

# Chapter 15 Source Activities

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT 1

STUDENT BACKGROUND SHEET

## Reading #1 - "The Road to War"

In the decades before the Civil War, tensions between North and South simmered steadily. The Compromise of 1850 had settled some sectional differences, but big problems remained.

- Southerners still wanted to bring slavery into the western territories.
- Enforcement of the new, stronger Fugitive Slave Act—forcing escaped blacks back to bondage—angered Northerners.
- Abolitionists (people who wanted an end to slavery) waged a propaganda war and interfered when fugitive slaves were captured. This, of course, angered Southerners.

135,000 SETS, 270,000 VOLUMES SOLD.

## UNCLE TOM'S CABIN



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SUPERB ILLUSTRATED EDITION, IN 1 VOL., WITH 133 ENGRAVINGS.  
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## FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL!

**HON. HENRY WILSON**

Will address the citizens on

**Thursday Evening, April 3,**

At the

At 7 o'clock, on the all-engrossing topics of the day—the FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL, the pro-slavery action of the National Government and the general aspect of the Slavery question.

Let every man and woman, without distinction of sect or party, attend the meeting and bear a testimony against the system which fills the prisons of a free republic with men whose only crime is a love of freedom—which strikes down the habeas corpus and trial by jury, and converts the free soil of Massachusetts into hunting ground for the Southern kidnapers.

**Ashby, March 29, 1851.**

White & Foster's Steam Press—5000 Impressions per hour—Spring Lane, Boston.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin

In 1852 the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* swept the country. It vividly portrayed the horrors of slavery—even though its writer, Harriet Beecher Stowe, had almost no firsthand knowledge of the topic. The novel greatly increased antislavery, anti-South feelings among Northerners. Southerners saw the book as an inaccurate, twisted attack on their way of life. Stowe had hoped the novel would promote a peaceful end to slavery. Instead, it divided the nation even more.

(continued)



Focus on U.S. History:  
*The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

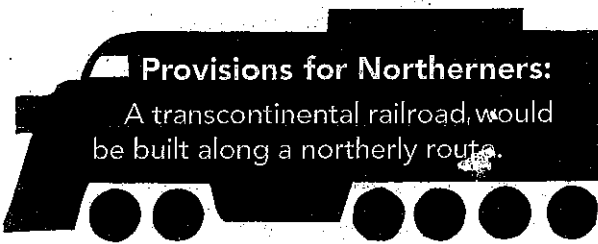
**UNIT 1**  
**STUDENT BACKGROUND SHEET**

## The Road to War *(continued)*

### The Kansas-Nebraska Act

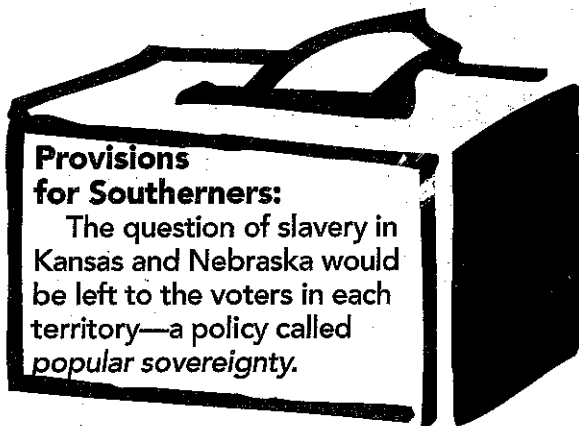
North-South differences ran into each other head-on in Kansas. Both proslavery and antislavery settlers were pouring into this territory. It was time to set up a territorial government. Northern interests struck a deal with Southerners.

The Missouri Compromise had already banned slavery in the Kansas-Nebraska area. So, passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 totally outraged Northerners. Many switched to a radical antislavery stance. The newly formed Republican party, based on an antislavery policy, attracted members throughout the East and the Old Northwest (states like Ohio and Illinois, where the Northwest Ordinance had banned slavery since 1787).



### "Bleeding Kansas"

Proslavery and antislavery forces turned Kansas into a battleground. "Border ruffians" from Missouri voted illegally and set up a proslavery government. They attacked the free town of Lawrence. John Brown and his followers killed proslavery settlers in revenge. The violence spilled over on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Congressman Preston Brooks, of South Carolina, beat Senator Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, with a cane until he was unconscious in answer to the senator's antislavery speech "The Crime Against Kansas."



*(continued)*



*Focus on U.S. History:*  
*The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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UNIT 1

STUDENT BACKGROUND SHEET

### The Road to War (continued)

#### The Supreme Court Steps In

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that deepened the North-South split yet more. Dred Scott, a black slave, sued for his freedom because he had lived with his master for a while in a free state and a free territory. The Court rejected Scott's claims. It said, first, that blacks were not citizens. It also declared that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional. Congress, the Court said, could not ban slavery from the territories.

Dred Scott lost his case, but his master freed him soon after. He worked as a hotel porter in St. Louis and died in 1858, after just one year of freedom.

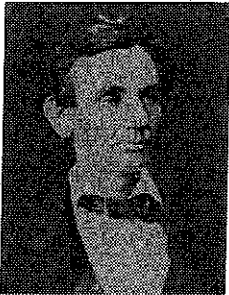
The gap between North and South widened. Many Northerners were now sure the South was aggressively trying to expand slavery throughout the West.

#### Presidential Politics

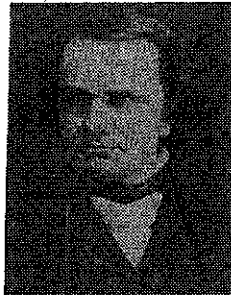
As you might expect, the North-South conflict expressed itself in the presidential elections. James Buchanan, representing the Democratic party and its policy of popular sovereignty, won the 1856 election. The Republicans made a strong showing, though, with their firm stand against slavery in the territories.

During the Illinois campaign for the Senate in 1858, a political newcomer rose to national attention. Republican Abraham Lincoln engaged in a series of debates against Stephen Douglas, the Democratic candidate. Lincoln focused the debates on the issue of slavery in the territories.

Lincoln lost the Senate election, but the Republican party had found its candidate for the 1860 presidential election. Democrats were deeply divided over the slavery question. A minor party fielded its own candidate. Here's how the 1860 presidential campaign looked:



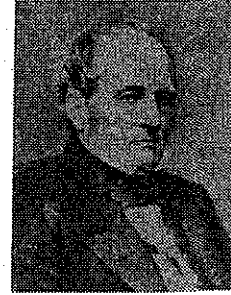
Republican Party:  
Abraham Lincoln



Democratic Party  
(North):  
Steven A. Douglas



Democratic Party  
(South):  
John C. Breckinridge



Constitutional Union Party:  
John Bell

Lincoln emerged the winner.

