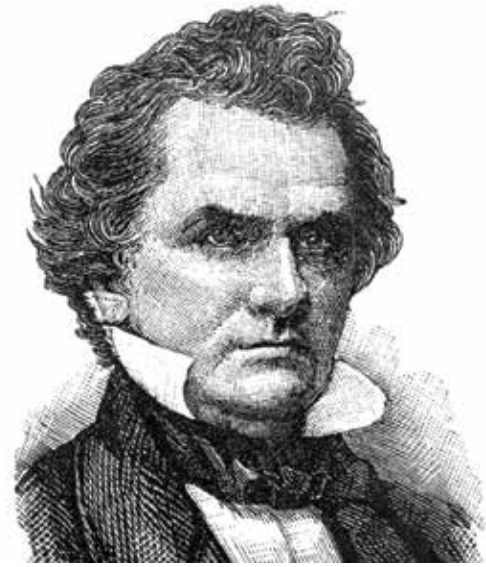
lack of political experience and his background as a working man. He accused Lincoln of favoring equality between blacks and whites (a charge which Lincoln refuted). Douglas also argued that even with the Dred Scott decision, popular sovereignty still had force. He said that slavery could not exist without state laws to protect slaves as property. Therefore, when states refused to pass such laws, slavery could not safely exist there, even if constitutional.

Douglas won the senate race, but the debates cost him his chance at the presidency. Newspapers had printed the texts of the debates all over the nation. Southern voters read about Douglas' proposal for states to annul Dred Scott by not passing the state laws needed to protect slavery. That proposal cost Douglas his support in the South. Lincoln was upset by the loss but he accepted it as "a slip, not a fall." The debates had made him a national Republican figure.

**Harper's Ferry Raid.** After the murders in Kansas at Potawatomie Creek, John Brown and much of his family had fled to Canada. From there, he planned a grand attack on slavery. His scheme was to invade the South, seize weapons, lead the slaves in a revolt, and set up



| Abolitionist John Brown



| Stephen Douglas

stronghold sanctuaries for blacks in the South. From these strongholds, he would organize an army to overrun the South. He chose to begin by attacking the federal **arsenal** at Harper's Ferry, Virginia.

In October of 1859, Brown and about twenty men captured the arsenal, taking several hostages. They held the building for over a day and killed several people. The blacks that Brown had expected to rally to his aid never came. Instead, a detachment of federal troops arrived under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee. Brown was quickly captured and most of his men with him.

John Brown's trial for treason drew phenomenal national attention. Brown behaved in a brave and dignified manner during the trial. His courageous devotion to freedom made many abolitionists overlook his violent nature and methods. Brown showed many signs of insanity, and it would have been wise to confine him to an asylum. Instead he was quickly tried, found guilty, and hanged. His death made him a martyr for the anti-slavery cause.

Brown gained a reputation in death that he never had in life. Abolitionists ignored his past

and hailed him as a saint. There were demonstrations throughout the North on the day he was executed. A popular song was written about him that became a marching song in the Civil War. It ran, in part:

*John Brown's body lies a-moul'ring  
in the grave,  
His soul is marching on.*

The raid made the South even more suspicious of the North. Many knowledgeable moderates condemned Brown and his methods, but the South saw the public support for this murderous man and believed that was the direction the North was headed itself. The division grew.

**The Election of 1860.** The Democratic Party finally split over the issue of slavery in 1860. The party was unable to name a candidate at their first convention. A second convention was held and the Southern states walked out, as they had at the first. The Northern Democrats then nominated Stephen Douglas. Douglas ran on a platform of popular sovereignty and strict enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act. The Southern Democrats met at their own convention and nominated John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky. Breckinridge campaigned on the

basis of enforcing the Dred Scott Decision. To add to the confusion, a group of Know-Nothings and Whigs formed a middle-of-the-road Constitutional Union Party and nominated John Bell of Tennessee.

