

Sections in Conflict

Trace how competing viewpoints deepened sectionalism.

11.3b "Different perspectives concerning constitutional, political, economic, and social issues contributed to the growth of sectionalism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline opposing views on slavery's expansion. Circle an economic concern and a constitutional concern. Mark evidence of increased conflict.

Arguments That Divided the Nation

- ① In the 1850s, slavery's expansion sharpened sectional loyalties. Many white southern slaveholders defended slavery as essential to their wealth and power. They claimed a constitutional right to take enslaved people into territories as property. Many northern Free Soilers wanted western land reserved for free labor, without necessarily supporting racial equality. Abolitionists demanded slavery's end. Regions held varied viewpoints, but competition over congressional power intensified divisions.
- ② The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise's restriction on slavery in those territories and adopted popular sovereignty: territorial residents would decide slavery's status. Supporters presented this as local self-government. Opponents condemned opening territory previously closed to slavery. Proslavery and antislavery settlers competed for control in Kansas, where fraudulent elections and violence followed. The policy intended to settle the dispute instead intensified mistrust.
- ③ The Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision in 1857 inflamed the conflict. The majority denied U.S. citizenship to descendants of Africans brought to America and enslaved, whether free or enslaved themselves. It also ruled Congress could not prohibit slavery in the territories. Proslavery supporters welcomed protection for slaveholders. Many opponents condemned the attack on Black rights and congressional authority. The ruling deepened divisions over federal power, social injustice, and slavery's future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did many white Southerners and many Northerners differ over slavery's expansion into western territories? Include one economic concern in your answer.

2 What did supporters and opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act each argue about popular sovereignty?

3 Identify two parts of the Dred Scott decision that angered many Northerners.

4 Using evidence from the passage, explain how one national policy or ruling increased sectionalism instead of resolving conflict.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one policy or ruling in the passage. In three sentences, compare opposing views, identify the issue involved, and explain how the conflict deepened sectionalism.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline opposing views on slavery's expansion. Circle an economic concern and a constitutional concern. Mark evidence of increased conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did many white Southerners and many Northerners differ over slavery's expansion into western territories? Include one economic concern in your answer.	Many white Southerners defended expansion as a constitutional right and as necessary to their agricultural economy. Many Northerners opposed it because they wanted western land reserved for free labor.
2	What did supporters and opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act each argue about popular sovereignty?	Supporters called popular sovereignty local self-government. Opponents condemned reopening territory where slavery had been prohibited.
3	Identify two parts of the Dred Scott decision that angered many Northerners.	It denied U.S. citizenship to descendants of Africans brought to America and enslaved, and ruled Congress could not prohibit slavery in the territories.
4	Using evidence from the passage, explain how one national policy or ruling increased sectionalism instead of resolving conflict.	The Kansas-Nebraska Act led to fraudulent elections and violence in Kansas, and it convinced many people that national politics could not protect both sections' interests. The Dred Scott decision also deepened distrust because Northerners and Southerners interpreted it very differently.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Supporters of the Kansas-Nebraska Act praised local self-government, while opponents condemned reopening territory to slavery. The dispute involved political control and slavery's expansion. Fraudulent elections and violence in Kansas deepened mistrust rather than resolving the conflict.

Accept accurate comparisons using the supplied passage. Distinguish opposition to slavery's expansion from abolitionism and support for racial equality; these positions were not identical.