

A Nation Divided

Trace how conflict over slavery led to war and lasting change.

SS.8.A.5.1 "Explain the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War (e.g., sectionalism, slavery, states' rights, balance of power in the Senate)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline any two causes of the war, circle any three course events, and number any two consequences. Choose any distinct details supported by the passage, and use your marks to show how causes, events, and results connect.

Causes, Conflict, and Change

- ① By 1860, sectionalism had deepened between the North and South. Northern factories and free-labor farms differed from the South's plantation economy, which depended heavily on enslaved labor. The most bitter dispute concerned slavery's expansion into western territories. Each new state could change the balance of power between free and slave states in the Senate. Many white Southerners argued that states' rights protected slavery, while many Northerners rejected that claim. After Abraham Lincoln won the presidency, seven Southern states seceded, forming the Confederate States of America.
- ② War began in April 1861 when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Union aimed to restore the nation, and the Confederacy fought for independence. After the 1862 Battle of Antietam, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, making ending slavery a Union war aim in rebelling states. In 1863, the Union victory at Gettysburg stopped Confederate forces from invading the North and badly weakened their army. That same year, Vicksburg surrendered, giving the Union control of the Mississippi River and dividing Confederate territory.
- ③ The Civil War ended in 1865 when Confederate armies surrendered. More than 600,000 soldiers died, and fighting damaged homes, railroads, farms, and cities, especially in the South. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery throughout the United States, changing the legal status of nearly four million formerly enslaved people. However, freedom did not end conflict over rights, labor, or political power. During Reconstruction, the nation debated how Southern states would return and whether the federal government would protect the civil and political rights of freedpeople.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did slavery's expansion into western territories increase sectional conflict?

2 How did the Union's war aim change after the Battle of Antietam?

3 What was a different result of the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg?

4 Describe two consequences of the Civil War named in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence cause, course, and consequence chain. Choose one cause from the first paragraph, explain how it helped lead to secession or fighting, describe one war event, and connect it to one consequence of the war.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline any two causes of the war, circle any three course events, and number any two consequences. Choose any distinct details supported by the passage, and use your marks to show how causes, events, and results connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did slavery's expansion into western territories increase sectional conflict?	Each new state could shift the balance of power between free and slave states in the Senate, making the dispute over slavery's expansion more intense.
2	How did the Union's war aim change after the Battle of Antietam?	The Union still sought to restore the nation, but Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation also made ending slavery in rebelling states a Union war aim.
3	What was a different result of the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg?	Gettysburg stopped a Confederate invasion of the North and weakened the Confederate army. Vicksburg gave the Union control of the Mississippi River and divided Confederate territory.
4	Describe two consequences of the Civil War named in the passage.	Accept any two: more than 600,000 soldiers died; property and transportation were damaged, especially in the South; the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery; Reconstruction debates continued over rights, labor, and political power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Disputes over slavery's expansion into western territories deepened sectionalism because new states could change Senate power. This conflict helped lead to Southern secession after Lincoln's election, and war began at Fort Sumter. During the war, the Union captured Vicksburg and gained control of the Mississippi River. The war ended with slavery abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment.

Accept any accurate cause, course event, and consequence from the passage if the student explains a logical connection among them. For the open response, the selected cause must be explicitly linked to secession or fighting, not merely listed beside later events.