The Republicans had a clear chance at victory with their opposition divided three ways. They nominated Abraham Lincoln over the better-known William Seward because Lincoln was less controversial. The Republicans also created a platform to keep themselves from being a

one-issue party. The platform included: protective tariffs for the North, federal money for internal improvements for the west, free homesteads for farmers, a Northern railroad across the nation for the northwest, protection of the rights of immigrants, and its primary stand, no extension of slavery into the territories. Lincoln won the election, taking almost all the electoral votes in the North along with Oregon and California. However, in the popular vote he won just under 40%, making him a minority president.



### Answer these questions.

**1.18** Why did Dred Scott argue he should be free?

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**1.19** What did John Brown attack in 1859?

---

**1.20** Who commanded the troops that captured Brown?

---

**1.21** What caused the Panic of 1857?

---

**1.22** What made Lincoln a national figure?

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**1.23** What was the only necessary part of the ruling in the Dred Scott case?

---

**1.24** What was the unnecessary and controversial part of the Dred Scott decision?

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**1.25** How did Douglas defend the idea of popular sovereignty after Dred Scott?

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**1.26** What happened to John Brown after his raid into Virginia?

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**1.27** Name the candidates and their parties in the 1860 election.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.28** What was the constitutional effect of the Dred Scott decision?

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.29** What was Lincoln's opinion of slavery and what to do about it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1.30** What happened to John Brown's reputation after his death?

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.31** What were the proposals of the Republican platform in 1860?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.32** Why did each of the following increase the South's desire to separate from the North?

Dred Scott a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Panic of 1857 b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John Brown's raid c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Secession

**The South Secedes.** There were four long months between the time Lincoln was elected in November of 1860 and the day he became president in March of 1861. The South took full advantage of the lull. Convinced that its unique and superior culture could not survive under a hated Republican president, South Carolina called a special constitutional convention in December of 1860. The Convention voted to secede from the Union. Six other states from the deep South quickly followed suit.

The seven states met together in February of 1861 and formed their own government. They called themselves the Confederate States of America or the Confederacy. They elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as president of the new “nation.” The capital was established at Montgomery, Alabama. (It was later moved to Richmond, Virginia when that state seceded.)

President James Buchanan, with his pro-South advisors, was no match for the crisis. He made several speeches that accomplished nothing. He essentially said that a state could not secede, but that the federal government had no power to stop it if it did! He refused to strengthen the garrisons at federal forts in the South, as was recommended by the elderly General Winfield Scott. He did try to send reinforcements to Fort Sumter in South Carolina, but the effort was inadequate and the troops were forced to return.

**Crittenden Compromise.** As the crises matured, several attempts were made to work out a compromise. The most promising was a series of constitutional amendments proposed by Senator John Crittenden of Kentucky. The Crittenden Compromise would have guaranteed the protection of slavery where it already existed. It would have barred slavery in the territories north of the Missouri Compromise line of 36° 30' and protected it in all territories, present or future, south of it. Any states formed in the Southern territories would have popular



| A Modern Photo of Fort Sumter

sovereignty on the subject. The compromise failed because Lincoln was loyal to his beliefs and his party’s platform. He refused to consider allowing slavery in the territories. It might have failed anyway, given the control the radicals had in the Confederate States.

In the end, the South seceded without any opposition from Buchanan. Most southerners believed the North would never fight. The Northern factories needed Southern cotton too badly. Southern pride would not allow them to consider the possibility that the factory workers, shopkeepers, and fishermen of the North could put up any serious opposition. Pride went before the fall.

