

A Nation Divided

How slavery and state power raised conflict between regions

SS4H5.b "Discuss how the issues of states' rights and slavery increased tensions between the North and South."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show a disagreement between the North and South. Circle details that tell how the disagreement made tension grow.

Growing Tensions

- ① In the 1800s, the North and South had different economies and beliefs. Northern factories used paid workers, while Southern plantations depended on enslaved people. As the United States gained western land, leaders argued about slavery there. Many Northerners wanted to limit its spread. Many white Southerners feared that limits on slavery would weaken their economy and political power.
- ② Another argument involved states' rights, or how much power each state should have. Some Southern leaders said states should decide whether slavery was legal within their borders. They also objected when the federal government tried to limit slavery in new territories. Northern states sometimes passed laws to protect freedom seekers. Southern leaders said these state laws clashed with federal laws, increasing distrust.
- ③ Tension grew after Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850. The law required federal officials and, when called on, citizens to help capture people who had escaped slavery. Many Northerners opposed the law and some helped freedom seekers. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery in two territories. Fighting in Kansas showed how arguments over slavery and local power could turn violent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the North's and South's different economies lead them to disagree about slavery in western land?

2 What did some Southern leaders say states should be able to decide?

3 How did Northern state laws to protect freedom seekers increase distrust?

4 How did the Fugitive Slave Act increase tension between the North and South?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose **slavery** or **states' rights**. Write four sentences explaining how people in the North and South disagreed about the issue and how that disagreement increased tension.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show a disagreement between the North and South. Circle details that tell how the disagreement made tension grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the North's and South's different economies lead them to disagree about slavery in western land?	Many Northerners wanted to limit slavery's spread. Many white Southerners feared limits would weaken their economy and political power.
2	What did some Southern leaders say states should be able to decide?	They said each state should decide whether slavery was legal within its borders.
3	How did Northern state laws to protect freedom seekers increase distrust?	Southern leaders believed the state laws clashed with federal laws, which increased distrust.
4	How did the Fugitive Slave Act increase tension between the North and South?	The law required help capturing people who had escaped slavery. Many Northerners opposed it, and some helped freedom seekers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Slavery caused tension because Northerners wanted to stop it from spreading into western territories. Many white Southerners wanted slavery protected because their plantation economy depended on enslaved labor. These groups wanted different laws for the territories. Their disagreement increased distrust between the North and South.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect different Northern and Southern views to growing distrust or conflict. For the open response, accept either issue if the student accurately explains both regional views and the resulting tension.