(continued)



Focus on U.S. History:  
The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Reading # 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 1**  
**STUDENT BACKGROUND SHEET**

## The Road to War *(continued)*

### Secession, at Last

One northern observer called South Carolina, the hotbed of secessionism, "too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum."

Seven southern states responded to Lincoln's election by deciding to **secede**—leave the Union, stop being members of the United States. In their eyes, the election proved that the rest of the country despised the South and its way of life. To protect itself, the South

needed to become independent, secessionists reasoned.

South Carolina was the first. By the day Lincoln took office in March 1861, seven southern states had seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The Confederacy started seizing federal property, including military posts, in the South. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces started firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, South Carolina. Four more states immediately seceded. The Civil War had begun.

### Time Line of Votes to Secede

December 1860	January 1861	February 1861	April 1861	May 1861
South Carolina	Georgia Florida Alabama Mississippi Louisiana	Texas	Virginia	Arkansas North Carolina Tennessee



Reading # 1

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# The U.S. in 1861

Follow the directions to answer the questions and complete the map.

1. How many free states were there just before the start of the Civil War?  
Color them blue.

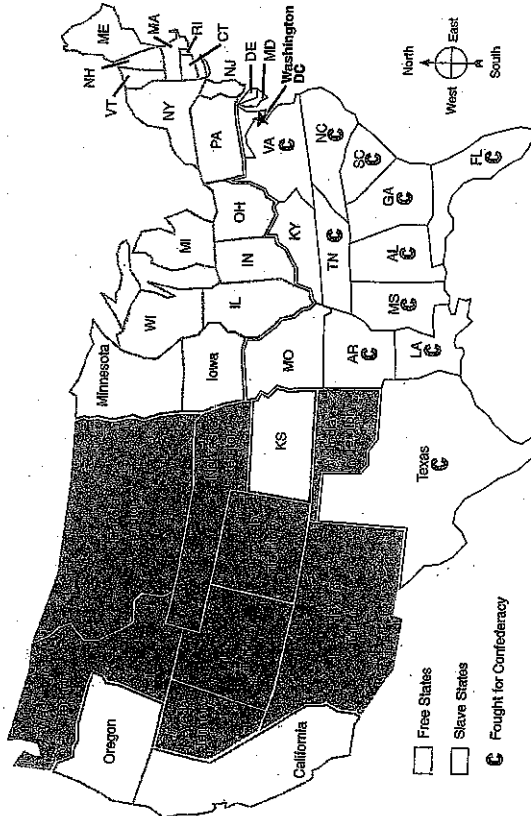
2. How many slave states were there? \_\_\_\_\_ Color them gray.

3. How many slave states fought for the Confederacy?

4. The other 23 states, including four slave states, fought for the Union.  
Write a **U** on these states.

5. In 1863, West Virginia broke away from Virginia and fought for the Union.  
Add a **U** to where West Virginia is.

6. The territories of Colorado, Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington fought for the Union. Write a **U** on these territories.



Scholastic Curriculum Guide: The Civil War

Reading #3  
"The U.S. in 1861"

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## Graphing Election Results



Presidential elections in the years before the Civil War reflected growing sectional tensions. Here are popular vote totals for elections from 1848 through 1860.

Year	Candidate	Party	Popular Vote	Electoral Vote
1848	Zachary Taylor	Whig	1,360,101	163
	Lewis Cass	Democratic	1,220,544	127
	Martin Van Buren	Free Soil	291,263	0
1852	Franklin Pierce	Democratic	1,601,474	254
	Winfield Scott	Whig	1,386,578	42
1856	James Buchanan	Democratic	1,838,169	174
	John C. Frémont	Republican	1,335,264	114
	Millard Fillmore	American	874,534	8
1860	Abraham Lincoln	Republican	1,865,593	180
	Stephen A. Douglas	Democratic	1,382,713	12
	John C. Breckinridge	Democratic	848,366	72
	John Bell	Constitutional Union	592,906	39

Directions: Create graphs as directed below, and answer the questions.

1. From these figures, create a series of pie charts showing popular support for each party's candidates in the presidential contests, by year.

Also, calculate the percentage of the total each candidate won and show this on your pie charts.

2. Which party disappeared from presidential elections after 1852?

3. What new party appeared in the 1856 and 1860 elections?

4. Why were there two Democratic candidates in the 1860 election?

5. What two groups came together to form the Free Soil Party?

6. What was the Constitutional Union Party?



Focus on U.S. History:  
The First of the Civil War and Reconstruction

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Reading #2  
"Graphing Election Results"

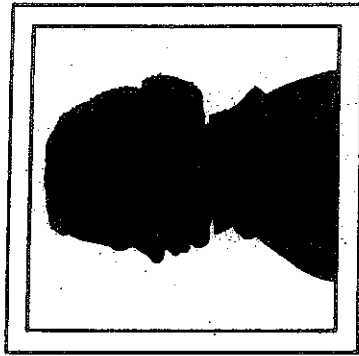
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# Ellen Craft: A Train Ride to Freedom

by Patricia Likens

## Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

- Narrator**  
**William Craft:** Enslaved man and Ellen's husband  
**Ellen Craft:** Enslaved woman  
**Ticket Agent**  
**Train Conductor 1**  
**William Cray:** A white passenger  
**Captain Sherman:** A steamship captain  
**Mr. Fruett:** A slave dealer  
**Custom Officer**  
**Percy Jackson:** A white passenger  
**Yankee Soldier**  
**Train Conductor 2**



## Act 1

### Scene 1: November 1846. Macon, Georgia.

**NARRATOR:** Ellen Craft was the daughter of a white man and an African-American enslaved woman. Ellen, too, was considered a slave. At the age of 11, she was sent to work at a house in Macon, Georgia. There Ellen met William Craft, an enslaved man who worked in the same house until he was hired out as a cabinetmaker. Several years later, Ellen and William received permission from their owners to marry. Soon, they were planning their escape from slavery.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** If I didn't know it was you, I wouldn't know it was you. **ELLEN CRAFT (doubtfully):** We must be crazy. Who's going to believe that I'm an old white man? Just because I'm wearing men's clothes and my skin is light doesn't mean I'm going to fool anybody. What about my voice? My voice is sure to give me away.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** You're Mr. Johnson—a sick, old white man. Just groan a lot and shake your head. Besides, I'll be right there to answer any questions.

