

A Nation Divided

Classify states and territories at the start of the Civil War.

SS.8.A.5.4 "Identify the division (i.e., Confederate and Union States, border states, western territories) of the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each named place that belongs in one of the four 1861 categories. Write C for Confederate state, U for Union state, B for border state, or T for western territory beside each circle.

Four Parts of the Nation

- ① In 1861, the United States divided as the Civil War began. Eleven southern states formed the Confederacy: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Seven states had seceded before fighting started at Fort Sumter in April. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined afterward. Confederate leaders chose Richmond, Virginia, as their capital. The Confederate government claimed independence, while the United States government rejected secession and worked to preserve the Union as one nation.
- ② Twenty-three states remained in the Union, including the free states of the North and West, such as Ohio, New York, and Illinois. Four slave states, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, did not secede. Because they lay between free and Confederate states, historians call them border states. Their location mattered. Maryland surrounded Washington, D.C., on three sides, and Kentucky controlled important rivers. Although people in the border states held divided loyalties, these states officially stayed with the Union. West Virginia did not yet exist in 1861; it became a state in 1863.
- ③ Beyond the states, western territories were governed by the United States but had not yet become states. In 1861, major western territories included New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Colorado, Dakota, Nevada, and Nebraska. They were not Union states or Confederate states because they were territories, not states. Most remained under United States authority, although fighting and political conflict reached parts of the West. The territories mattered because routes, forts, minerals, and land could help either side. When identifying the nation's division, separate states from territories.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name the eleven states that formed the Confederacy.

2 Which four states were border states? What made them border states?

3 How does the passage classify Ohio? How is Ohio different from a western territory?

4 Why should western territories be listed separately from Union and Confederate states?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Build a four-row division chart. Use one different place from the passage for each category: Confederate state, Union state, border state, and western territory. In the last column, write a brief fact from the passage that supports each choice.

1861 CATEGORY	PLACE	SUPPORTING FACT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each named place that belongs in one of the four 1861 categories. Write C for Confederate state, U for Union state, B for border state, or T for western territory beside each circle. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the eleven states that formed the Confederacy.	South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
2	Which four states were border states? What made them border states?	Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. They were slave states that did not secede and lay between free and Confederate states.
3	How does the passage classify Ohio? How is Ohio different from a western territory?	Ohio was a Union state. A western territory was governed by the United States but had not yet become a state.
4	Why should western territories be listed separately from Union and Confederate states?	They were territories, not states, so they were neither Union states nor Confederate states.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1861 CATEGORY	PLACE	SUPPORTING FACT
Confederate state	Texas	Texas was one of the eleven states that formed the Confederacy.
Union state	Illinois	Illinois was a free state that remained in the Union.
Border state	Missouri	Missouri was a slave state that did not secede.
Western territory	Utah	Utah was governed by the United States but had not become a state.

Accept any correctly classified place named in the passage and a supporting fact that matches the passage. For the chart, each of the four categories should be used once, with no repeated place.