

A Nation Divided

Trace how slavery's expansion widened conflict between regions.

5.4.D "explain the central role of the expansion of slavery in causing sectionalism, disagreement over states' rights, and the Civil War;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how the expansion of slavery increased conflict between the North and South, then number them 1, 2, and 3 in the order they happened.

Slavery and Sectional Conflict

- ① In the early 1800s, slavery was legal in Southern states and was central to many plantation farms. As the United States gained western land, leaders argued over whether slavery could spread there. Many white Southerners wanted new slave states to protect their political power. Many Northerners opposed the spread of slavery, even though not all supported equal rights for African Americans.
- ② Each new state could send senators to Congress, so the question mattered to both regions. Compromises tried to keep a balance between free and slave states. For example, the Missouri Compromise admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state. These temporary agreements did not end sectionalism, the growing divide between North and South over slavery and other interests.
- ③ By the 1850s, disputes became sharper. The Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers vote on slavery in those territories. Violence followed in Kansas, showing that compromise was failing. Southern leaders increasingly said states had the right to protect slavery. Northern leaders argued that national policies should stop its expansion. After Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, several Southern states seceded. The conflict over slavery's expansion was the central cause of the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did many white Southerners want new slave states?

2 Why did the status of each new state matter in Congress?

3 What did violence in Kansas show about the attempts to compromise over slavery?

4 How did Southern and Northern leaders disagree about slavery in new territories, and what happened after the disagreement grew sharper?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence cause-and-effect explanation of how the expansion of slavery led toward the Civil War. Use at least three events or ideas from the passage, including one idea about states' rights.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how the expansion of slavery increased conflict between the North and South, then number them 1, 2, and 3 in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many white Southerners want new slave states?	They wanted to protect their political power.
2	Why did the status of each new state matter in Congress?	Each new state could send senators, so free and slave states affected the balance of power in Congress.
3	What did violence in Kansas show about the attempts to compromise over slavery?	It showed that compromise was failing and the conflict over slavery was growing worse.
4	How did Southern and Northern leaders disagree about slavery in new territories, and what happened after the disagreement grew sharper?	Southern leaders said states had the right to protect slavery. Northern leaders wanted national policies to stop its expansion. Several Southern states seceded after Lincoln's election.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As the nation grew west, people argued about whether slavery could enter new territories. New slave states could add senators, so Southern leaders wanted them while Northern leaders resisted. Compromises and voting in Kansas did not settle the issue, and violence showed the conflict was worsening. Disagreement over expanding slavery also shaped arguments about states' rights, led Southern states to secede, and helped cause the Civil War.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. A strong response identifies slavery's expansion as the central issue while connecting it to sectionalism, states' rights arguments, and secession.