

Chapter Summary

Section 1

Growing Tensions Over Slavery

- The acquisition of new territories in the West reopened the issue of slavery.
- Lawmakers debated how to keep a balance of power between free and slave-holding states.

Section 2

Compromises Fail

- The Compromise of 1850 attempted to settle the slavery question, but northerners refused to accept the Fugitive Slave Act.
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* increased northern hatred of slavery and antagonized southern slaveholders.
- Popular sovereignty established by the Kansas-Nebraska Act triggered bloody fighting in Kansas.

Section 3

The Crisis Deepens

- The Republican Party was formed to oppose the spread of slavery.
- In the Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not ban slavery in any territory.
- Abraham Lincoln became a central political figure when he and Stephen Douglas debated slavery.
- John Brown, an abolitionist, and his followers attacked the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, to protest slavery.

Section 4

The Coming of the Civil War

- After Lincoln won the presidential election of 1860, some southern states seceded from the Union.
- The Civil War began when Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter.

Key Concepts

These notes will help you prepare for questions about key concepts.

Main Provisions of the Compromise of 1850

- California was admitted to the Union as a free state.
- Popular sovereignty would decide the issue of slavery in the territories won in the Mexican-American War.
- The slave trade was banned in Washington, D.C.
- Congress passed a strong Fugitive Slave Act.

Election of 1860

- Lincoln-Douglas debates attract attention to Lincoln.
- Republicans chose Lincoln as presidential candidate.
- Democratic Party splits.
- John Bell supports slavery and opposes secession.
- Lincoln wins every free state and is elected President.
- Southern states secede.

Events That Led to Civil War

- Compromise of 1850
- Publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Kansas-Nebraska Act
- John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry
- Dred Scott decision
- Election of Abraham Lincoln as President
- Secession of southern states and formation of the Confederate States of America
- Confederate attack on Fort Sumter

Vocabulary Builder

Key Terms

Fill in the blanks with the correct key terms.

1. Many southern states threatened to _____ from the Union if California was admitted as a free state.
2. Southerners claimed that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was _____ because it did not give a fair picture of the lives of enslaved African Americans.
3. Slavery was the main issue that split the nation apart and led to a violent _____.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

4. (a) **Recall** Why did Senator Stephen Douglas introduce the Kansas-Nebraska Act?
(b) **Understand Sequence** How did the events in Kansas demonstrate the unrest that would eventually take shape throughout the nation?
5. (a) **Summarize** What was the Supreme Court's verdict in the Dred Scott case?
(b) **Detect Points of View** How do you think Harriet Beecher Stowe reacted to the verdict?
6. (a) **Identify** What was the main goal of the Republican Party in the election of 1854?
(b) **Distinguish Relevant Information** How did Abraham Lincoln represent Republican principles during the Lincoln-Douglas debates?
7. (a) **Identify** What is the subject of the painting below?
(b) **Draw Conclusions** Do you agree with the artist's view of this person? Why or why not?



8. (a) **Describe** What happened at Fort Sumter?
(b) **Draw Conclusions** Do you think southerners were justified in seceding despite Lincoln's assurances? Explain.

History Reading Skill

9. **Analyze Cause and Effect** Reread the text in Section 4 under the heading "The Nation Divides." How did the election of 1860 affect the unity of the United States?

Writing

10. Choose one of the following topics for a research report:

- the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- the Dred Scott decision
- the early career of Abraham Lincoln

List five questions you would want to pursue if you were going to research that topic. Write a thesis statement for the topic and find supporting evidence for that thesis from the chapter.

11. **Write a Narrative:**

Imagine you are from a northern farm family and have just heard of the attack on Fort Sumter. Write a narrative describing your hopes and fears about the future.

Skills for Life

Determine Relevance

Use the fictional letter below to answer the questions that follow.

October 18, 1856

Dear Margaret,

When the Republican Party was formed two years ago, we had no idea it would grow so quickly. I am so pleased with the party's choice of John Frémont as the Republican candidate for President. I know Mother would have agreed with me. I only hope you and I will be able to cast our votes in a presidential election soon.

Your loving sister, Ellen

12. What is the letter about?
13. What is one statement directly related to the subject of the letter? Why is it relevant?
14. What is one statement that is irrelevant to the subject of the letter? Why is it irrelevant?

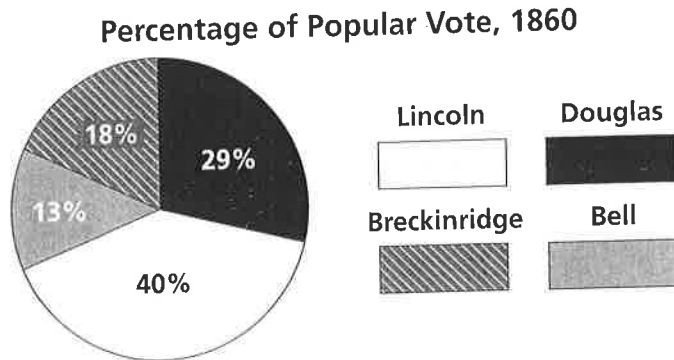
Test Yourself

1. All of the following were causes of the Civil War EXCEPT
- A John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.
 - B the Dred Scott decision.
 - C the use of child labor in northern factories.
 - D the publication of Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- Refer to the quotation below to answer Question 2.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. . . . 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."

2. What division does this quotation describe?
- A church and state
 - B free states and slaveholding states
 - C the House of Representatives and the Senate
 - D Republicans and Democrats

Refer to the pie chart below to answer Question 3.



3. What conclusion can you draw from this pie chart?
- A Southerners voted for Douglas.
 - B Lincoln won most of the popular vote.
 - C Bell had little support in the North.
 - D The **two Democrats** combined won more votes than Lincoln.

Document-Based Questions

Task: Look at Documents 1 and 2, and answer their accompanying questions. Then, use the documents and your knowledge of history to complete this writing assignment:

Write a two-paragraph essay comparing the goals of the Fugitive Slave Law with its actual effects.

Document 1: In this speech, Senator John Calhoun of South Carolina explained the need for the Fugitive Slave Law. *According to Calhoun, what would happen if Congress did not pass the law?*

"How can the Union be saved? . . . There is but one way . . . , and that is by adopting such measures as will satisfy . . . the southern section that they can remain in the Union consistently with their honor and their safety. . . ."

But can this be done? Yes, easily. . . . The North has only . . . to conced[e] to the South an equal right in [newly] acquired territory, and to caus[e] the stipulations relative to fugitive slaves to be faithfully fulfilled—to cease the agitation of the slave question. . . ."

Document 2: This poster reveals Bostonians' commitment to protect runaways or kidnapped African Americans. *Why were posters like this illegal?*