**ELLEN CRAFT (groaning and shaking her head):** How's that?

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** Not bad, not bad. One thing we've got to figure out is what to do when somebody asks you to read or write.

Hands-On History: Civil War, Scholastic Teaching Resources.

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**ELLEN CRAFT:** I'm pretending to be old and sick, right? What if we put my arm in a sling? You can explain that I can't write because I've hurt my arm. I can pretend that my eyes are bad, too.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** That ought to take care of it. Now, all we need to do is get permission to leave Macon for a few days at Christmas. Once we do that, I'll buy our tickets. (whistling) Macon, Georgia, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I've never traveled so far in my life.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** It's a long trip from slavery to freedom. I expect it's the longest trip we'll ever take.

### Scene 2: December 21, 1846. Early morning at the Macon, Georgia, train station.

**NARRATOR:** Ellen and William were given permission to leave Macon over Christmas. Their escape was under way! Ellen bundled herself in men's clothes that she'd sewn herself. She wrapped a muffler around her face and put her arm in a sling. Ellen Craft, an enslaved African-American woman, was now Mr. Johnson, a free white man. At the train station, William walked a few steps behind his "master," Mr. Johnson.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** Two tickets to Savannah, please, for myself and my servant.

**TICKET AGENT:** Two tickets to Savannah, coming right up! Here you go, sir. You'll be in the first car. Your man will be in the last car with the other blacks.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** No! You can see that I'm injured, I've hurt my arm. I need to have my servant in the same car with me.

**TICKET AGENT:** Sorry, sir, but you know the rules as well as I do. No slaves in the first cars. You need anything, one of the conductors or porters will be more than happy to help you.

### TRAIN CONDUCTOR 1: ALL ABOARD!

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** That's all right, Mr. Johnson. The conductor, he'll take good care of you. You'll be fine. I'll find you when we get to the Savannah station. You just wait for me to find you, 'cause I will now.

**NARRATOR:** Ellen boards the first car reluctantly, watching as William goes to the last car. She sits in a seat beside the window and stares out of it. Suddenly, Ellen recognizes a familiar face.

**ELLEN CRAFT (to herself):** Mr. Cray! It can't be! Oh, please, don't let him get on this train.

(William Cray walks into the car and stops beside Ellen's seat.)

**WILLIAM CRAW:** Excuse me, sir. Is this seat taken?

(Ellen shakes her head and turns her face to the window again.)

**WILLIAM CRAW:** Fine morning, isn't it? (He pauses.) I said (in a louder voice), it's a fine morning, isn't it?

(Ellen coughs.)

Reading #4

"Ellen Craft:  
A Train Ride  
to Freedom"

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Hands-On History: Civil War, Scholastic Teaching Resources.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** You're not sick, are you, sir? I can't afford to catch anything at Christmastime. Maybe I'll just move a few rows down. You don't mind, do you? Can't take any chances. *(He hurries to another seat.)*

**ELLEN CRAFT** *(softly to herself):* No, sir, can't afford to take any chances.

### Act 2

**Scene 1: The next day. Aboard a steamer bound for Charleston, South Carolina.**

**NARRATOR:** Ellen and William were reunited at the Savannah train station. They spent the night at a hotel in the city. Ellen stayed in a room, while William slept in the quarters set aside for enslaved people traveling with their owners. The next morning, they boarded a steamer headed for Charleston, South Carolina, and were separated again. At dinner, Ellen found herself at a table with the steamer captain and a slave dealer.

**CAPTAIN SHERMAN:** Your boy seems to be very helpful to you, Mr. Johnson.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** He is, Captain. I treat William well, and he respects that.

**MR. PRUETT:** You treat him well? Whatever for? He's a slave. He doesn't need respect. All he needs is a little food and water, some clothes on his back, and a short leash. You're a fool to travel north with him. He'll leave you licker-split once you hit Philadelphia—see if he don't.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** I trust William. I would never mistreat him. That's why I know he would never leave me. He doesn't have to go north to live a better life.

**MR. PRUETT:** Tell you what, I'll give you my card. When he runs off on you, you get in touch with me. I'll find him. I'll sell him for you, too, if that's what you want. I could get a good piece of change for him at auction.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** No matter what happens, William is not for sale. He never will be. He'll never be separated from his family. Never.

**CAPTAIN SHERMAN:** Ah, Mr. Johnson, I'm sorry to say that Mr. Pruett's probably right. Once your William sets foot on Northern soil, I'm afraid he'll run away. I've seen it happen too many times. It doesn't matter how well or how badly you treat your slaves. They'll run away every time.

**ELLEN CRAFT** *(calming down):* Then I'll be sure to keep my eyes on William, Captain.

### Act 3

**Scene 1: Christmas Eve, 1848. At the Baltimore, Maryland, train station.**

**NARRATOR:** The Crafts arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, and then journeyed to Baltimore, Maryland, the last Southern city on their trip. The next stop would be the Northern city of Philadelphia. There they would be free. But a Maryland law almost derailed Ellen and William.

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**CUSTOM OFFICER:** Look, if you insist on taking a slave north with you, Mr. Johnson, you have to sign and post a bond. It's the law in Maryland. How do I know you're not some white abolitionist, pretending to own this slave here? How do I know you won't set him free the minute you get to Philadelphia?

**ELLEN CRAFT:** I understand all that, but you can see, sir, that I've injured my hand. I can't use it at all. How can you expect me to sign anything?

**CUSTOM OFFICER:** How do I know you're not pretending to have a hurt hand? Sign with your other hand, then. Do that, post your one dollar fee, and you're free to go.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** I have arthritis in my other hand. I can't possibly write with it.

**CUSTOM OFFICER:** I guess your slave will be staying right here in Baltimore, then. Enjoy your trip, Mr. Johnson.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** Pardon me, sir, but Mr. Johnson really can't sign the bond. He hasn't been able to use his hands for a month now. That's why I'm traveling with him. He can give you the dollar—

**CUSTOM OFFICER:** What's the matter? Don't you want to stay here in Baltimore?

**NARRATOR:** Just then, Percy Jackson, a passenger on the same train that Ellen (disguised as Mr. Johnson) and William took from Charleston to Baltimore, walks past. He overhears the argument and walks over.

**PERCY JACKSON:** Mr. Johnson? What's the trouble here?

**ELLEN CRAFT:** This officer says I must sign a bond so William can go north with me, but I can't sign anything because of my hands.

**PERCY JACKSON:** Officer, what if I sign for Mr. Johnson? I can vouch for him; we traveled in together on the train from Charleston. He's a decent Southern gentleman, not an abolitionist. He's only bringing William along because he needs medical care. Will that do?

