

Civil War Unit Study Guide

What This Study Guide Covers

This guide pulls together the content and handwritten notes from the worksheet pages and organizes them into quiz-ready sections.

1. Causes of Sectional Conflict

Different economies in the North and South

North

- Factory jobs
- Manufacturing
- Industrialization grew quickly
- Many immigrants came to the North to work as wage earners in factories

South

- Farming
- Agriculture
- Economy depended heavily on cash crops
- Large plantations relied on enslaved labor
- Many Southerners were poor farmers, but plantation slavery shaped the region's economy and politics

Life of enslaved people

- Harsh treatment
- Built communities that mixed African and American traditions
- Practiced their own brand of Christianity

Life of free Africans and African Americans

- Traveled north to places like Philadelphia
 - Tried to become fully part of American society
 - Searched for identity and community through churches and organizations
 - Worked in occupations such as tradesmen, bricklayers, and carpenters
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2. Arguments For and Against Slavery

Arguments used by supporters of slavery

- Southerners believed abolitionists disrespected their way of life
- They defended slavery by criticizing harsh factory conditions in the North
- They claimed enslaved people were treated better in the South

Arguments against slavery

- Slavery treated people as property
 - It denied freedom and basic rights
 - It caused suffering
 - It separated families
 - It slowed moral and economic progress
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3. Major Compromises Over Slavery

Missouri Compromise, 1820

Terms of the compromise

- Missouri entered as a slave state
- Maine entered as a free state
- Slavery was banned north of the 36°30' line, except in Missouri

Henry Clay, “The Great Compromiser”

- Henry Clay helped create compromises to reduce conflict between free and slave states
- He played a major role in trying to hold the Union together

Compromise of 1850

Terms of the compromise

- California entered as a free state
 - Texas remained a slave state
 - New Mexico and Utah used popular sovereignty
 - The slave trade ended in Washington, D.C.
 - The Fugitive Slave Act required escaped enslaved people to be returned
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4. Kansas-Nebraska Act and Popular Sovereignty

Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854

- Created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska
- Let settlers decide whether slavery would be allowed there
- This used the idea of **popular sovereignty**

Define popular sovereignty

From the notes:

- When Congress lets the people make their own decisions about slavery

Quiz-ready definition:

- Popular sovereignty is the idea that the people of a territory vote to decide whether slavery will be allowed there

How is popular sovereignty related to states' rights

- Both ideas say local people or governments should decide important issues for themselves instead of the federal government deciding for them
- In this unit, it meant people in each territory or state wanted control over the slavery question

Why the Kansas-Nebraska Act was important

- It reopened the slavery issue in the territories
- It weakened earlier compromises
- It increased conflict between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups

Bloody Kansas

From the notes, cleaned up:

- By 1856, people from the North and South had turned Kansas into a violent battleground
- Free-Soilers and pro-slavery settlers beat and murdered each other while fighting for control
- Tension became so intense that even members of Congress carried weapons

Quiz idea:

- Bloody Kansas showed that the slavery issue was no longer just political. It had become violent.

5. Slave Resistance and Nat Turner's Rebellion

Reasons enslaved people revolted

- Harsh and cruel treatment by slave owners
- Desire for freedom
- Physical punishment and abuse
- Separation from family
- Influence of religion
- Inspiration from other revolts and resistance movements

Nat Turner's Rebellion

From the worksheet notes:

- Six slaves escaped from owners and killed about 60 people before they were caught and killed

Quiz-ready summary:

- Nat Turner led a violent slave rebellion in Virginia in 1831. The rebellion frightened white Southerners and led to harsher slave laws.

Effects of slave revolts

- Stricter slave laws in the South
 - Increased fear among slaveholders
 - Harsher attitudes toward enslaved people
 - Growth of the abolitionist movement
 - Increased tension between the North and South
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6. Abolitionists

David Walker

- Wrote a pamphlet encouraging people to resist slavery

William Lloyd Garrison

- Published *The Liberator*
- Called for the end of slavery

Harriet Tubman

- Helped enslaved people escape using the Underground Railroad

Sojourner Truth

- Gave speeches about ending slavery and about women's rights
- Famous for "Ain't I a Woman?"

Angelina and Sarah Grimké

- Spoke publicly against slavery
- Wrote letters and speeches

Harriet Beecher Stowe

- Wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Showed how cruel slavery was

Frederick Douglass

- Escaped slavery
 - Became a writer and speaker against slavery
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7. Dred Scott v. Sandford

Summary of the case

From the notes, cleaned up:

- The Supreme Court ruled that enslaved people were not citizens and had no right to sue in court
- The Court also ruled that Congress could not ban slavery in U.S. territories
- The decision increased tension between the North and South

Final outcome of the case

From the notes, cleaned up:

- Dred Scott lost his case
- The Supreme Court said he was not a citizen of the United States
- The ruling denied rights to Black people and strengthened the position of slavery supporters

Why this mattered

- It angered many people in the North
 - It made compromise over slavery even harder
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8. John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry

Summary of the event

From the notes, cleaned up:

- John Brown led a raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859 to start a slave rebellion
- He was captured by U.S. troops and executed
- The event increased tension before the Civil War

Why this mattered

- Many Southerners feared more violent abolitionist actions
- Many Northerners saw Brown differently, with some viewing him as a martyr

