Neighbors Divided

How secession brought conflict to northern Arkansas

SS24.AS.11a "Describe how secession fostered division and led to conflict in the northern half of the state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons Arkansans disagreed about secession, circle two actions that followed the split, and number the actions in the order they happened. Use your marks to trace how disagreement became conflict.

When Arkansas Left the Union

1 In 1861, Arkansas faced a choice that divided neighbors. At the state convention in March, delegates voted against leaving the United States. Many people in the northern Ozarks had little investment in slavery and did not want to fight for secession. After fighting began at Fort Sumter and President Lincoln called for troops, a second convention vote in May took Arkansas out of the Union. That decision did not make every Arkansan a Confederate supporter. In the northern half of the state, families now had to decide whether their loyalty belonged to Arkansas's new government or to the United States.

2 Some northern Arkansans joined Confederate forces, while others remained loyal to the Union. In the Ozark region, Union supporters formed secret groups known as Peace Societies. Members resisted Confederate recruitment and tried to avoid being drawn into the war. Confederate authorities saw these groups as a threat. In late 1861, troops arrested suspected members in north-central Arkansas. Some were forced into Confederate service, while others escaped or faced punishment. Secession had turned a political disagreement into a dangerous local struggle. A person who opposed the war might be treated as an enemy by people who lived nearby.

3 The split also shaped battles in the north. In March 1862, Confederate and Union armies fought at Pea Ridge in northwestern Arkansas. Confederate leaders hoped to regain control of Missouri, while Union forces fought to hold their position. The Union victory weakened Confederate power in the region. Not every soldier at Pea Ridge was from Arkansas, but the battle showed that the war reached a state where loyalties were already divided. From secret meetings and arrests to armies fighting near homes and farms, secession helped turn disagreement over government into conflict across northern Arkansas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Arkansas's vote to secede in May not settle the disagreement in the northern half of the state?

2. How did the Peace Societies and the response to them turn divided loyalties into local conflict?

3. How did the fighting at Pea Ridge show that the conflict had reached northern Arkansas?

4. Compare the two kinds of conflict described in the last two paragraphs. How did secession contribute to each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label about two imagined northern Arkansas neighbors who chose different sides after secession. Show how their relationship might change, and connect their story to one real event in the passage without presenting the neighbors as real people.

ANSWER KEY

Neighbors Divided

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.AS.11a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons Arkansans disagreed about secession, circle two actions that followed the split, and number the actions in the order they happened. Use your marks to trace how disagreement became conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Arkansas's vote to secede in May not settle the disagreement in the northern half of the state?	**Many northern Arkansans opposed secession and remained loyal to the United States, even after the state voted to leave the Union.**
2	How did the Peace Societies and the response to them turn divided loyalties into local conflict?	**Union supporters formed Peace Societies and resisted Confederate recruitment. Confederate authorities treated them as threats, arresting suspected members and forcing some into service.**
3	How did the fighting at Pea Ridge show that the conflict had reached northern Arkansas?	**Union and Confederate armies fought in northwestern Arkansas. Their battle brought the war into a region where residents' loyalties were already divided.**
4	Compare the two kinds of conflict described in the last two paragraphs. How did secession contribute to each?	**Secession split neighbors' loyalties, leading to secret groups and arrests. It also made Arkansas part of the wider war between Union and Confederate armies, which fought at Pea Ridge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Imagine two neighbors in northern Arkansas: Eli wants the state to stay in the Union, while Thomas supports secession. Before 1861, they disagree but still trade tools. After Arkansas leaves the Union, Thomas joins a Confederate unit, and Eli avoids recruiters. When troops arrest suspected Peace Society members, Eli fears Thomas might report him, though Thomas has made no threat. Their friendship becomes strained because Eli's loyalty to the Union now puts him at risk. The neighbors are fictional, but the arrests were real. They show how secession could turn a political disagreement into fear between people living nearby.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect secession to divided loyalties and then to local or military conflict. For the museum label, look for a plausible relationship change, an accurate event from the passage, and a clear distinction between imagined people and historical events.