**CUSTOM OFFICER:** It's your name, sir. I guess you can sign it to anything you want to.

**ELLEN CRAFT:** Thank you, Mr. Jackson. You don't know what this means to me.

**WILLIAM CRAFT:** Merry Christmas, Mr. Jackson!

**Scene 2: Christmas Eve, 1848. Aboard a train about to leave Baltimore for Philadelphia.**

**NARRATOR:** Thanks to Mr. Jackson, Ellen and William were able to board the train for Philadelphia. For the last time, William helped "Mr. Johnson" get settled in the "whites only" car and returned to the car where blacks had to sit. On the way, William ran into a Yankee soldier.

**YANKEE SOLDIER:** Hold it! What are you doing in this car? It's for whites only.

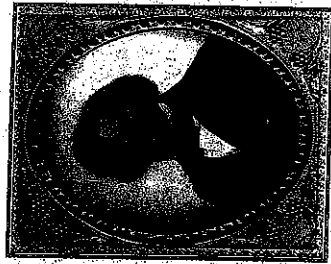
**WILLIAM CRAFT:** I was helping Mr. Johnson. He's my master. He's been very sick.

Reading #4





# Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)



Frederick Douglass was born a slave near Baltimore, Maryland, and taught himself to read even though reading was against the law for slaves. At the age of 12, he bought himself a book of famous speeches and practiced them. In his 20s, he made a daring escape from slavery by disguising himself and fleeing north on a train. Once free, he began giving lectures about slavery. His eloquence made him a natural leader in the Abolitionist (anti-slavery) movement. Eventually, he moved to Rochester, New York, where he started an anti-slavery newspaper called the North Star. Knowing of his gifts as a speaker, the city of Rochester asked him to speak at its Fourth of July festivities in 1852. What he had to say shocked his audience. Can you explain why?

## "What to the American Slave As Your Fourth of July?" (1852)

Fellow citizens, pardon me, allow me to ask, why am I called upon to speak here today? What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? and am I, therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar, and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from our independence to us?

Would to God, both for your sakes and ours, that an affirmative answer could be truthfully returned to these questions! . . . But such is not the state of the case. I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you this day rejoice are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity, and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to

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me. This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. . . .

What? Am I to argue that it is wrong to make men brutes, to rob them of their liberty, to work them without wages, to keep them ignorant of their relations to their fellow men, to beat them with sticks, to flay their flesh with the lash, to load their limbs with irons, to hunt them with dogs, to sell them at auction, to sunder their families, to knock out their teeth, to burn their flesh, to starve them into obedience and submission to their master? Must I argue that a system, thus marked with blood and stained with pollution, is wrong? No; I will not. I have better employment for my time. . . .

What to the American slave is your Fourth of July? I answer, a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; . . . your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; . . . your shouts of liberty and equality [are] hollow mockery, your prayers and hymns . . . are to him mere . . . fraud . . . and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.

Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the Old World, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practices of this nation, and you will say with me that, for revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival.

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Reading  
#5

Frederick  
Douglass  
Speech

# Article #1

## The Nation Focuses on "Bleeding Kansas"

If a stranger had told you in 1853, that the newspapers would be full of news about Shawnee Mission, Topeka, Lawrence, and Pottawatomie Creek in the next three years, you would have thought he was insane. History is full of such twists of fate, and the impossible becomes reality.

The reason for Kansas becoming headline news goes back to the rapid growth of California and interest in building a railroad across the continent. A survey had already been run for a railroad from New Orleans to the West Coast, and the Gadsden Purchase made it possible to build that railroad south of the Gila River. Many thought there would be only one railroad, so northern states much preferred a more northern route. As a senator from Illinois, it was logical to Stephen Douglas that it be built west from Chicago. A railroad requires customers in order to be profitable; however, settlers will not move onto land that has not been surveyed and where there is no government to protect life or property.

Douglas proposed the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854. It provided that Kansas and Nebraska territories be formed and allowed the people who settled there to decide whether or not there would be slavery. This idea was called popular sovereignty. He knew there would be opposition because Missouri Compromise, which had blocked any slavery north of 36°30'. Kansas and Nebraska were above that line. Southerners and President Franklin Pierce backed it; many northerners were opposed. The bill barely passed.

People on both sides realized it was important that their group get control in Kansas. Lying west of Missouri, northerners also saw the importance, and the New England Emigrant Aid Company was formed to help New Englanders to settle there. Reverend Henry Ward Beecher said that rifles rather than Bibles would determine the issue, and boxes of "Beecher's Bibles" (rifles) were sent to Kansas.

Andrew Reeder was appointed territorial governor. When he called an election, nearly 5,000 Missourians crossed into Kansas and voted. Their vote was enough to win the election, and a pro-slave legislature was set up at Leocompton. The anti-slavery people ignored it and set up their own legislature at Topeka.

Acts of violence often took place. A pro-slave posse attacked the anti-slavery community of Lawrence, threw its printing press into the river, and tore up the town. John Brown, an abolitionist, led a group of men to Pottawatomie Creek, a pro-slave town, and killed five men and boys, then split their skulls with a sword. North and South, Republicans and Democrats watched happenings in Kansas with horror, and each blamed the other for the violence.

RESULTS: Kansas remained tense for years after this, and during the Civil War, trouble often broke out between Missourians and Kansans. In 1861, Kansas became a state.



Stephen Douglas

# Article #2

## Bleeding Kansas

Four years after the Compromise of 1850 had quelled tensions between North and South, Congress reignited controversy by passing the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which gutted the Missouri Compromise of 1820, and turned the territory of Kansas into a bloody battleground.

The Missouri Compromise had made slavery illegal in the Louisiana Territory north of present-day Arkansas. This restriction held until the population of Kansas swelled with people en route to the Gold Rush. Previously loosely organized and sparsely populated, Kansas's burgeoning population gave it sudden political significance.

A rising conflict between proslavery and antislavery settlers in Kansas grew worse when proslavery elements from neighboring Missouri crossed the border to vote in Kansas elections. The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed territorial self-determination regarding slavery and certain Missourians were adamant that a new free state would not be established next to them. In the Kansas territorial election of 1855, more than 6,000 votes were cast at a time when the estimated population of Kansas was 1,500. Approximately 5,000 proslavery ruffians from Missouri crossed the border to sway the election. Some historians blame the Kansas fiasco on Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. It was Douglas who had introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Act in Congress, some say to win southern support in his bid for the presidency. Furtive, Douglas, a land investor, had a vested interest in seeing a trans-Mississippi railroad built through the territory. Other historians, however, state that Douglas's sponsoring of the act was nothing more than an attempt to maintain the peace. Regardless, the law brought the nation ever closer to open conflict.