Main idea from John Brown's court speech

- Brown argued that he acted to free enslaved people and believed his actions were morally right
 - He was willing to die for what he believed was justice
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9. Abraham Lincoln and Secession

Lincoln wins the election of 1860

- Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 election as the **Republican** candidate
- His victory convinced many Southerners that slavery would lose political protection in the future

Lincoln's main goal as president

From the notes:

- His main goal was to preserve the Union

Important Lincoln ideas from the worksheet

Quote idea 1:

- Lincoln said he had no lawful right to interfere with slavery where it already existed

Quote idea 2, cleaned up:

- Lincoln believed the country could not remain permanently divided between free and slave states
- He said he did not expect the Union to dissolve, but he expected the division to end one way or another

Southern states secede

- After Lincoln's election, Southern states began leaving the Union
 - They feared being outnumbered in Congress and losing power over slavery
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10. Fort Sumter

Quiz-ready summary

- Fort Sumter was a U.S. fort in South Carolina
- In April 1861, Confederate forces attacked it
- The attack marked the beginning of the Civil War

Why it mattered

- It turned the crisis from a political conflict into a war
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11. Fast Timeline to Memorize

- **1820:** Missouri Compromise
 - **1850:** Compromise of 1850
 - **1854:** Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - **1856:** Bloody Kansas violence grows
 - **1857:** Dred Scott decision
 - **1859:** John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry
 - **1860:** Lincoln wins the election
 - **1861:** Southern states secede and Fort Sumter is attacked
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12. Key Terms to Know

Popular sovereignty

The people in a territory vote to decide whether slavery is allowed.

States' rights

The belief that states should have power to make their own decisions instead of the federal government.

Abolitionist

A person who wanted slavery to end.

Secede

To leave the Union.

Fugitive Slave Act

A law requiring escaped enslaved people to be returned.

Free state

A state where slavery was not allowed.

Slave state

A state where slavery was legal.

13. Most Likely Quiz Questions

Short answer practice

1. What was popular sovereignty?
2. How did popular sovereignty relate to states' rights?
3. What happened in Bloody Kansas?
4. What did the Supreme Court decide in Dred Scott v. Sandford?
5. Why was John Brown's raid important?
6. What was Lincoln's main goal when he became president?
7. Why did Southern states secede after Lincoln's election?
8. What event officially started the Civil War?
9. What were the main terms of the Missouri Compromise?
10. What were the main terms of the Compromise of 1850?

People to identify

- Henry Clay
 - Nat Turner
 - David Walker
 - William Lloyd Garrison
 - Harriet Tubman
 - Sojourner Truth
 - Angelina and Sarah Grimké
 - Harriet Beecher Stowe
 - Frederick Douglass
 - Dred Scott
 - John Brown
 - Abraham Lincoln
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14. Super Short Review Sheet

- **North** = factories, manufacturing, immigrants, wage labor
 - **South** = agriculture, plantations, enslaved labor, cash crops
 - **Popular sovereignty** = people vote on slavery
 - **Missouri Compromise** = Missouri slave, Maine free, 36°30' line
 - **Compromise of 1850** = California free, stronger Fugitive Slave Act, popular sovereignty in NM and Utah
 - **Bleeding Kansas** = violence over slavery in Kansas
 - **Dred Scott** = enslaved people not citizens, Congress cannot ban slavery in territories
 - **John Brown** = raid at Harpers Ferry to spark slave rebellion
 - **Lincoln** = wanted to preserve the Union
 - **Secession** = Southern states leave Union after Lincoln wins
 - **Fort Sumter** = start of the Civil War
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15. Last-Minute Memory Tricks

- **Missouri Compromise** = think **line on the map**
 - **Compromise of 1850** = think **California free + Fugitive Slave Act**
 - **Kansas-Nebraska Act** = think **popular sovereignty**
 - **Bloody Kansas** = think **violence before the war**
 - **Dred Scott** = think **no citizenship, no lawsuit**
 - **John Brown** = think **raid at Harpers Ferry**
 - **Lincoln** = think **save the Union**
 - **Fort Sumter** = think **war begins**
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16. 10 Quick Quiz Questions With Answers

1. What was the main difference between the North and South economies?

The North focused on factories and manufacturing, while the South focused on agriculture and plantation crops.

2. What is popular sovereignty?

The idea that people in a territory decide for themselves whether slavery will be allowed.

3. What did the Missouri Compromise do?

It admitted Missouri as a slave state, Maine as a free state, and banned slavery north of 36°30' except in Missouri.

4. What did the Compromise of 1850 do?

It admitted California as a free state, allowed popular sovereignty in New Mexico and Utah, ended the slave trade in Washington, D.C., and strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act.

5. What was Bloody Kansas?

A period of violent fighting between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups in Kansas.

6. What happened in Dred Scott v. Sandford?

The Supreme Court said Dred Scott was not a citizen and that Congress could not ban slavery in the territories.

7. Why was John Brown's raid important?

It increased fear and tension between the North and South before the Civil War.

8. What was Lincoln's main goal?

To preserve the Union.

9. Why did Southern states secede?

They feared losing power and believed Lincoln's election threatened slavery.

10. What event started the Civil War?

The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter.