

Lesson: Brothers

Lesson Topic: The End of a Dark Era

The End of a Dark Era

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Early in the history of the United States, African Americans were treated like property. They were bought and sold as slaves. Their white owners forced them to work long hours as house servants or field workers. They lived in deplorable conditions. They had no say in their lives. There was practically no way out.



- Slaves were first brought to the United States in 1619. The slavery debate reached a boiling point during the Civil War.

Not all people supported slavery. In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation passed the Northwest Ordinance. This act ended slavery in the territories north of the Ohio River. By the early 1800s, most of the northern states had created laws against slavery. However, states in the South stood firm in their beliefs and even wanted to expand slavery.



- This map shows the states that allowed slavery (red) and the free states (blue) prior to the Civil War. Slavery was also outlawed in the territories (yellow).

This difference in opinion was a critical issue in the presidential election of 1860. Abraham Lincoln and his fellow Republicans vowed to fight against the expansion of slavery. They won the election, but early in 1861, seven states in the South seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. Both sides came together in February for the Peace Conference of 1861. They couldn't reach a compromise, and the Civil War began just two months later.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln's now-famous Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. This order freed all the slaves held in any state still in rebellion. Slavery wasn't completely over, but Lincoln continued to push for a constitutional amendment that would forever abolish slavery in the United States.



□ This map shows where slaves were freed (red) and where they were not (blue) after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Even though the Civil War wasn't over yet, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment on January 31, 1865. This amendment was a victory for President Lincoln, Republicans, and former slaves. It officially outlawed slavery in all parts of the United States. Northern states quickly ratified the amendment. Many Southern state legislatures refused ratification at first. The war officially ended in April and by December 6, 1865, the amendment had passed the **ratification** process. Sadly, President Lincoln was assassinated in April of 1865 and never saw the official end of slavery in the United States. However, his legacy lives on, and we celebrate his role in winning freedom for everyone.

Question 1:

What act was created to end slavery in territories north of the Ohio River?

- ☐ Peace Conference
- ☐ Slavery Treaty
- ☐ Thirteenth Amendment
- ☐ Northwest Ordinance

Question 2:

What are the main ideas of the text? Check all that apply.

Check all that are true.

- ☐ Early in the history of the United States, African-American people were treated like property.
- ☐ Most northern states and territories were against slavery.
- ☐ Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States.
- ☐ Abraham Lincoln fought to end slavery.

Question 3:

What is the relationship between the North and the abolition of slavery?

- ☐ The South did not support slavery and fought the north to abolish slavery.
- ☐ The North did not like slavery, but did not try to stop the South from expanding slavery.
- ☐ The North did not support slavery and fought to abolish slavery in the United States.
- ☐ The North wanted to expand slavery in the United States and Canada.

Question 4:

Read the paragraph.

*Northern states quickly ratified the amendment. Many Southern state legislatures refused ratification at first. The war officially ended in April and by December 6, 1865, the amendment had passed the **ratification** process. Sadly, President Lincoln was assassinated in April of 1865 and never saw the official end of slavery in the United States. However, his legacy lives on and we celebrate his role in winning freedom for everyone.*

What is the meaning of the word **ratification**?

- ☐ to give legal or official approval of
- ☐ to create an act
- ☐ to make amends or forgive
- ☐ to give permission to do

Question 5:

If you compare this article about slavery and "Brother Against Brother in the Civil War", how are the ideas or concepts the same?