Agitators on both sides fanned the flames of discontent. Missouri Senator David Atchison had urged Missourians to cross the border and vote in the Kansas territorial elections. In his zeal to make Kansas a slave state, he stated, among other things, that "we will be compelled to shoot, burn, and hang." On the antislavery side, abolitionists sent wagonloads containing 200 Sharps rifles, paid for by collections

from northern churches. The rifles were sent at the request of a Kansan free state leader, who also asked for a "couple of fieldpieces" (cannon). The stage was set for Kansas to explode.

On May 21, 1856, a band of raiders—many from Missouri—descended on the town of Lawrence, which had declared itself antislavery. They were accompanied by none other than Senator David Atchison. No one was killed (some sources claim two deaths), but the raiders threw the presses of two antislavery newspapers into a nearby river, burned a hotel, and looted a number of homes. One leader of the raiding group is reputed to have said afterwards, "Gentlemen, this is the happiest day of my life. I determined to make the fanatics bow before me in the dust and kiss the territorial laws. I have done it, by God."

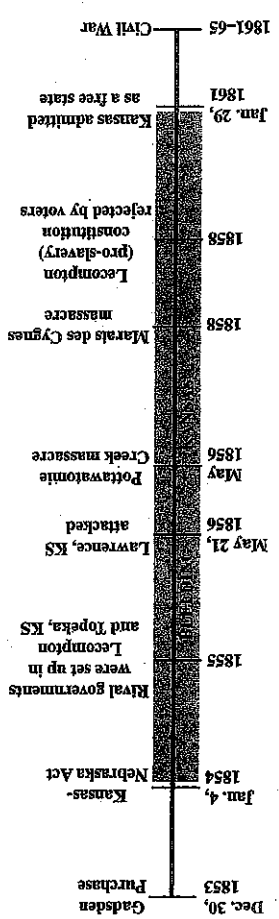
The raid on Lawrence prompted an antislavery fanatic named John Brown to seek revenge three days later. On the night of May 24-25, 1856, he and six of his followers, among whom were four of his sons, attacked a proslavery settlement at Pottawatomie Creek in Franklin County, Kansas. They dragged five helpless men from their cabins and hacked them to death with sabers. Brown's act started a bloody war that resulted in 200 persons being killed before federal troops stepped in and restored order in 1857.

The bloodshed in Kansas had far-reaching effects. Not only did it bring the nation closer to war, it led to the birth of a new party: the Republican Party. The situation in Kansas caused the Whig Party, the party of Henry Clay that was important from about 1828 to 1856, to split. Southern Whigs joined the Democratic Party, while those in the North united with Free Soilers (those against slavery) to form the Republican Party. The new party did not set out to do away with slavery in the southern states; its goal was to stop the spread of the institution in the nation's territories.

Its first candidate for president was Mexican War hero John C. Fremont. Abraham Lincoln, of course, was its first candidate to win the White House. He became president on the eve of the Civil War, which, after having been averted for decades, broke out in April 1861.

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Reading #7  
Two articles on "Bleeding Kansas"  
pg. 15



pg. 14

AT 112K

# The Dred Scott Case

Just when it seemed to some that the federal government could not do anything to make the slavery controversy worse, the U.S. Supreme Court stepped in and proved them wrong. The Court's historic decision in 1857 in the Dred Scott case made people in the North hate slavery even more and brought the nation ever closer to war.

The story of the slave, Dred Scott, began when his owner, Peter Blow, took him from Virginia to Alabama and then, in 1830, to St. Louis, Missouri. When Blow died several years later, Scott became the property of an army surgeon named John Emerson. Afterwards began a story of travel that took Scott to such army posts as Fort Armstrong in Illinois, Fort Snelling in Wisconsin Territory, Fort Jessup in Louisiana, and St. Louis, Missouri. Scott spent seven of his years with Dr. Emerson in Illinois and Wisconsin Territory, areas where slavery was not allowed. The years he spent on free soil later prompted him to sue for his freedom.

While Scott was with his owner at Fort Snelling in Wisconsin Territory, he met and married Harriet Robinson, a slave owned by a local law official. A short time later, Dr. Emerson was transferred to Louisiana and then to St. Louis, at which time he sent for Scott and his wife to join him. Here Scott made a terrible mistake. Perhaps he did not realize that it was within his right to stay in a free territory, or he may have felt a certain loyalty to Dr. Emerson, who seemed to have treated him kindly. Whatever the reason, he and Harriet set out immediately down the Mississippi to join their owner in St. Louis.

Scott and his wife remained in St. Louis with Emerson until 1843, when the latter died. Mrs. Emerson then inherited Scott and hired him out to do odd jobs. When she later moved to Massachusetts and remarried, she left Scott in St. Louis, refusing to grant him his freedom. At this, Henry T. Blow, the son of Scott's first owner, persuaded the slave in 1846 to sue for his freedom based on the years he had spent in free territory.

At first, all went well. A Missouri court heard Scott's case and quickly granted him his freedom. The Missouri Supreme Court, however, intervened

and reversed the lower court's decision, once again making Scott a slave. The Federal Circuit Court refused to interfere, and the case dragged on for ten years before finally reaching the U.S. Supreme Court.

Dred Scott never had a chance before the high court. Six of the nine justices leaned toward the South, and their attitudes were reflected in the decision handed down by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney on March 6, 1857. Taney stated that because Scott was a black person and not a citizen, he was not entitled to sue in a federal court. To those who might invoke the Declaration of Independence in Scott's defense, Taney further added that its words were never meant to include "negroes." He also said that Congress had never had any right to interfere in slavery and that such federal legislation as the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Missouri Compromise of 1820 were unconstitutional and therefore null and void. In short, the court ruled that slaves were no more than personal property and as such they possessed no personal rights.

Chief Justice Taney was something of an enigma. On the one hand, Taney personally hated slavery and even freed his own slaves. But on the other, he, along with other justices on the court, refused to free Scott.

After the court's ruling, Scott's abolitionist owners (the former Mrs. Emerson and her second husband) freed Scott, and he spent the final year of his life working as a porter at Barnum's hotel in St. Louis. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 58.

## Review and Write

1. What circumstances led Dred Scott to reside temporarily in Illinois and Wisconsin Territory, two areas where slavery was not allowed?
2. Who encouraged Scott to sue for his freedom in 1846?
3. What arguments did Chief Justice Taney advance in ruling against Dred Scott?

