

United States History I Grade 10

Snow Packet Days 6-10

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The Union in Peril**Section 1****The Divisive Politics of Slavery****Terms and Names**

Wilmot Proviso Bill that would ban slavery in the territories acquired after the War with Mexico

secession Decision by a state to leave the Union

Compromise of 1850 Series of measures that were intended to settle the disagreements between free states and slave states

popular sovereignty Idea that people living in a territory should make their own decisions, especially the decision to admit slavery

Stephen A. Douglas Senator from Illinois who worked to pass the Compromise of 1850

Millard Fillmore 13th president

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about American expansion to the West. In this section, you will see how the issue of slavery in the western territories caused conflict in the nation.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the regional differences discussed in the section.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH; SLAVERY IN THE TERRITORIES (Pages 304–306)**How did the North and South differ?**

By the early 1850s, the North and South had grown further apart. The North was industrial. It had 20,000 miles of railroad track, factories, and large cities. Many immigrants came to the North to find jobs in the factories. These immigrants opposed slavery. The South remained rural and agricultural. It had very little industry and few immigrants.

In 1846, Congress debated the **Wilmot Proviso**. This was a bill that would ban slavery in the new territories acquired from Mexico. Northerners favored the bill. They felt that more slave states would give the South too much power in Congress.

Southerners opposed the Proviso. They argued that they had a right to slaves in the new territories, because slaves were property—and property was protected by the Constitution. The Wilmot Proviso never passed.

In 1849, California asked to enter the Union as a free state. Southerners thought it should be a slave state since most of it lay south of the Missouri Compromise line. (This imaginary line running through the western territories was created in 1820. South of the line, slavery was legal; north of the line it was outlawed.)

President Zachary Taylor supported California's admission as a free state. Taylor believed that its climate and terrain were not suited to slavery. More importantly, Taylor felt that the South

Section 1, *continued*

would be better off leaving the slavery issue up to individual territories rather than Congress—and its many abolitionist members.

However, Taylor soon found that feelings in the South were more passionate than he expected. Southerners saw the move to block slavery in the territories as an attack on the southern way of life. They began to question whether the South should remain in the Union.

1. Why was the issue of slavery in the territories so important to the North and South?

THE SENATE DEBATES

(Pages 307–309)

What was the Compromise of 1850?

The 31st Congress opened in December 1849 in an atmosphere of distrust and bitterness. The question of statehood for California topped the agenda. So too did other disputes. Northerners demanded the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Southerners accused the North of failing to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. As the tension mounted, some southern states threatened **secession**, or formal withdrawal from the union.

In Congress, Henry Clay of Kentucky presented the **Compromise of 1850**. To please the North, the compromise called for California to be admitted as a free state. To satisfy the South, the compromise called for a stricter fugitive slave law. This law required Northerners to return escaped slaves to their masters.

Other provisions of the compromise had elements that appealed to the North and

South. For example, Northerners were happy with a provision that gave **popular sovereignty** to the territories of New Mexico and Utah. This allowed the territories to decide for themselves whether to be a slave or free state. That provision appealed to Southerners as well.

Also, as part of the compromise, the federal government would pay Texas \$10 million to surrender its claim on New Mexico. This provision satisfied Northerners because, in effect, it limited slavery in Texas to its current borders. For Southerners, the money would help to offset Texas’s expenses and debts from the war with Mexico.

Congress debated the Compromise of 1850 for months. The North, represented by Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, supported the plan. The South, represented by John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, opposed the compromise.

The compromise failed to pass. Senator **Stephen A. Douglas** of Illinois then took action. He was able to pass the compromise by submitting each part of the plan as a separate bill. The unexpected death of President Taylor aided Douglas’s efforts. On July 9, 1850, Taylor fell ill and died. **Millard Fillmore** became president. Unlike Taylor, he supported the compromise. Finally, the Compromise of 1850 became law. However, it did not settle the issue of slavery for long.

2. What were the features of the Compromise of 1850?

Section 1, continued

The time line below reviews important events related to the issue of slavery. As you read about the political effects of this issue, take notes summarizing the terms of the Compromise of 1850 and the part played by several key players in developing it.

- 1787**
The Three-Fifths Compromise attempts to settle issues of slavery and representation in the Northwest Ordinance. Congress bans slavery in territories north of the Ohio River.
- 1820**
The Missouri Compromise attempts to balance the power of North and South by admitting Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state.
- 1845**
Texas is admitted to the Union as a slave state.
- 1848**
The war with Mexico comes to an end, and Americans ask themselves whether territories won in the war should be open to slavery.
- 1849**
California's application for statehood forces the nation to deal with the issue of the expansion of slavery.
- 1850**
Compromise of 1850.