**Abraham Lincoln.** Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) was one of the greatest men ever to occupy the presidency. He was born to a poor family in Kentucky. His family later moved to Indiana and then Illinois. Abe, as he was known, was a strong man who spent most of his youth working with his hands. His political propaganda called him the “Rail Splitter” for all the logs he had split over the years to make fences. He had very little formal education (maybe a year) yet he loved to read, often walking miles

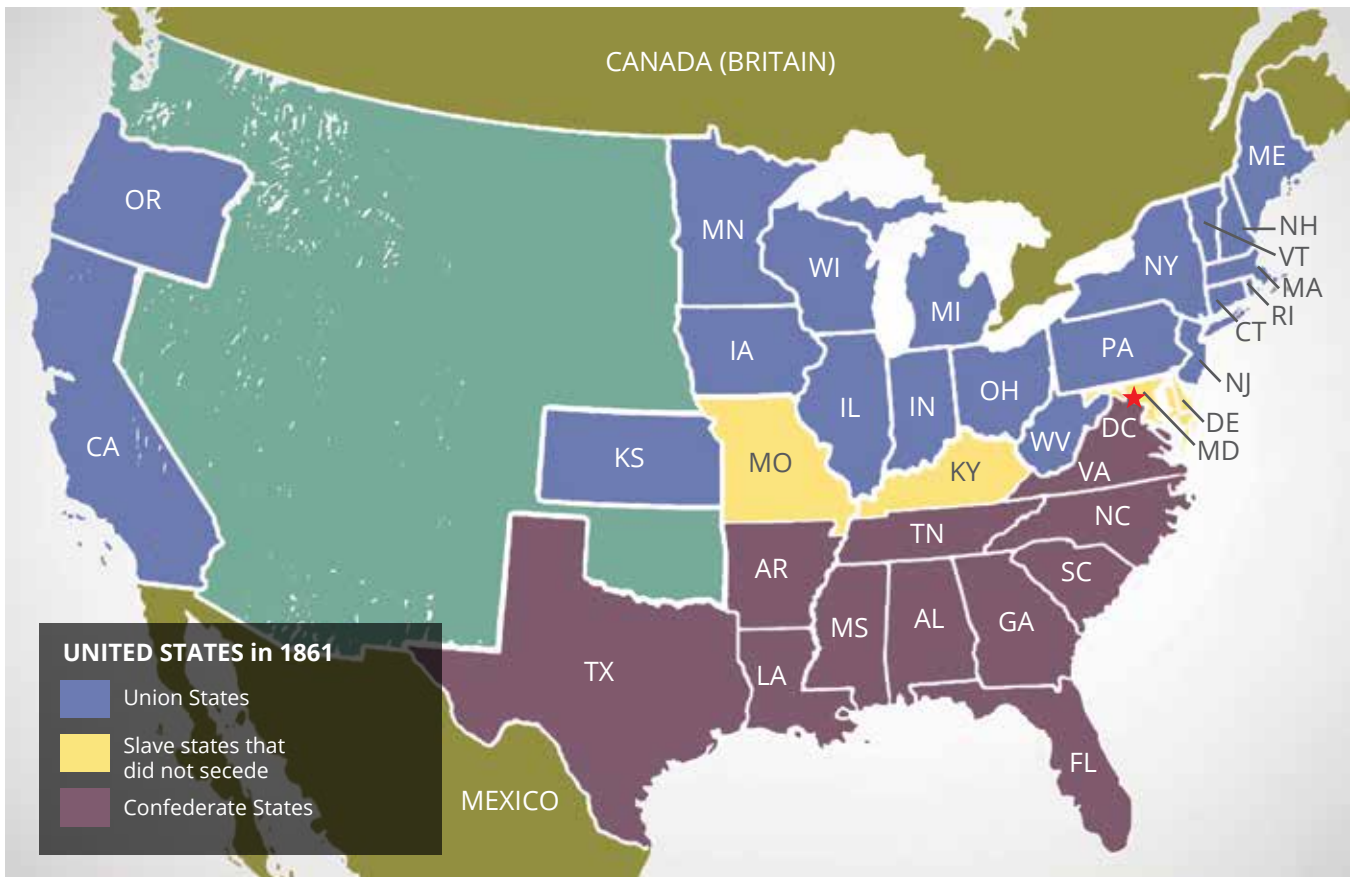
to borrow a book. He failed in business and eventually got into law and politics in Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln entered the presidency with deceptively poor qualifications. He had served four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives and one in the U.S. House. Those were his only political qualifications. Yet, Lincoln had also been a popular Whig and Republican speaker in Illinois. He knew how to organize and administer political power. He had learned how to express himself in speech-making and in the courtroom in a way that persuaded his listeners. He had a reputation for integrity that earned him the nickname “Honest Abe.” He had a strong will and the strength of convictions. Moreover, he was no Buchanan. He was willing to put force behind his beliefs and would accept the consequences.