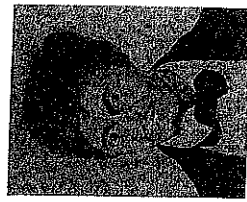
pg. 15

Article #2

# The Dred Scott Decision

Dred Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom in federal court. His master had taken him to Illinois, a free state, and to Minnesota, a territory where slavery was forbidden by the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The Supreme Court's decision in this case had a tremendous impact across the nation.

**Directions:** Read these six excerpts from the decision of Chief Justice Roger Taney; then go on to the rest of this activity.



Dred Scott

## Chief Justice Roger Taney, U.S. Supreme Court (1857)

The question is simply this: Can a Negro, whose ancestors were imported into this country, and sold as slaves, become a member of the political community formed and brought into existence by the Constitution of the United States, and as such become entitled to all the rights, and privileges, and immunities, guaranteed by that instrument to the citizen? One of which rights is the privilege of suing in a court of the United States. . . .

A Negro of the African race was regarded by [the American colonists] as an article of property, and held, and bought and sold as such, in every one of the thirteen colonies which united in the Declaration of Independence, and afterwards formed the Constitution of the United States. . . . It is too clear for dispute, that the enslaved African race were not intended to be included, and formed no part of, the people who framed and adopted the Declaration. . . .

The only two provisions [of the Constitution] which point to [Negroes] and include them, treat them as property, and make it the duty of the government to protect it. . . .

Upon a full and careful consideration of the subject, the court is of opinion, that, upon the facts stated. . . Dred Scott was not a citizen of Missouri within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States, and not entitled as such to sue in its courts. . . .

An Act of Congress which deprives a person of the United States of his liberty or property merely because he came himself or brought his property into a particular Territory of the United States, and who had committed no offense against the laws, could hardly be dignified with the name of due process of law. . . .

Upon these considerations, it is the opinion of the court that the Act of Congress which prohibited a citizen from holding and owning property of this kind in the Territory of the United States north of the line therein mentioned, is not warranted by the Constitution, and is therefore void.

(continued)

Focus on U.S. History: The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction

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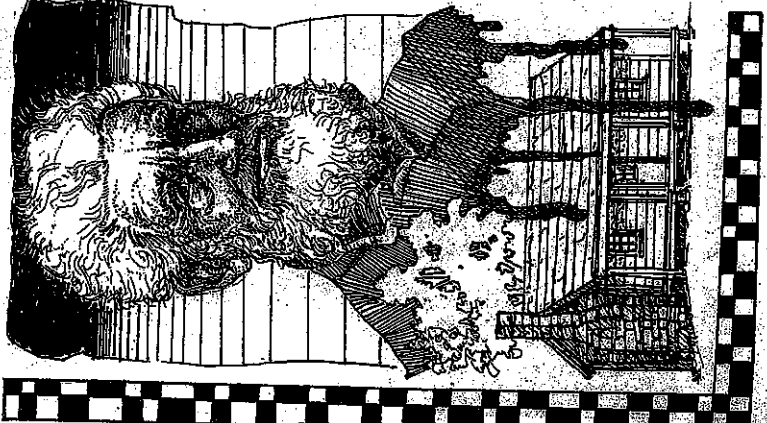
Reading #8  
Dred Scott -  
2 Articles

pg. 16

# John Brown's Raid

The antislavery movement reached a climax in 1859 when a fanatical abolitionist named John Brown tried to start a slave revolt. Brown's plan was to seize weapons from the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), distribute the guns to slaves in the area, and spread rebellion throughout the South. He failed, but his raid helped convince Southerners that a war between the North and the South was inevitable.

Brown was no newcomer to antislavery violence. Several years earlier, he had followed five of his six



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pg. 17

sons to "Bleeding Kansas" to take part in the struggle there between proslavery and antislavery settlers. Because he believed himself chosen by God to strike down those who supported slavery, Brown led a group of men in the murdering of six innocent proslavery settlers along Pottawatomie Creek in the Kansas-Nebraska Territory.

A few years later, Brown turned up in Maryland. In July 1859, he rented an old house across the Potomac River from Harpers Ferry. There, he began to store arms and make plans for his raid. He left temporarily to rendezvous with Frederick Douglass at a site in Pennsylvania, hoping to convince the famous black abolitionist to join him in the plot. Douglass, however, refused to be drawn in, telling Brown that the proposed revolt was doomed to failure. Douglass's warning proved prophetic.

Brown was joined at the farm house that summer by two of his sons and some 19 other men. They included ex-slaves, runaway slaves, and several free men. On October 16, Brown struck. He took the arsenal, but everything went downhill afterwards. A contingent of marines and soldiers under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee quickly put down the insurrection. Brown's two sons were killed and he himself seriously wounded. On December 2, he was hanged at Charlestown, West Virginia. On the day of his execution, he left a note with his jailer stating that he had "flattered himself" into thinking that slavery might be obliterated without much bloodshed. After his failed revolt, however, he acknowledged that he was wrong, stating in the same note, "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood."

### Review and Write

1. Explain the origin of the term "Bleeding Kansas."
2. Why did John Brown plan the attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry?
3. Why did Brown's plan fail?

# John Brown Attacks Harpers Ferry

As John Brown watched the proceedings at his trial, even his friends were making him angry. They tried to defend him by saying he was insane. People had said the same thing about his mother, his aunt, his first wife, and some of his sons. It was the world that was insane, talking about slavery as if it were some legal point, or saying it was a good system or an issue with two sides. To John Brown, the fate of the African-American slave was a cause worth dying for. He often quoted the scripture: "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin."

Slavery was a technical point of law to some. Chief Justice Roger Taney in the *Dred Scott* decision (1857) denied that Congress had any power to keep slavery out of the territories and described African-Americans as an "inferior order." That same year, George Fitzhugh wrote in *Cannibals All: "What a glorious thing to man is slavery."* Hinton Helper, also a southerner, wrote *The Impending Crisis of the South*, which attacked slavery, not because it was evil for the slaves, but because it hurt the poor whites. Debates in Congress, in courts, and in books were mere words. John Brown was not a man of words, but action.

