

Lincoln's House Divided



Politics and Slavery, part 4

ACTIVITY KEY

Rewrite = rewrite the sentence to make correct

Complete = write the correct answer that completes the idea

Cloze = underline the correct word in the reading

Text = define the word or revise a text feature

Interact = interact with media/text

Opinion = give your own opinion



= complete the interactive notebook and/or test

Abraham Lincoln was born to a pioneer family in Kentucky. His grandfather settled on some land in the frontier. They became farmers. They later lost the land when some richer family claimed the land. Lincoln's family had to move to Illinois and start over. There are three things about young Abraham Lincoln that we should remember:

- 1--He came from a humble background and taught himself to read and write.
 - 2--His family had to move because a richer family didn't respect the law.
 - 3--He moved from a slave state to a free state dominated by free soilers
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Look at the three items above.

Underline the idea that you think most American kids learn growing up about Lincoln.

Most American kids learn that Lincoln grew up in a log cabin and taught himself to read by candle light. This is important because it makes him like “the Common Man,” like Andrew Jackson. But the other two ideas are important.

Lincoln had to move because of rules about land ownership that weren’t fair. It didn’t totally have to do with slavery; it had to do with unclear laws about land.

But the people who took **his land were slave-owners**. They had an unfair advantage.

He moved to Illinois, where **free soilers** dominated. These were white people who weren’t rich, but didn’t like slavery because it gave rich people an advantage. Poor white people couldn’t afford slaves, so they had to depend on their own hard work.



Interact Are these free soilers or slave-owners?

Opinion Why might these people be **against** slavery?



Interact Is this from free-soil territory or slave territory?

Opinion What do you notice about the slave quarters (houses) compared to the free soil house in the other picture?

Abraham Lincoln became a lawyer in Illinois, and later became a politician. He wasn't a very successful politician. He joined the Whig Party. He disliked the Democrats. The Democrats wanted to go to war with Mexico. They wanted more land for the USA to expand. Lincoln didn't want the United States to go to war with Mexico. Lincoln **knew that the Democrats from the South wanted more land for slavery to expand. From the early days, Lincoln was against slavery expanding in the West.**

Rewrite

1. Lincoln became a Democrat because was against the Mexican War.
2. Lincoln was against the Mexican War because we wanted slavery to expand.



Circle the land gained from Mexico

Lincoln was against slavery expanding the West. He didn't trust the rich slave-owners from the South. He felt like slavery gave them an unfair advantage. But **Lincoln wasn't an abolitionist** at the beginning. If you read his early speeches, he never said: "Slavery needs to end because it is wrong." Many things that he said were not friendly to blacks. He was against the **slave power conspiracy**. He believed the Southern politicians were not doing their jobs: all they cared about was expanding slavery's influence in the United States. He didn't like this.

Rewrite/Complete

1. Lincoln was an abolitionist from the very beginning.
2. Lincoln believed that slavery should be permitted to expand in the West.
3. The slave power conspiracy referred to Southerners who thought their only job was...



Do you remember what event this is from? (Hint: it has to do with Kansas)

Lincoln became more famous after the Kansas-Nebraska Act and “Bleeding Kansas.” The Kansas-Nebraska Act captured the nation’s attention. Everyone wanted to know what happened in “Bleeding Kansas.” The Kansas-Nebraska opened up the West to slavery. Any new territory now had the option to vote on whether to be free or slave. This was called **popular sovereignty**. The result of this was corruption and fighting in these territories. Pro-slavery and anti-slavery gangs fought each other and tried to intimidate settlers. This became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

Complete

1. The Kansas-Nebraska Act replaced the Missouri Compromise line with a vote called...
2. The fight between pro- and ant-slavery forces in Kansas is called....

A new party formed to fight against **popular sovereignty** in the West. This party was called the **Republican Party**. The Republican Party became famous for their speeches against “Bloody Kansas” and the “Slave Power Conspiracy.” They opposed the Democrats. **The Republican Party became incredibly powerful.** They dominated New England and the Midwest.