Lincoln was sworn in on March 3, 1861. He tried to steer a moderate path in his inaugural

address. He denied any intention of interfering with slavery where it already existed. There would be no conflict unless the South started one. He was still hoping to avoid a war, but he made it clear he would defend the Union. The South could not simply pull out because it did not like the outcome of a fairly contested election, for that made a mockery of democracy.

**Fort Sumter.** Fort Sumter was one of the few Southern federal forts still in Union hands when Lincoln became president. It was located at the mouth of the harbor for the city of Charleston, South Carolina. The fort’s commander, Robert Anderson, steadfastly refused Southern demands to surrender his command, but his supplies were running low. Lincoln knew that sending reinforcements to the fort would touch off a strong reaction in that state. In the end, he compromised. He sent a boatload of provisions, but no new troops.



South Carolina was notified of the delivery of the provisions. Its leaders chose to interpret it as an aggressive act. Before the relief ship could arrive, the Carolinians decided to act. On April 12, 1861, under the command of General Pierre Beauregard, the cannons in the city opened fire on the fort. The garrison surrendered the next day.

The attack on Fort Sumter was the official beginning of the Civil War. It united the North in favor of war. Lincoln immediately called for volunteers to put down the rebellion. More men responded than the army could supply. Lincoln also suspended civil rights in areas that had Southern sympathizers. He ordered a blockade of Southern ports, and he ordered federal funds spent to support the war without Congressional approval (Congress was not in session). These actions were arguably unconstitutional, but they were in line with the

extraordinary powers used by presidents in wartime. Without a strong, immediate action, there might not have been any country to uphold the Constitution.

The greatest area of concern was the border states. Four of these, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia, seceded once they realized the North would fight to force them to stay in the Union. The northwest counties of Virginia did not vote for secession. The people in these counties seceded from Virginia and formed a new state that was loyal to the Union. West Virginia was admitted to the United States in 1863. The other border/slave states, Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware, stayed in the Union. However, Maryland was kept in by a declaration of martial law by Lincoln. He could not risk having Washington D.C. cut off from the rest of the nation. Thus, the sides were drawn—eleven to twenty-three.



### Complete these sentences.

- 1.33** The Southern attack on \_\_\_\_\_ began the Civil War.
- 1.34** Seven states seceded after the election of Republican candidate \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.35** After the war began, \_\_\_\_\_ more states seceded.
- 1.36** The most serious attempt to prevent the secession of the South was the \_\_\_\_\_ Compromise.
- 1.37** \_\_\_\_\_ was president of the United States when the Confederacy was organized.
- 1.38** The slave states that stayed in the Union were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.39** Because of his integrity, Abraham Lincoln was nicknamed \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.40** \_\_\_\_\_ was the first state to secede.

- 1.41** The actions taken by Lincoln as commander-in-chief when the war began included:
- a. \_\_\_\_\_, b. \_\_\_\_\_,
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ and, d. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.42** Lincoln’s national political experience was limited to one term in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.43** Lincoln sent \_\_\_\_\_ to Fort Sumter in 1861.
- 1.44** The Confederate states elected \_\_\_\_\_ as president.
- 1.45** The two Confederate capitals were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.46** The western counties of Virginia formed a new state called \_\_\_\_\_ and joined the Union in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Facing Off

**Northern Advantages.** The North had significant advantages in the Civil War. Money was needed to pursue a war, and the North had four-fifths of the available capital in the nation. The North also had a larger population, 22 million to the South’s 9 million (including the 3.5 million slaves). The North had more of the raw materials needed for war, such as coal and iron. Moreover, the North had more factories, farms, and railroads.