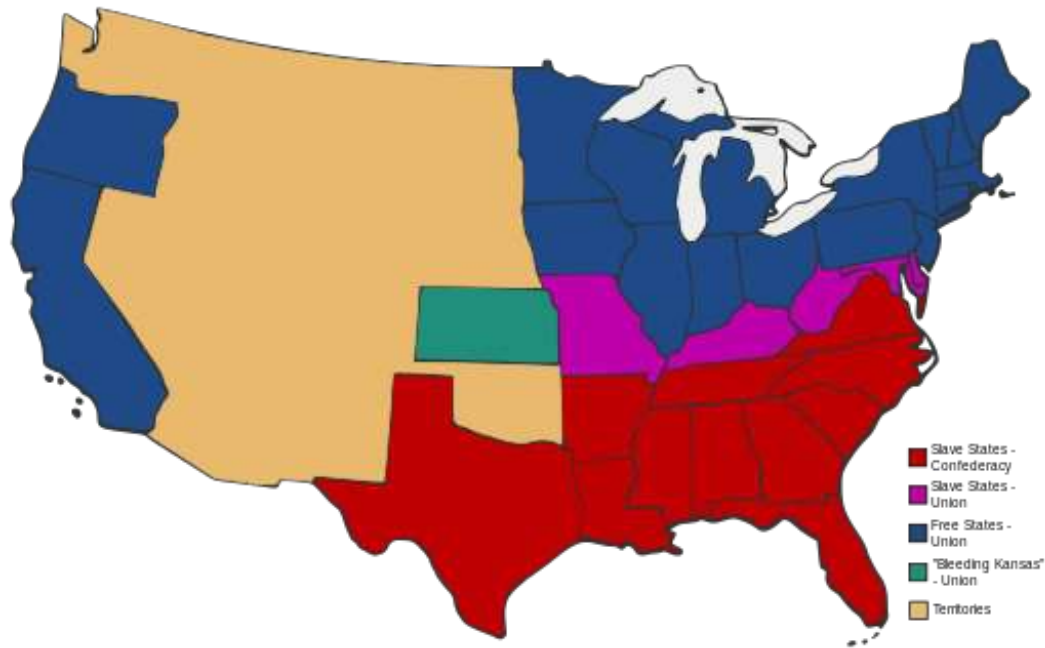
- ☐ Different beliefs regarding slavery caused many families to fight each other.
- ☐ Different beliefs regarding the Civil War caused many families to stop fighting in the Civil War.
- ☐ Different beliefs regarding slavery brought the nation together and led to the abolition of slavery.
- ☐ Different beliefs regarding slavery divided the U. S. and led to the Civil War.

Question 6:

With which statement would the author most likely agree?

- ☐ President Lincoln was a happy man.
- ☐ President Lincoln was an evil man.
- ☐ President Lincoln was a courageous man.
- ☐ President Lincoln was a dangerous man.

Question 7:



By reading the article and looking at the map, you can tell that most slave states

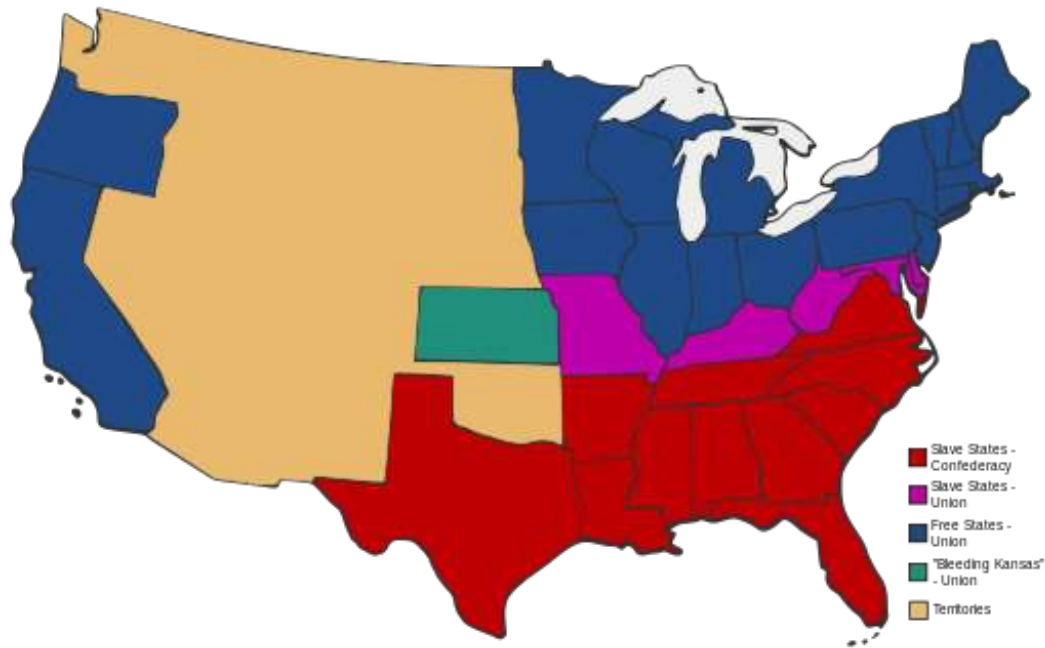
- ☐ had more slaves than free states
- ☐ were smaller than free states
- ☐ were located in the North
- ☐ were located in the South

Question 8:

According to the article, which is the best reason for ending slavery?

- ☐ African-American people were treated like property.
- ☐ Abraham Lincoln and his fellow Republicans vowed to fight against the expansion of slavery.
- ☐ Not all people supported slavery.
- ☐ Seven states in the South seceded from the United States to form the Confederacy.

Question 9:



Examine the map below. What are the important details in this text *that were not in the article*?

- ☐ Slavery did not spread to U.S. territories.
- ☐ All of the Confederate or Southern states were slave states.
- ☐ Some Union or Northern states owned slaves.
- ☐ none of the above