1. The terms of the Compromise of 1850

2. The role played by the following figures in the Compromise
Henry Clay
John C. Calhoun
Daniel Webster
Stephen Douglas

The Union in Peril**Section 2****Protest, Resistance, and Violence****Terms and Names**

Fugitive Slave Act Law that provided for harsh treatment for escaped slaves and for those who helped them

personal liberty laws Laws passed by Northern states forbidding the imprisonment of escaped slaves

Underground Railroad Secret network of people who hid fugitive slaves who went north to freedom

Harriet Tubman Famous “conductor” on the Underground Railroad

Harriet Beecher Stowe Author of the antislavery novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Uncle Tom’s Cabin Antislavery novel

Kansas-Nebraska Act Law that split Nebraska into the territories of Nebraska and Kansas and allowed for popular sovereignty there

John Brown Fierce opponent of slavery who led a raid that killed five proslavery people

Bleeding Kansas Nickname given to the Kansas Territory because of the bloody violence there

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the issue of slavery in the territories. In this section, you will learn how the controversy became violent.

As You Read

Use a time line to take notes on the major events in the growing conflict between the North and the South.

FUGITIVE SLAVES AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

(Pages 310–312)

How did the North react to the Fugitive Slave Act?

The Compromise of 1850 made the **Fugitive Slave Act** much stricter. It required harsh punishment for escaped slaves—and for anyone who helped them. This made many Northerners angry. As a result, nine Northern states passed **personal liberty laws**. These laws banned the imprisonment of escaped slaves. The

laws also guaranteed that escaped slaves would have jury trials.

In addition, free African Americans and white abolitionists organized the **Underground Railroad**. This was a secret network of volunteers who hid fugitive slaves on their dangerous journey north to freedom. **Harriet Tubman**, an escaped slave, was a famous leader of the Underground Railroad.

Meanwhile, a popular book helped many in the North see the fight to ban slavery as a moral struggle. In 1852,

Section 2, continued

Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This novel showed the horrors of slavery.

The book prompted Northern abolitionists to increase their protests against the Fugitive Slave Act. Southerners criticized the book as an attack on their way of life. Several Southern writers wrote novels that attempted to show that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was based on lies. However, they were unable to dispel the growing belief that slavery was evil and that it damaged families, both white and black.

1. What was the Underground Railroad?

TENSION IN KANSAS AND NEBRASKA (Pages 312–315)
What conflict arose over the Nebraska Territory?

In 1854, the issue of slavery in the territories again erupted. That year, Stephen Douglas proposed splitting the Nebraska Territory into two territories—Nebraska and Kansas.

He had several motives. Douglas was anxious to organize these territories because he believed that most of the nation's people wished to see the western lands become part of the Union. Douglas also believed that continued expansion would help unify the nation. He assumed that one state would enter as a free state, the other a slave state. This would keep a balance between the North and South.

However, Douglas did not realize how strongly the North had come to oppose slavery. The entire Nebraska territory was north of the Missouri Compromise line. Because of this, the North argued that both Nebraska and Kansas should be free states. Northerners opposed Douglas's proposal. They saw it as an attempt to increase slavery.

Douglas's bill caused bitter debates in Congress. **The Kansas-Nebraska Act** became law in 1854. It split Nebraska into the territories of Nebraska and Kansas. Each state would decide whether or not to allow slavery.

2. What did the Kansas-Nebraska Act do?

VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN "BLEEDING KANSAS" (Pages 315–317)
Why did violence erupt in Kansas?

Proslavery and antislavery people rushed into Kansas. Each side wanted to have enough people to decide the vote on slavery its way. Violence soon erupted in Kansas. **John Brown**, a fierce opponent of slavery, killed five proslavery people in a raid. This killing triggered dozens of violent actions throughout the territory. About 200 people were killed. Because of the violence on both sides, the territory was nicknamed **Bleeding Kansas**.

The violence over the issue of slavery also spread to the Senate. As senators debated the situation in Kansas, a relative of an antislavery senator attacked a proslavery senator on the Senate floor.

Section 2, *continued*

The widening gulf between North and South affected the nation's political parties, as well. As the debate over slavery grew more intense, national parties broke apart—and groups started new parties.

3. Why was Kansas referred to as Bleeding Kansas?

Section 2, continued

As you read, make notes to answer questions about the issue of slavery.

After the Compromise of 1850 is reached, Northern abolitionists continue to attack slavery.