Railroads were vital, being used to move troops and supplies. The South was hampered because it never had the resources to build tracks during the war. In order to repair damaged tracks or lay new ones, they had to tear up old ones.

The North controlled the navy and had more ships for moving supplies, so the Union was able to blockade the South. This cut off imports of badly needed manufactured goods. It prevented the South from selling its cotton, which robbed them of their primary income. The blockade eventually led to severe shortages of basic supplies to the South, which hampered their war effort. While the South was cut off from trade with Europe, the Union was not.

Throughout the war, the North was able to sell grain and purchase military equipment by trading with Europe.

The Northern armies were eventually augmented by black soldiers. Black men formed one-tenth of the total Union troops by the end



| A Northern Railroad Train, One of the Union’s Advantages

of the war. They served in **segregated** companies, led by white officers. They were paid less than white soldiers for part of the war. The South refused to recognize them as prisoners of war, treating them as escaped slaves. In spite of this, black volunteers fought courageously and were a dependable asset to the Union. On the other hand, the South would not even consider employing black soldiers until the very last, desperate days of the war.

The North had the advantage of an established government led by a strong president. Lincoln was an excellent leader whose authority was sustained by a government backed with eighty years of success. By contrast, the South had no united history to sustain them. Their entire government was built on the idea of states' rights and secession from another government. Jefferson Davis had difficulty maintaining his authority over the independent-minded Southern states.

Problems with central authority and the blockade made it difficult for the South to raise money for war. The states' rights Confederacy did not favor taxes, and the banks had little to offer in loans. The Confederate government printed money to pay its bills, which pushed up prices to many, many times what they were at the beginning of the war. The inflation added to Southern difficulties in prosecuting a war.

**Southern Advantages.** The South had some of the advantages the original thirteen colonies did during the War for Independence. In terms of ideals, the Rebels were fighting for independence and protecting their way of life. The North initially did not fight to end slavery, but only to preserve the Union by forcing the South to stay. Strategically, the South only had to survive to win. Southerners could fight a defensive war, protecting their homes and land. The North had to conquer the entire South and force it back into the Union. A simple draw would be a Confederate victory.

The South also had better quality officers than were available in the North. The gentlemen of



| Black Union Soldiers

the South had a long tradition of military training and service. Robert E. Lee, for example, had been an officer in the U.S. Army when the war began. He resigned when his home state of Virginia seceded and rose quickly to become the leader of the Confederate army. Other talented Southern officers included Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, James Longstreet, and Jeb Stuart.

By contrast, the North did not have as many high-quality military leaders. The Northern generals seemed to be either overly cautious or foolhardy. Lincoln changed his commanders several times before he found a successful general in Ulysses S. Grant.

The Confederacy began the war with high hopes. They sincerely believed in the superiority of their way of life and their people. They did not believe the North would fight. Even if they did, no Northern shopkeeper could stand in a fight with a Southern gentleman. They expected that the North and Europe needed Southern cotton. If the North proved to be stubborn, Europe would be likely to intervene on behalf of the South to protect its own textile industries.

**Reactions Abroad.** The best chance for the Confederacy lay in gaining support from the nations of Europe. The monarchs of Europe had good reason to want to see the United



| On July 29, 1862, Hull “No. 290” steamed out of the Mersey from the Laird’s Birkenhead Yard and into Civil War history. Soon taking her given name, ALABAMA, the Commerce Raider set out on a tour with devastating results for the American North’s commercial shipping interests the world over. The screw sloop-of-war proved to be a fast, capable ship under the command of Captain Raphael Semmes, capturing or destroying 69 ships in less than two years.

States divided. The failure of the American democratic experiment would strengthen the hand of the European aristocrats. These same aristocrats had a natural preference for the class-conscious culture of the South. Moreover, an independent Confederacy would be a supplier for European factories and a purchaser of European goods without the protective tariffs of the North.