In the 1850s, the Republican Party formed and became popular almost overnight. The Republican Party was a coalition of many different groups. The strongest groups were the **abolitionists** and the **free soilers**. The abolitionists wanted to end slavery. They came from New England, mostly. The free soilers were against slavery expanding. They wanted the land in the West to be for white settlers. **Some free soilers were actually very racist.** They hated blacks, but they hated slave-owners more. **The Republican Party became incredibly powerful almost overnight.**

Rewrite/Complete

1. The new political party that forms against slavery is the Democratic Party.
2. Abraham Lincoln joins the Republican Party because he was against...
3. Abolitionists wanted to end _____.
4. Free soilers wanted to stop slavery from _____ into new territories.
5. The Republican Party is a _____, or united group, of free soilers and abolitionists.

The Republican Party became incredibly powerful almost overnight means...

Abraham Lincoln was a **free soil Republican**, but he sometimes said things that sounded like he was abolitionist. He ran for the Senate of Illinois against Stephen Douglas in the 1850s. They had some debates about the future of the United States. These debates became famous around the United States. They focused on slavery. The Lincoln-Douglas debates focused on the future of slavery and the future of the United States, even though they were just part of a state Senate campaign.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates captivated the nation. Neither man owned slaves. There was no slavery in Illinois. Stephen Douglas was the architect of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This meant that he was the man who thought **popular sovereignty** was the best idea. He wanted territories to vote on expanding slavery. Stephen Douglas was also a Democrat. The Democrats dominated the South. So, Stephen Douglas had to be careful what he said about slavery.

Rewrite/Complete

1. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas ran for president of the USA.
2. Both Lincoln and Douglas owned slaves.
3. The Lincoln-Douglas debates focused on the issue of....
4. Douglas was a Republican, while Lincoln was a Democrat.
5. Abraham Lincoln believed that popular sovereignty was a good compromise.
6. Stephen Douglas had to be careful about what he said because...



Interact What is happening here?

Lincoln didn't have to be as careful. The Southern Democrats hated the Republicans. They called them the "Black Republicans." **Still, Lincoln never called for abolition. The closest he came was in a famous speech called the House Divided speech.** Lincoln said that a "House divided against itself cannot stand." He argued that the USA will never be able to remain half slave and half free. It will have to either be all slave, or all free. This is like saying: "Let's be real! Slavery can't last forever when we have freedom in the rest of the country. It just won't work!" So, he wasn't an abolitionist, but he knew about the future.

Predict

What does House Divided mean? What is Lincoln saying in his House Divided speech?

Lincoln's "House Divided" speech is famous because he was pretty clear about the future. He was **prescient**. Prescient means when you predict the future, even though you don't know it at the time. The United States was the House. It was divided. And it wouldn't stand. It would fall apart in the Civil War.

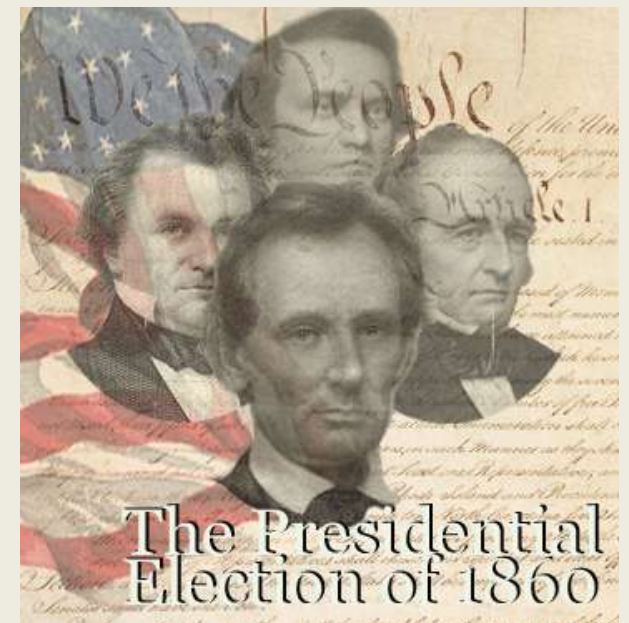
Complete

1. Lincoln's famous speech during the debates is called his _____ speech.
2. Lincoln said that a house "divided _____ itself cannot _____."
3. Lincoln said that the nation couldn't remain how?
4. Lincoln's speech was **prescient** because...
5. Prescient means...

