A Divided Nation

Read how disputes over slavery grew before the Civil War.

SS24.4.13 "Describe how slavery contributed to sectional disagreements, divisions over states' rights, and economic disputes resulting in the Civil War..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two events that increased disagreement about slavery. Circle one way people worked against slavery, and number two ways Alabama was involved in the conflict.

How the Divide Grew

1. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state. It barred slavery north of a line in much of the land bought from France, except in Missouri. This deal showed that North and South disagreed about slavery's spread. Many Southern leaders wanted states to decide for themselves. Many Northern leaders feared that slavery would spread into new states.

2. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery in territories where the earlier deal had barred it. Fighting followed in Kansas. Abolitionists worked to end slavery. Frederick Douglass, who escaped slavery, spoke and wrote against it. Enslaved people resisted and shared their experiences. In 1860, the Clotilda brought kidnapped Africans to Alabama's Mobile Bay, though importing enslaved people was illegal. Its voyage showed attempts to expand slavery.

3. When Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 election, many Southern leaders feared he would stop slavery from spreading west. Southern cotton growers wanted to expand slave labor, while many Northerners opposed its spread. Some Southern leaders claimed states had the right to leave the United States, but slavery was at the center of the dispute. In 1861, delegates formed the Confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama, and chose Jefferson Davis as president. Some northern Alabamians opposed leaving.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Missouri Compromise try to handle disagreement about slavery in new states and lands?

2. Why did the Kansas-Nebraska Act increase disagreement about slavery?

3. How did Frederick Douglass and enslaved people work against slavery?

4. What do the Clotilda's voyage and the events in Montgomery show about Alabama's role in the conflict? How did some northern Alabamians differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label explaining how a disagreement about slavery's spread grew into a disagreement about leaving the United States. Include one event from 1820 to 1860, one action taken by people who opposed slavery, and one way Alabama was divided.

ANSWER KEY

A Divided Nation

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two events that increased disagreement about slavery. Circle one way people worked against slavery, and number two ways Alabama was involved in the conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Missouri Compromise try to handle disagreement about slavery in new states and lands?	**It allowed one slave state and one free state to enter and barred slavery north of a line in much of the land bought from France.**
2	Why did the Kansas-Nebraska Act increase disagreement about slavery?	**It let settlers vote on slavery where the earlier compromise had barred it, and fighting followed in Kansas.**
3	How did Frederick Douglass and enslaved people work against slavery?	**Douglass spoke and wrote against slavery. Enslaved people resisted and shared their experiences.**
4	What do the Clotilda's voyage and the events in Montgomery show about Alabama's role in the conflict? How did some northern Alabamians differ?	**The Clotilda brought kidnapped Africans to Mobile Bay in an attempt to expand slavery. Delegates formed the Confederacy in Montgomery, but some northern Alabamians opposed leaving the United States.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery in new territories, and fighting in Kansas showed how deeply people disagreed. Frederick Douglass spoke against slavery so others could hear why it should end. After Lincoln won, Southern leaders feared slavery would stop spreading, so Alabama helped form the Confederacy in Montgomery, though some northern Alabamians opposed leaving.

Accept other passage-supported examples of events and actions against slavery. The museum label should connect the dispute over slavery to secession and name the division within Alabama.