In reaction to the Fugitive Slave Act, Northern states pass personal liberty laws.	Harriet Tubman conducts more than 300 slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.	Harriet Beecher Stowe describes slavery's evils in her novel, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> .
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The North-South split grows deeper. Stephen Douglas proposes replacing the Missouri Compromise with the Kansas-Nebraska Act.	
1. How had the Missouri Compromise proposed to limit slavery?	2. How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act propose to deal with the issue of slavery?

The Kansas-Nebraska Act is passed in 1854.	
3. Why did Douglas believe that popular sovereignty would solve the problem of slavery in the Nebraska Territory?	4. Why did popular sovereignty, in fact, lead to "Bleeding Kansas," instead of settling the issue of slavery in the Nebraska Territory?

The Union in Peril**Section 3**

The Birth of the Republican Party

Terms and Names

Franklin Pierce 14th president

nativism Favoring native-born people over immigrants

Know-Nothing Party Political party formed to stop the influence of immigrants

Free-Soil Party Political party formed to oppose extending slavery in the territories

Republican Party Political party formed to oppose extending slavery in the territories

Horace Greeley Newspaper editor who strongly supported the newly-formed Republican Party

John C. Frémont Republican candidate in the 1856 presidential election

James Buchanan 15th president

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the violence that erupted over the slavery issue. In this section, you will learn why new political parties formed in the mid-1800s.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the growth of the Republican Party in the 1850s.

NEW POLITICAL PARTIES EMERGE

(Pages 318–319)

How did the slavery issue affect the Whig Party?

The issue of slavery caused the nation's Whig Party to split. The party became divided into Northern antislavery Whigs and Southern proslavery Whigs. Because it was disunited, the Whig Party lost much of its political power. As a result, Democratic candidate **Franklin Pierce** won the presidential election in 1852.

The Whig party soon split even further. Some Whig members joined the American Party. This party was concerned about the growing number of immigrants in the

United States. They believed in **nativism**, the favoring of native-born Americans over immigrants.

Nativists were primarily middle-class Protestants. They were dismayed not only by the growing immigrant population, but also by the increasing number of Catholics. Anti-Catholic bias often resulted from a fear that Catholics would be influenced by the Pope on issues involving the United States. Nativists felt that the Catholic immigrants who had flooded into the country during the 1830s and 1840s could form a conspiracy to overthrow democracy.

Section 3, *continued*

Nativists soon formed the **Know-Nothing Party**. Members wanted to extend the time needed before immigrants could become citizens. The party did well in the elections of 1854. But the party soon split over the issue of slavery and disappeared.

1. What did the Know-Nothing Party favor?

ANTISLAVERY PARTIES FORM (Pages 319–321)

What antislavery parties formed in the 1800s?

Other new parties arose during the mid-1800s. The **Free-Soil Party** was against extending slavery in the western territories. In the presidential election of 1848, the party chose former Democrat Martin Van Buren as its candidate. The Free-Soil Party did not receive any electoral votes. However, it did get 10 percent of the popular vote.

Northern opposition to slavery in the territories was not necessarily based on positive feelings toward African Americans. Many Northerners were free-soilers, but not abolitionists. They supported racist laws prohibiting settlement by blacks in their communities and denying them the right to vote.

What free-soilers primarily objected to was slavery's competition with free white workers. The extension of slavery, they believed, directly threatened the free labor system.

The new **Republican Party** formed in 1854. This party took in people of many viewpoints. People frustrated by the split

in the Whig Party, such as newspaper editor **Horace Greeley**, supported the Republicans. Like the Free-Soil Party, the Republicans wanted to keep slavery out of the territories.

The Republican Party's main competition was the well-organized Know-Nothing Party. Both parties targeted the same groups of voters. By 1855, the Republicans had set up party organizations in about half the Northern states. However, they lacked a national organization. What they needed was a national slavery issue. Then came several national incidents, including Bleeding Kansas. As a result, the Republican Party gained greater prominence.

In 1856, the Republicans ran their first candidate for president—**John C. Frémont**. Democrat James Buchanan won the election. However, he received less than half the popular vote.

The Democrats nominated **James Buchanan** of Pennsylvania. Buchanan was the only truly national candidate in the election. He won the election, but only with 45 percent of the popular vote. The election showed that the democrats could win the presidency with a national candidate who could compete in the North without alienating Southerners. It also showed that the Know-Nothings were in decline and the Republican Party was a political force in the North.

2. What view did the new Republican Party and Free-Soil Party share?

Section 3, continued

As you read about political changes in the mid-19th century, fill out the chart below by writing answers in the appropriate boxes.