Opinion: Why do you think Lincoln thought slavery wouldn't last?

Lincoln gave this speech during a Senate election. Lincoln lost this race to Stephen Douglas. A few years later, he would face Douglas again. This time was for the presidential election. And so we come to... **the presidential election 1860!** It happens at a time when the United States is in great danger of falling into pieces. The results of the election don't help!

Predict: What do you think is going to happen in the election of 1860?



Abraham Lincoln ran for president in 1860. Lincoln was chosen as the candidate for the Republican Party. He wasn't the leader of the Republicans. But the Republicans thought he was a good choice: Abraham Lincoln was **moderate**, which means in the middle. The Republicans who wanted to abolish slavery were called **Radical Republicans**. Lincoln was a moderate, not a Radical Republican.

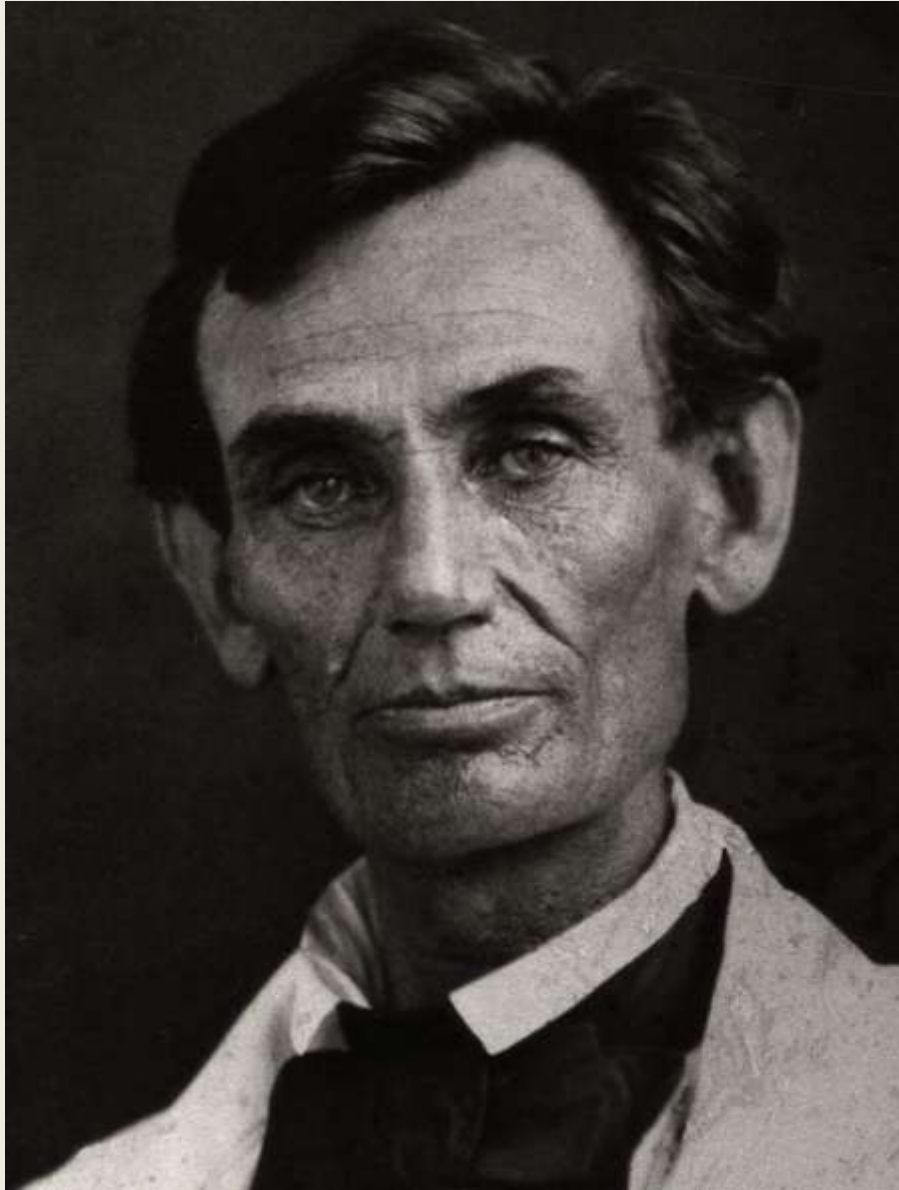
Lincoln didn't want to end slavery, but he didn't want slavery to expand. If they chose someone in the middle, the Republicans thought, maybe they could win. **Then, he could stop slavery from expanding but keep the Union together.** Maybe the Southerners would accept him because he wasn't an abolitionist. When we write, "keep the union together," it is important to know what this means. The word **union** means the United States. We are a "union of states." When they talked about the USA back then, they said: "These United States" instead of "The United States." We were many states, united into one country.

