A Growing Divide

Trace how events widened the divide between North and South.

SS24.4.13a "Identify and describe how key events from the Missouri Compromise (1820) to the election of Abraham Lincoln (1860) contributed to growing sectional divisions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name and year of each event. Circle words that show how the event affected the disagreement over slavery.

From a Line to an Election

1. Imagine a line drawn across a large piece of land. In 1820, Congress passed the Missouri Compromise. Missouri entered the United States as a slave state, while Maine entered as a free state. Congress also drew a line across much of the land bought from France. Slavery would be banned north of that line, except in Missouri. This deal kept the number of free and slave states equal, but did not end the argument.

2. In 1850, another deal let California enter as a free state. A new law allowed officials to require people to help return people who had escaped slavery. Many people in the North were angry about this law. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers in two new territories vote on slavery. It set aside the old Missouri Compromise line. People on both sides rushed to Kansas, where fighting broke out.

3. In 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in the Dred Scott case that Congress could not ban slavery in U.S. territories. Many Northerners feared slavery could spread even farther. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln won the election for president. He opposed the spread of slavery into the territories, but did not call for ending it in states where it already existed. Many Southern leaders feared his election threatened slavery. The divide between North and South grew deeper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Missouri Compromise try to settle the argument over slavery, and why was the argument not over?

2. How did the 1850 law about people who had escaped slavery add to the divide?

3. How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act change the earlier deal, and what happened in Kansas?

4. How did the Dred Scott ruling and Lincoln's election each make the divide deeper?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence news note to readers in 1820. Explain how the disagreement over slavery grew from the Missouri Compromise to Lincoln's election, using two events from the years between them.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · SS24.4.13a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the name and year of each event. Circle words that show how the event affected the disagreement over slavery. 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 settle the argument over slavery, and why was the argument not over?	**It kept the number of free and slave states equal and banned slavery north of a line, except in Missouri. The passage says the deal did not end the argument.**
2	How did the 1850 law about people who had escaped slavery add to the divide?	**It allowed officials to require people to help return those who had escaped slavery, which angered many people in the North.**
3	How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act change the earlier deal, and what happened in Kansas?	**It set aside the Missouri Compromise line and let settlers vote on slavery. People on both sides went to Kansas, where fighting broke out.**
4	How did the Dred Scott ruling and Lincoln's election each make the divide deeper?	**The ruling said Congress could not ban slavery in U.S. territories, worrying many Northerners. Lincoln opposed slavery's spread, and many Southern leaders feared his election threatened slavery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Readers in 1820, the Missouri Compromise drew a line to limit slavery in new land, but the argument did not end. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery and set aside that line. In 1857, the Dred Scott ruling said Congress could not ban slavery in U.S. territories. By 1860, Lincoln's election worried Southern leaders, and the divide between North and South was deeper.

Accept accurate descriptions in students' own words. For the news note, look for two events between 1820 and 1860 and an explanation of how the divide grew.