Four Tickets, One Nation

How the election of 1860 exposed sectional divisions

8.C.12.1.A "Describe the fragmentation of the national party system during the election of 1860 and its role in sectional division."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how national parties split, circle an election result that shows sectional division, and number a sentence that connects the result to a southern reaction.

A Divided Election

1. In 1860, a voter looking for one party that spoke to the whole country faced a problem. For years, Democrats had attracted voters in both North and South, while the older Whig Party had already fallen apart. Conflict over slavery in western territories strained these national ties. Many northerners opposed letting slavery spread there, while many white southerners demanded protection for it. At the Democratic convention, delegates could not agree on a platform about slavery. Their split turned a national party into rival tickets.

2. Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas, who argued that settlers in each territory should decide whether to allow slavery. Southern Democrats nominated John C. Breckinridge, whose supporters wanted the federal government to protect slavery in the territories. Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln and opposed slavery's expansion, though their platform did not call for ending it in states where it already existed. The Constitutional Union Party chose John Bell and stressed preserving the Union rather than taking a clear stand on slavery in the territories. Four tickets now offered sharply different choices.

3. On election night, the division showed up in the results. Lincoln won the presidency with a majority of electoral votes, even though he received less than half the popular vote nationwide and no electoral votes from slave states. Most votes against him went to three other candidates. To many white southerners, the result showed that a candidate opposed to slavery's expansion could win without their states' support. South Carolina seceded that December. The broken party system had exposed, rather than settled, the conflict between sections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did disagreement over slavery in the territories split the Democrats into two tickets?

2. How did the Republican and Constitutional Union tickets differ in their approaches to the issue dividing North and South?

3. How did Lincoln's victory show that the sections were politically divided?

4. Why did the election result alarm many white southerners, and what happened in South Carolina afterward?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper editorial set in late 1860. Include an original comparison for the party split, contrast two tickets on slavery in the territories, explain how the election result deepened sectional division, and end with a question both sections faced.

ANSWER KEY

Four Tickets, One Nation

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how national parties split, circle an election result that shows sectional division, and number a sentence that connects the result to a southern reaction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did disagreement over slavery in the territories split the Democrats into two tickets?	**Douglas's Northern Democrats wanted territorial settlers to decide whether to allow slavery. Breckinridge's Southern Democrats wanted federal protection for slavery in the territories.**
2	How did the Republican and Constitutional Union tickets differ in their approaches to the issue dividing North and South?	**Republicans opposed the expansion of slavery. The Constitutional Union Party stressed preserving the Union without taking a clear stand on slavery in the territories.**
3	How did Lincoln's victory show that the sections were politically divided?	**Lincoln won a majority of electoral votes without winning any from slave states.**
4	Why did the election result alarm many white southerners, and what happened in South Carolina afterward?	**It showed that a candidate opposed to slavery's expansion could win without slave-state electoral votes. South Carolina seceded that December.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The national party system now looks like a rope pulled apart at both ends. Douglas's Northern Democrats would let territorial settlers decide on slavery, while Breckinridge's Southern Democrats wanted federal protection for it. Lincoln's victory without slave-state electoral votes showed many white southerners that their states could not stop a candidate opposed to slavery's expansion. Can people in the North and South agree on slavery in the territories without breaking the Union?

Accept accurate contrasts between any two tickets for the editorial. Students should connect Lincoln's victory without slave-state electoral votes to sectional division without claiming the election alone caused secession.