Complete/Rewrite

1. Abraham Lincoln was a Radical Republican who wanted to end slavery.
2. Abraham Lincoln was a good choice for the Republican because...
3. Abraham Lincoln could stop slavery from expanding but keep the _____ together.

Vocabulary

4. Moderate Republicans wanted...
5. Radical Republicans wanted...
6. Union is another word for...
7. Before the Civil War, what did people call the USA?



Lincoln didn't have his famous beard when he was running for president.

The Republicans chose Abraham Lincoln in the election of 1860. So, what about the other parties? The biggest power since Andrew Jackson was the Democratic Party. But...the Democrats have a problem.

The Democrats have a problem. They are powerful in the North and South. But they are losing more and more votes in the North. So, they depend on the South. **The Democrats depend on the South for electoral votes.**

Many Democrats want Stephen Douglas to run. He was a compromiser and friendly to the South. He was from the North and seemed really strong.

But the Democrats from the South didn't Stephen Douglas about slavery. They wanted someone from the South. They wanted someone to say: "Slavery is protected anywhere in the USA." Douglas wouldn't say this.

Rewrite/Complete

1. In the election, Abraham Lincoln ran for the _____ Party.
2. Stephen Douglas wanted to run for the _____ Party.
3. Abraham Lincoln was a _____, which means he was a candidate in the middle.
4. The goal of the Republican Party was to stop _____ from expanding.
5. Stephen Douglas was a good choice for the _____ Party.
6. The Republicans dominate the _____; they can depend on this part of the USA for votes. The Democrats dominate the _____; they can depend on this part of the USA for votes.
7. The Democrats in the South didn't want Stephen Douglas because...

The Democrats controlled the South. But the Southern Democrats didn't trust Stephen Douglas because he was from the North. So, they nominated their own person to run for president. **The Democrats split into the Southern Democrats and the Northern Democrats.** The Southern Democrats chose a man named John Breckenridge. The Northern Democrats chose Stephen Douglas. Now, there were three political parties running: The Republicans, the Southern Democrats, and the Northern Democrats!