English manufacturers were particularly dependent upon Southern cotton to supply their spindles and looms. The blockade threw thousands of textile workers out of their jobs. However, at the same time, the North was supplying much of Britain’s wheat and corn. Britain would have had to risk its food supply if it supported the Confederacy for the sake of its cotton supply. Also, cotton suppliers in India and Egypt stepped up production to fill the need. Union demands for war goods also helped relieve employment problems. Thus, Britain was never pushed to intervene by the problems in its economy.

Britain did come very close to war over an incident in the fall of 1861, however. An American

warship stopped a British steamer, the *Trent*, leaving the West Indies. Two passengers were arrested and taken back to the U.S. The men were Confederate diplomats enroute to Europe. The British government was furious over this seizure of civilian passengers and threatened war. The incident was settled by releasing the men along with a U.S. statement **disavowing** their capture.

There was nevertheless a strong pro-Confederacy attitude in the British government at the beginning of the war. The government considered recognizing the Confederate nation especially when the South garnered a string of victories early in the war. Many ships for the Confederate navy were built in Britain during the war. Careful Union diplomacy limited this activity. What destroyed all hope of both British and French aid to the Confederacy was the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862. Once the war was reframed as a fight against slavery, neither of the great powers of Europe would raise their hands to aid the South. Thus, the aid the U.S. had during the Revolution was denied to the Confederacy in the Civil War.



Put an “N” beside the factors that were an advantage for the North and an “S” beside those that were an advantage for the South.

1.47 \_\_\_\_\_ ideals at the beginning of the war

1.48 \_\_\_\_\_ population

1.49 \_\_\_\_\_ manufacturing

1.50 \_\_\_\_\_ military personnel

1.51 \_\_\_\_\_ strategic position

1.52 \_\_\_\_\_ government

1.53 \_\_\_\_\_ navy

1.54 \_\_\_\_\_ hope for foreign allies

1.55 \_\_\_\_\_ black soldiers

1.56 \_\_\_\_\_ capital

1.57 \_\_\_\_\_ military tradition

1.58 \_\_\_\_\_ railroads

1.59 \_\_\_\_\_ farms

**Answer these questions.**

1.60 What effect did the blockade have on the South? \_\_\_\_\_

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1.61 Why did the nations of Europe tend to favor the South? \_\_\_\_\_

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1.62 What did the North provide for Britain that offset the loss of Southern cotton?

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1.63 What happened in the *Trent* incident? \_\_\_\_\_

---



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1.64 What ended all hope of European aid to the Confederacy? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |                       |  |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ John Brown      | a. Confederate general                                   |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ James Buchanan  | b. violent abolitionist martyr                           |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ Abraham Lincoln | c. beaten by a Congressman in the U.S. Senate            |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ Stephen Douglas | d. offered a compromise after secession                  |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ Charles Sumner  | e. first Republican presidential candidate               |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Dred Scott      | f. slave who lived in the North and sued for his freedom |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ Robert E. Lee   | g. U.S. president when the Confederacy began             |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Jefferson Davis | h. president of the Confederacy                          |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ John Frémont    | i. his election prompted Southern secession              |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ John Crittenden | j. won the 1858 senate race in Illinois                  |

**Choose the correct word(s)** to complete each sentence (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011** Twisted, illegal version of popular sovereignty produced the pro-slavery \_\_\_\_\_ Constitution in Kansas.
- 1.012** The \_\_\_\_\_ Party opposed the spread of slavery but agreed it could not be abolished where it already existed.
- 1.013** The Civil War began when Confederate forces fired on \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.014** John Brown was executed for his attack on the arsenal at \_\_\_\_\_ , Virginia.
- 1.015** The \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Debates centered on the issue of slavery and made Abraham Lincoln a national figure.

- 1.016** The Supreme Court declared that slavery was legal in all of the U.S. in the \_\_\_\_\_ Decision.
- 1.017** The South had little difficulty with the Panic of 1857 because of the high price of \_\_\_\_\_ on the international market.
- 1.018** The era of compromise was ended by the \_\_\_\_\_ Act.
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ was the first state to secede.
- 1.020** Any hope of European aid to the Confederacy was ended by the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Complete these items** (each answer, 3 points).

