

Slavery and Sections

Trace how slavery divided the United States before the Civil War.

SS.8.A.5.2 "Analyze the role of slavery in the development of sectional conflict."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how slavery created different interests or conflicts between regions. Number the details 1, 2, and 3, then draw a short arrow to any result named near each detail.

A Growing Divide

- ① By the 1830s, slavery had shaped two different economies. In the South, enslaved people were forced to grow cash crops such as cotton, creating great wealth for plantation owners. In much of the North, factories, trade, and free wage labor expanded. Many white Northerners did not favor equality for Black Americans, but they feared that slavery's spread would limit opportunities for free workers. These differences led people in each region to defend different economic interests and social systems.
- ② As the nation added western land, the question became whether slavery could enter new territories and states. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, while drawing a line for slavery in much of the Louisiana Purchase. This agreement temporarily reduced conflict, but it did not settle whether Congress could limit slavery. Each new state could change the balance of power between free and slave states in Congress.
- ③ Conflict sharpened in the 1850s. The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed settlers in two territories to vote on slavery, replacing the earlier Missouri Compromise line. Proslavery and antislavery settlers rushed into Kansas, and violence followed. In 1857, the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision said Congress could not ban slavery in the territories. Many Northerners saw the decision as proof that slaveholders held too much national power. After Abraham Lincoln, who opposed slavery's expansion, won the 1860 election, several Southern states seceded, helping cause the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did slavery help create different economic interests in the North and South?

2 How did the Missouri Compromise reduce conflict for a time, and what issue did it leave unsettled?

3 Why did violence break out in Kansas after the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

4 How did the Dred Scott decision and Lincoln's election increase sectional conflict?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how the fight over slavery in western territories made compromise between the sections harder. Use two details from the passage and explain how each detail increased conflict.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how slavery created different interests or conflicts between regions. Number the details 1, 2, and 3, then draw a short arrow to any result named near each detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did slavery help create different economic interests in the North and South?	In the South, enslaved labor produced cash crops and wealth for plantation owners. In much of the North, factories, trade, and free wage labor expanded, and many Northerners feared slavery would limit free workers' opportunities.
2	How did the Missouri Compromise reduce conflict for a time, and what issue did it leave unsettled?	It balanced the admission of Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state and drew a line for slavery in much of the Louisiana Purchase. It did not settle whether Congress could limit slavery in territories.
3	Why did violence break out in Kansas after the Kansas-Nebraska Act?	The act allowed settlers to vote on slavery, so proslavery and antislavery settlers rushed into Kansas and fought over the outcome.
4	How did the Dred Scott decision and Lincoln's election increase sectional conflict?	The Dred Scott decision convinced many Northerners that slaveholders had too much national power because Congress could not ban slavery in territories. Lincoln's election led several Southern states to secede because he opposed slavery's expansion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Western expansion increased sectional conflict because each new state could affect power in Congress. The Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery, leading competing groups to rush into Kansas and violence to follow. The Dred Scott decision then convinced many Northerners that slaveholders had too much national power, making compromise harder.

Accept answers that accurately connect slavery to regional economic interests, political power, territorial expansion, violence, court decisions, secession, or war. For the open response, students should use two accurate passage details and clearly explain how those details made sectional conflict worse.