Complete

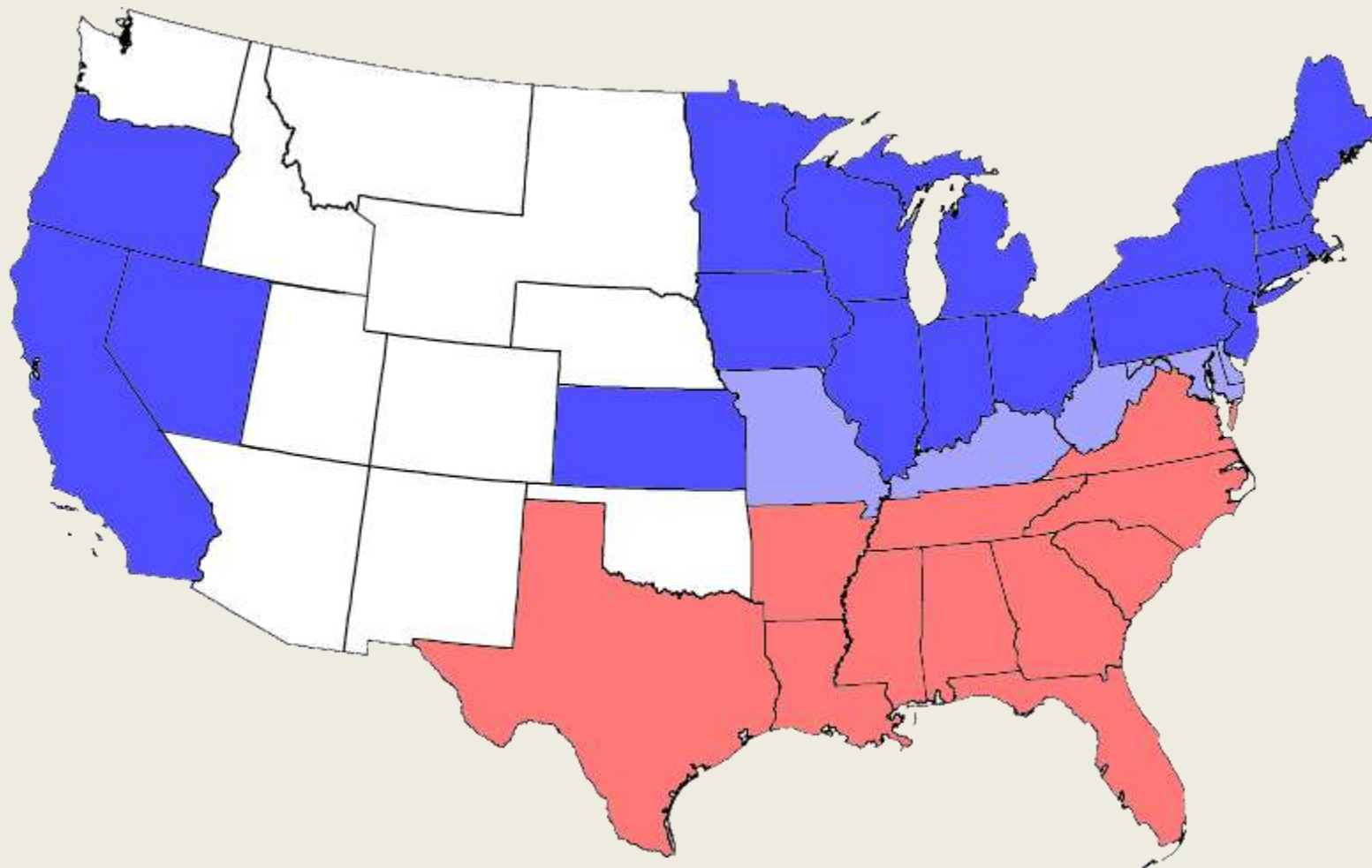
1. The Democrats divide into ____ parties: the Northern and Southern Democrats.
2. Stephen Douglas runs for the _____ Democrats.
3. John Breckenridge runs for the _____ Democrats.
4. Now there are ____ political parties.

Now, there are three political parties. Things got even crazier! They got crazy in the “border states” like Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Delaware, and Kentucky.

When we think of border states now, we think about states that share a border with Mexico. Before the Civil War, **the border states were states with slavery that bordered the Northern states.** They were culturally and economically different than the South, even though they allowed slavery.

Let's take Virginia, for example: Virginia had many slaves in 1860, but it also had a large population of free whites with no connection to slavery. Virginia had roads and railroads into the North. They depended on these roads and railroads for commerce and trade. They didn't want trouble! They didn't want trouble with the North!

So, another political party formed called the **Constitutional Union Party**. They became popular in states like Virginia and the border states. This party had one goal: “Keep the Union together. Keep the USA together.” Now we had four candidates running for president, and everyone really nervous about what would happen. Remember: **the idea of union is really important at this time, because the South is going to try to leave the union.** Now, there are 4 political parties.