1834	The Whig Party is formed and then splits over the slavery issue.	
1848	The Free-Soil Party is formed.	1. What did the Free-Soilers oppose? Why?
1854	The Know-Nothing Party, formed to promote nativism, is soon split over the slavery issue.	2. What did the Know-Nothings oppose? Why?
	The Republican Party is formed.	3. What did supporters of the Republican Party have in common?
1855	"Bleeding Kansas"	4. What made the party strong?
1856	In the presidential election, Democrat James Buchanan defeats Republican John C. Frémont and the Know-Nothing candidate, Millard Fillmore.	5. What did the election indicate about the Democrats?
		6. What did the election indicate about the Republicans?

The Union in Peril**Section 4**

Slavery and Secession

Terms and Names

Dred Scott Slave who was briefly taken by his owner into free territory

Roger B. Taney Chief Justice who wrote the ruling in the Dred Scott case

Abraham Lincoln President during the Civil War

Freeport Doctrine Idea that any territory could ban slavery by simply refusing to pass laws supporting it

Harpers Ferry Location of federal arsenal that John Brown raided to get guns to arm slaves

Confederacy "Confederate States of America," formed in 1861 by the Southern states that seceded from the Union

Jefferson Davis President of the Confederate States of America

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the formation of new political parties.

In this section, you will learn how slavery divided the nation.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on how the major events discussed in this section sharpened the North-South conflict.

SLAVERY DOMINATES POLITICS

(Pages 324–325)

What was the Dred Scott decision?

As new political parties formed, the North and South grew further apart. Several events led to the final split between the North and the South. The first was an 1857 Supreme Court decision involving a slave, **Dred Scott**. Scott claimed that residing in the free states made him a free man. In *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** wrote that being in a free state did not make a slave free. The Court also ruled that slaves were considered property according to the Constitution. As a result, territories could not exclude slavery—for it would be denying a

person their property. Southerners cheered the decision. They felt that it allowed slavery to be extended into all the western territories.

That year, proslavery forces in Kansas applied for statehood with a constitution allowing slavery. Congress quickly passed a law that required a vote on the new state constitution. Voters in Kansas rejected it. Northerners cheered the outcome, while Southerners criticized it.

1. What did the Supreme Court rule in the *Dred Scott* decision?

Section 4, *continued*

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

(Pages 325–327)

How did Lincoln and Douglas view slavery?

In 1858, Stephen Douglas ran for re-election to the Senate in Illinois. Republican **Abraham Lincoln** ran against him. They held a series of debates about slavery in the territories. Douglas opposed slavery but favored popular sovereignty—each territory’s right to choose. Lincoln also opposed slavery. However, he did not support popular sovereignty. He called slavery “a vast moral evil” and insisted on federal legislation to outlaw slavery.

Their second debate took place in Freeport, Illinois. There, Senator Douglas issued what became known as the **Freeport Doctrine**. It was a call for people in the western territories to get around the *Dred Scott* decision by electing representatives who would not enforce slave property laws.

2. What was the Freeport Doctrine?

PASSIONS IGNITE (Pages 327–328)

What happened at Harpers Ferry?

In 1859, another act of violence over slavery grabbed the nation’s attention. John Brown, a Northern white abolitionist, tried to start a slave rebellion. Brown and a few followers attacked a federal arsenal in **Harpers Ferry**, Virginia. They hoped to steal guns and arm slaves.

Federal soldiers captured Brown. He was convicted of treason and hanged. Many Northerners praised Brown. Southerners attacked his actions and began calling again for secession.

3. Why did John Brown stage a raid on Harpers Ferry?

LINCOLN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT; SOUTHERN SECESSION

(Pages 328–331)

What were the results of the 1860 presidential election?

The Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, won the presidential election of 1860. He received no electoral votes in the South. Lincoln’s victory convinced Southerners that they had lost their political power in the United States. They feared an end to their whole way of life.

As a result, Southern states began to leave the Union. South Carolina seceded on December 20, 1860. By February 1861, six other states followed. They formed the **Confederacy**, or Confederate States of America. They elected **Jefferson Davis** president. What many people had feared—a divided country—had finally happened.

4. What major event led to the secession of Southern states from the Union?

Section 4, continued

As you read about reasons for the South's secession, fill out the chart below.

	Supporters	Reasons for their Support
1. <i>Dred Scott</i> decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
2. Lecompton constitution	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
3. Douglas, in the Lincoln-Douglas debates	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
4. Lincoln, in the Lincoln-Douglas debates	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
5. The raid on Harpers Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
6. John Brown's hanging	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
7. The election of Lincoln to the presidency	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	
8. The secession of Southern states	<input type="checkbox"/> Proslavery forces <input type="checkbox"/> Antislavery forces	