In Kansas, he led the attack on Pottawatomie Creek. After that, he traveled to Boston and talked with abolitionists. Then he returned to Kansas and used it as a base to steal slaves and horses in Missouri. In one raid, he killed a farmer who got in his way. However, a direct blow on slavery was what he really desired. He persuaded the Boston abolitionists (the Secret Six) to give him \$10,000 for his venture, and he planned his attack on the small, quiet town of Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

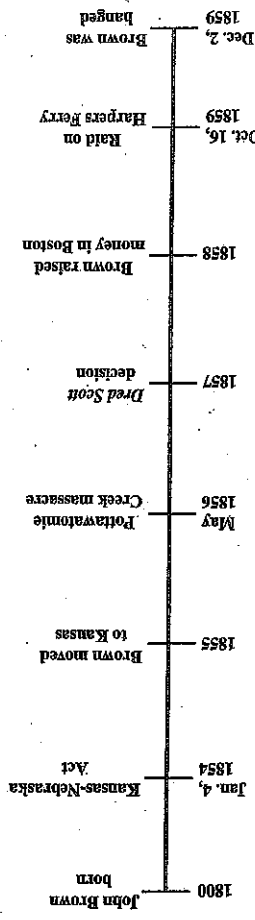
Located on the Potomac River, Harpers Ferry had a federal arsenal, armory, and rifle works; it was also in a slave state. His plan was to arm local slaves, which would signal a general slave rebellion. He and his new army could stay up in the mountains and fight off enemies until victory was won and the last slave was freed. He tried to persuade free African-Americans in the North to join him, but they thought the plan was too risky.

On October 16, 1859, Brown's men attacked Harpers Ferry, cut telegraph lines, and stopped the morning train. Men were sent out to bring in slaves from nearby farms and to gather a few white hostages. A free African-American and the engineer sent a message that Harpers Ferry was under attack. Colonel Robert E. Lee was sent to Harpers Ferry with some marines. By the time they arrived, Brown's men were in the engine house. After Brown turned down an offer to surrender, the marines attacked and captured the raiders.

**RESULTS:** Brown was tried and found guilty of treason against the state of Virginia. He told the court, "if it is deemed necessary that I should forfeit my life... let it be done." He became a symbol of self-sacrifice, and as Union soldiers marched, they sang, "John Brown's body lies a-moldering in the grave, as we go marching on."



John Brown



Reading #9  
Two articles on John Brown

pg. 18

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT 1

## WORKSHEET 8

## John Brown: The Man

John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry greatly alarmed southern slaveholders. A fiery fanatic who had hacked civilians to pieces in Kansas, Brown acted like a dignified martyr after his capture in Virginia. Here are some views of Brown.

### Song: John Brown's Body

(to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")

John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the ground,  
John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the ground,  
John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the ground,  
But his soul goes marching on.

*Chorus:* Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
His soul goes marching on.

He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord,  
His soul goes marching on. — *Chorus*

John Brown died that the slave might be free,  
But his soul goes marching on. — *Chorus*

They'll hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree,  
As they go marching on. — *Chorus*

The stars of heaven are looking kindly down,  
On the grave of old John Brown. — *Chorus*

Interviewed after his capture, Brown was asked, "Upon what principle do you justify your acts?"

Brown replied, "Upon the golden rule. I pity the poor in bondage that have none to help them; that is why I am here, not to gratify any personal animosity, revenge or vindictive spirit. It is my sympathy with the oppressed and the wronged, that are as good as you and as precious in the sight of God."

**Question:** Is this statement compatible with Brown's earlier statements and his actions in Kansas?

**Question:** Is this an accurate view of John Brown? What kind of song about John Brown might a proslavery Southerner compose?

**Directions:** Read more about Brown and write a biographical sketch of this contradictory man. Or write two biographical sketches of Brown, one by an antislavery Northerner and another by a proslavery Southerner. Add copies of political cartoons and artistic depictions of Brown to your sketch.



*The Last Moments of John Brown,*  
by Thomas Hovenden, 1884





### South Carolina Secedes

Across the nation, people gathered at newspaper offices and at the telegraphers in the railroad stations in November 1860. As returns came in, the news was joyous for some, disturbing for some, and grim for others. The reason for all this excitement was the presidential election that had just taken place—one that would have more effect on the future of the nation than any before.

The election process had begun in April with a wild Democratic convention in Charleston, South Carolina, but it produced no harmony and no candidate. Some southern delegates did everything they could to see that it failed. They reasoned that if the Democrats split, the Republicans would win, and then the South would leave the Union. The party met again in Baltimore, and again there was trouble. The southern delegates walked out and chose Senator John Breckinridge of Kentucky as their candidate. Northern delegates chose Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois.

The Republicans then met in Chicago. Senator William Seward of New York led at first, but on the third ballot, Abraham Lincoln won the nomination. The Republican platform promised homesteads, a railroad to the Pacific, and tariff protection for American industries. On slavery, the platform opposed interference with slavery in the states and called John Brown's raid a crime. In the border states, many did not like any of the choices. They formed the Constitutional Union party and chose Senator John Bell (Kentucky). They favored the Union and enforcement of the laws.

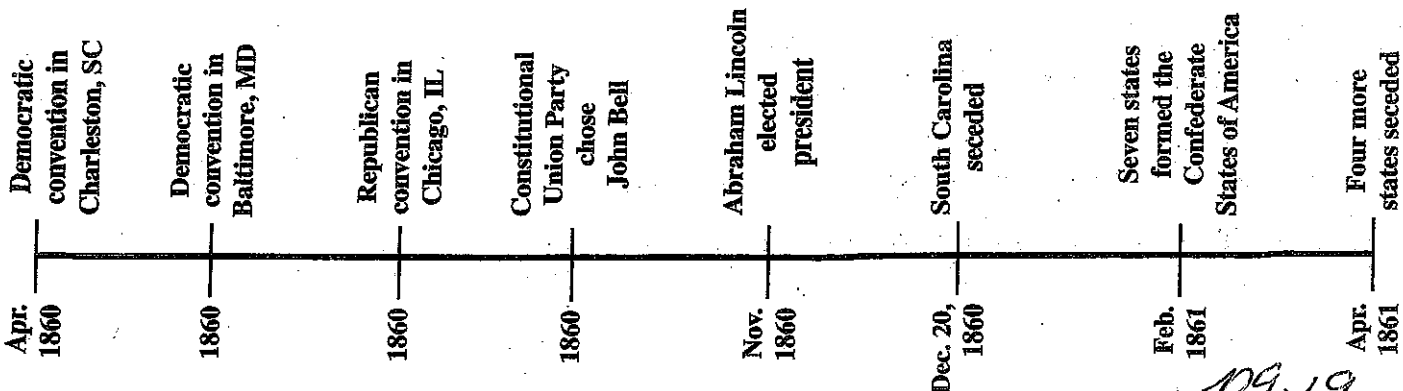
During the campaign, southern newspapers warned that a Lincoln election would result in the South leaving the Union. The Republicans said that they were just repeating the same threats they had used in 1856. In the North, the contest was mostly between Lincoln and Douglas. In the South, it was between Douglas and Breckinridge. In border states from Missouri to Maryland, the strongest support was for Bell or Douglas. In those days, it was considered improper for candidates to go out and give speeches, so campaigns were carried on by big rallies, parades, and speeches by supporters. When it appeared that Lincoln was going to win, Douglas ignored tradition and started campaigning in the South. He urged the South to stay in the Union, regardless of how the election turned out.