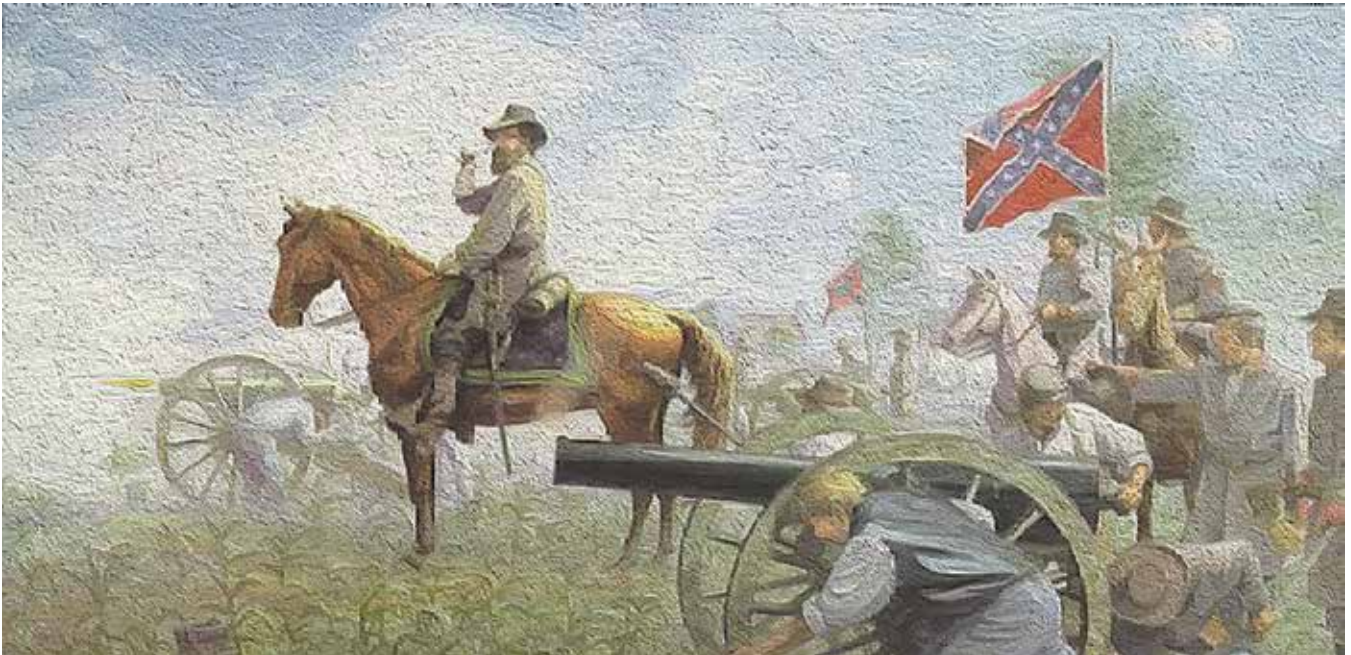
- 1.021** Name four advantages the North had in the Civil War.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.022** Name two advantages the South had at the beginning of the war.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.023** Give two reasons why the nations of Europe might have supported the South.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.024** Name two border/slave states that did not secede.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write true or false on the blank** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln believed that the U.S. could not continue to be part slave and part free.
- 1.026** \_\_\_\_\_ Britain almost went to war with the Union after two Confederate officials were arrested on the British steamer the *Trent*.
- 1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ The South received a tremendous number of immigrants in the years leading up to the Civil War.
- 1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ The Democratic Party split in two in 1860.
- 1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ James Buchanan did little to solve the divisions in the nation.

- 1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ Blacks in the Union army served in segregated units, usually with white officers.
- 1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ The blockade of the South hurt textile manufacturers in Britain.
- 1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln was a well-educated man with many years of national experience when he became president.
- 1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln believed slavery was morally wrong.
- 1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ The American abolitionist movement began its serious growth in the 1830s.

80 100	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials	date
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