

A Nation Divided

Analyze how slavery shaped regional interests before the Civil War.

8.7.D "analyze the impact of slavery on different sections of the United States; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about each section's economic or political interest in slavery. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 for the South, North, and West so you can compare slavery's different impacts.

Slavery and Sectional Interests

- ① Before the Civil War, slavery shaped the Southern economy most directly. Enslaved people were forced to grow cotton, sugar, rice, and tobacco on plantations and smaller farms. Their unpaid labor created wealth for many white planters and supplied raw materials for trade. Because plantation owners wanted to protect slavery, Southern leaders often defended it in politics. A small number of planters held great power, while enslaved families faced violence, forced labor, and the constant risk of separation through sale.
- ② By the early 1800s, most Northern states had abolished slavery or begun gradual emancipation, but Northern businesses still benefited from the slave economy. Textile mills turned Southern cotton into cloth, banks financed trade, and ships carried cotton to markets. Many Northern workers earned wages rather than being enslaved, creating a different labor system. At the same time, abolitionists organized newspapers, meetings, and antislavery societies. Northern voters and leaders disagreed strongly about slavery, especially when new territories might allow it.
- ③ Slavery also affected the West, where the nation gained land and settlers formed new communities. Each new territory raised a major question: would slavery be allowed there? Southern supporters hoped new slave states would increase their influence in Congress. Many Northerners opposed expansion because they feared slavery would spread and reduce opportunities for free workers. Laws and compromises tried to settle these conflicts, but debates over western expansion increased sectional distrust. Thus, slavery connected regional economies while dividing the nation politically.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How did slavery give many Southern planters economic wealth and political power? Use two details from the passage.

- 2** Compare the labor systems described in the North and South. How did this difference affect each section's interest in slavery?

- 3** Why did the question of slavery in western territories create conflict between sections?

- 4** How could Northern businesses benefit from slavery while their states were abolishing or restricting it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that answer this question: How did slavery create different interests in the South, North, and West? Include one specific detail about each section and explain how these differences increased conflict.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about each section's economic or political interest in slavery. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 for the South, North, and West so you can compare slavery's different impacts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did slavery give many Southern planters economic wealth and political power? Use two details from the passage.	Enslaved people provided unpaid labor that produced valuable crops and raw materials. Planters used their wealth and influence to defend slavery in politics.
2	Compare the labor systems described in the North and South. How did this difference affect each section's interest in slavery?	Southern wealth depended heavily on enslaved labor, while many Northern workers earned wages. This gave the South a strong reason to protect slavery and created different Northern views about it.
3	Why did the question of slavery in western territories create conflict between sections?	Southern supporters wanted new slave states to increase their power in Congress. Many Northerners opposed expansion because they feared slavery would spread and limit opportunities for free workers.
4	How could Northern businesses benefit from slavery while their states were abolishing or restricting it?	Northern textile mills used Southern cotton, banks financed trade, and ships carried cotton to markets.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Slavery gave the South an economic interest in protecting plantation labor and political power. In the North, wage workers and businesses tied to cotton created a different labor system, while abolitionists challenged slavery. In the West, arguments over whether new territories would allow slavery made the sections distrust one another.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately describe Southern dependence on enslaved labor, Northern connections to the slave economy and wage labor, and western conflict over expansion. For the open response, require exactly three sentences, one accurate section-specific detail for each region, and an explanation of increased conflict.