Lincoln easily won the election with 180 electoral votes—his opponents, all together, had only 123 (Breckinridge, 72; Bell, 39; Douglas, 12). In popular votes Lincoln had 1.8 million compared with 2.8 million for all opponents. When the news of Lincoln's election reached South Carolina, the legislature called for a convention to decide whether the state should secede (leave the Union). Six other states prepared to hold conventions after South Carolina acted. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina voted to leave the Union. In other states of the Deep South, this was a signal to act.

**RESULTS:** South Carolina, by its own action, was now an "independent nation." It was not alone for long, however. Six states joined it, and in a meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, the Confederate States of America was formed. Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president. Everyone waited now to see how Lincoln would react.



Abraham Lincoln



pg. 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Secession—Yes or No?

The idea of states seceding from the Union was hotly debated. Should southern states secede? Could they do so legally? Here are some opinions of politicians at the time.



#### Alexander Hamilton Stephens, Georgia politician (later vice president of the Confederacy) (1860)

The first question that presents itself is, shall the people of Georgia secede from the Union in consequence of the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States. My countrymen, I tell you frankly, candidly, and earnestly, that I do not think that they ought. . . . To make a point of resistance to the government, to withdraw from it because any man has been elected, would put us in the wrong. We are pledged to maintain the Constitution. . . . if all our hopes are to be blasted, if the Republic is to go down, let us be found to the last moment standing on the deck with the Constitution of the United States waving over our head. . . . We went into the election with this people. The result was different from what we wished; but the election has been constitutionally held. . . .

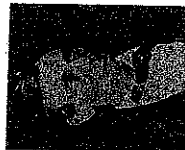
But it is said Mr. Lincoln's policy and principles are against the Constitution, and that, if he carries them out, it will be destructive of our rights. Let us not anticipate a threatened evil. If he violates the Constitution, then will come our time to act. . . .

[What is] the course which this state should pursue toward those northern states which . . . have attempted to nullify the Fugitive Slave Law? . . . Before making reprisals, we should exhaust every means of bringing about a peaceful settlement of the controversy. . . . At least, let these offending and derelict states know what your grievances are, and if they refuse, as I said, to give us our rights under the Constitution, I should be willing, as a last resort, to sever the ties of the Union with them.

#### Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States of America (1861)

I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these states is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments.

Again, if the United States be not a government proper, but an association of states in the nature of contract merely, can it as a contract be peaceably unmade by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it—break it, so to speak; but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?



Abraham Lincoln  
(continued)

Focus on U.S. History:  
The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction

pg. 20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Secession—Yes or No? (continued)



#### Robert Toombs, senator from Georgia (1861)

The senator from Kentucky says he can find no constitutional right of secession. Perhaps not; but the Constitution is not the place to look for states' rights. If that right belongs to independent states, and they did not cede it to the federal government, it is reserved to the states, or to the people.

You [Northerners] say we shall submit to your construction [interpretation of the Constitution as forbidding secession]. We shall do it, if you can make us; but not otherwise, or in any other manner. That is settled. You may call it secession, or you may call it revolution; but there is a big fact standing before you, ready to oppose you—that fact is, freemen with arms in their hands. . . .

Then you have declared, Lincoln declares, our platform declares, you people declare, you Legislatures declare—there is one voice running through your entire phalanx—that we [slave owners with slaves] shall be outlawed in the Territories of the United States. I say we will not be; and we are willing to meet the issue; and rather than submit to such an outlawry, we will defend our territorial rights as we would our household goods.



Robert Toombs



#### Louis Wigfall, senator from Texas (1861)

This federal government is dead. The only question is whether we will give it a decent, peaceable, Protestant burial, or whether we shall have an Irish wake at the grave. . . . Believing—no, sir, not believing, but knowing—that this Union is dissolved, never, never to be reconstructed upon any terms—not if you were to hand us blank paper, and ask us to write a constitution, would we ever again be confederated with you. . . . Then, knowing that the Union is dissolved, that reconstruction is impossible, I would, myself, had I been consulted by the Union-savers, have told them that Union-saving was impracticable, but that peaceable separation was practicable. . . .

A party has come into power that represents the antagonism to my own section of the country. It represents two million men who hate us, and who, by their votes for such a man as they have elected have committed an overt act of hostility. That they have done. . . . Our objection to living in this Union, and therefore the difficulty of reconstructing it, is . . . [that] you deny the sovereignty of the states; you deny the right of self-government in the people; you insist upon Negro equality; your people interfere impudently with our institutions and attempt to subvert them; you . . . excite our slaves to insurrection against their masters, and . . . array one class of citizens against the other.

(continued)

Focus on U.S. History:  
The Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Reading #12  
Secession—Yes or No?

pg. 21

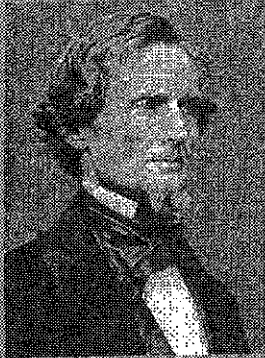
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 1**  
**WORKSHEET 9**

**Secession—Yes or No? (continued)**

**Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America (1861)**



Jefferson Davis

Our present condition, achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations, illustrates the American idea that governments rest upon the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish governments whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.

We have entered upon the career of independence, and it must be inflexibly pursued. Through many years of controversy with our late associates, the northern States, we have vainly endeavored to secure tranquility and to obtain respect for the rights to which we were entitled. As a necessity, not a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation.

**Directions:** In the space provided below, summarize, in list form, the major points made by people for and against secession. Then use your list to role-play with classmates a debate between supporters and opponents of secession from the Union by southern states.

**Arguments for Secession**

**Arguments Against Secession**





Reading # 13  
Making Connections

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

Explain in two sentences all of the ways in which Column I is connected to corresponding item in Column II.

Column I

Column II

1. Compromise of 1850

Henry Clay

2. Stephen A. Douglas

Abraham Lincoln

3. John Brown

Harper's Ferry

4. Underground  
Railroad

Fugitive Slave  
Law

5. Cotton

Slavery

6. Daniel Webster

John C. Calhoun

7. Dred Scott

Roger Taney

8. Kansas-Nebraska  
Act

Bleeding Kansas