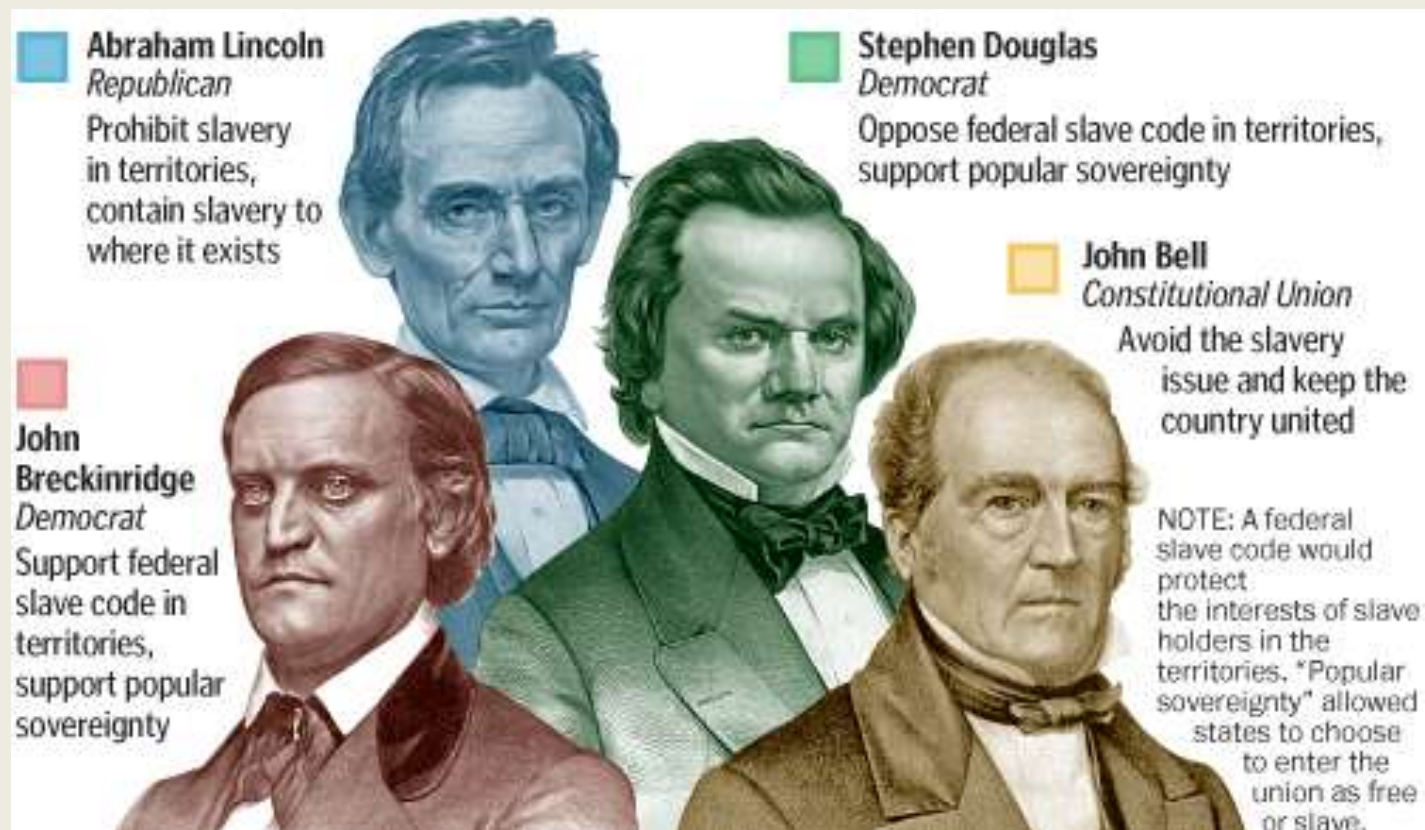


Shade /// the Border States

Complete

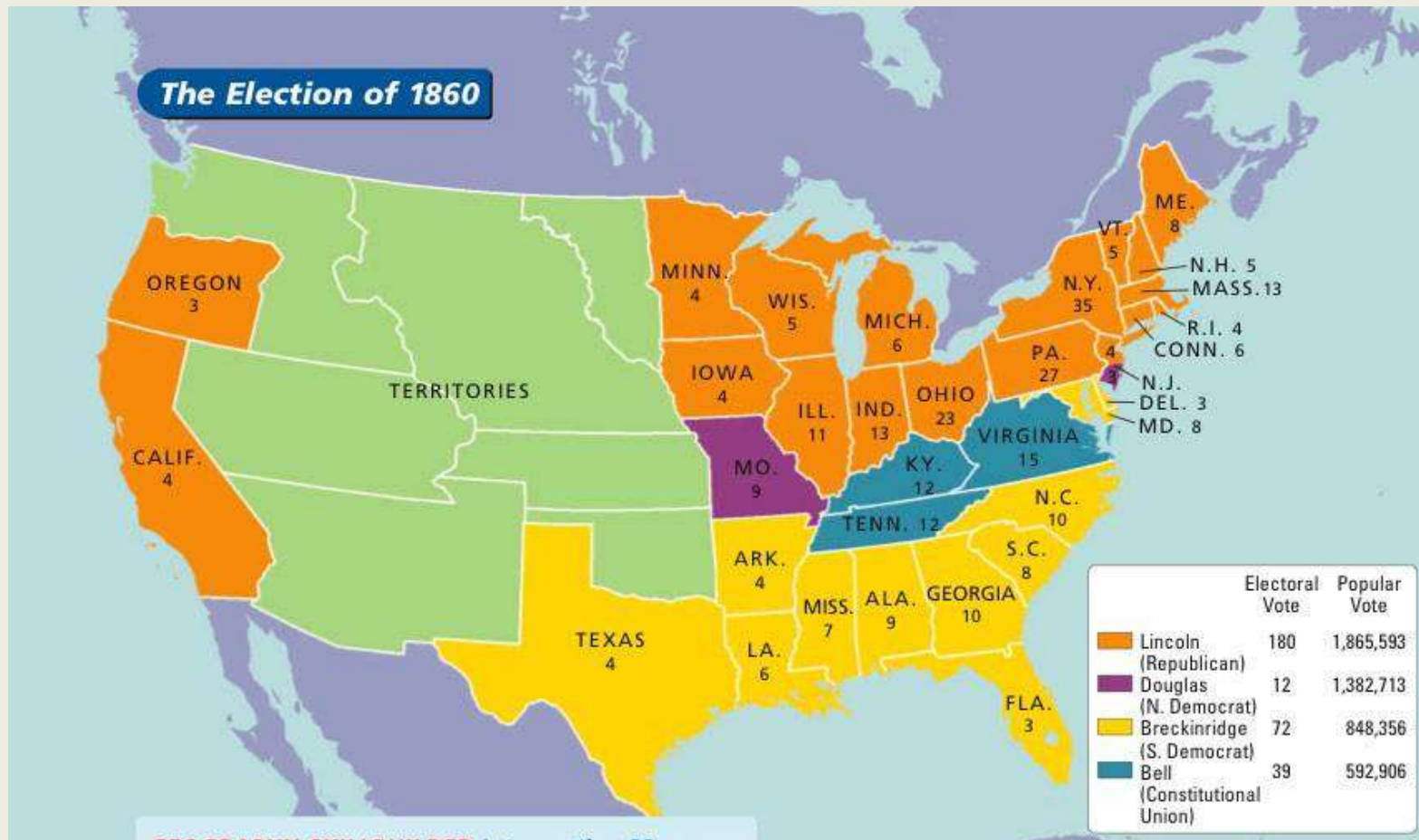
1. Border states share a border with the _____ states. So, they share economic and cultural connections with these states.
2. Border states allow _____, so they have strong economic and cultural connections with Southern states.
3. Border states want to keep the _____ together, which means they don't want a war between North and South.
4. The Constitutional Union Party becomes popular in the _____ states because they don't want a war.

The election happens. There are four candidates. The Southern Democrats win the Southern states. But the Southern population is small, so they don't win many **electoral votes**. Even though John Breckenridge dominates the South, they have no chance of winning.



The Constitutional Union Party wins the border states of Virginia and Kentucky. They could have voted for the Southern candidate, but they didn't. **These border states knew trouble was coming!** Virginians knew that if the "House Divided" falls, Virginians were going to pay the price. If a war happens, it is going to be fought in Virginia. Virginians will die! The economy will suffer! They didn't want war... at first!

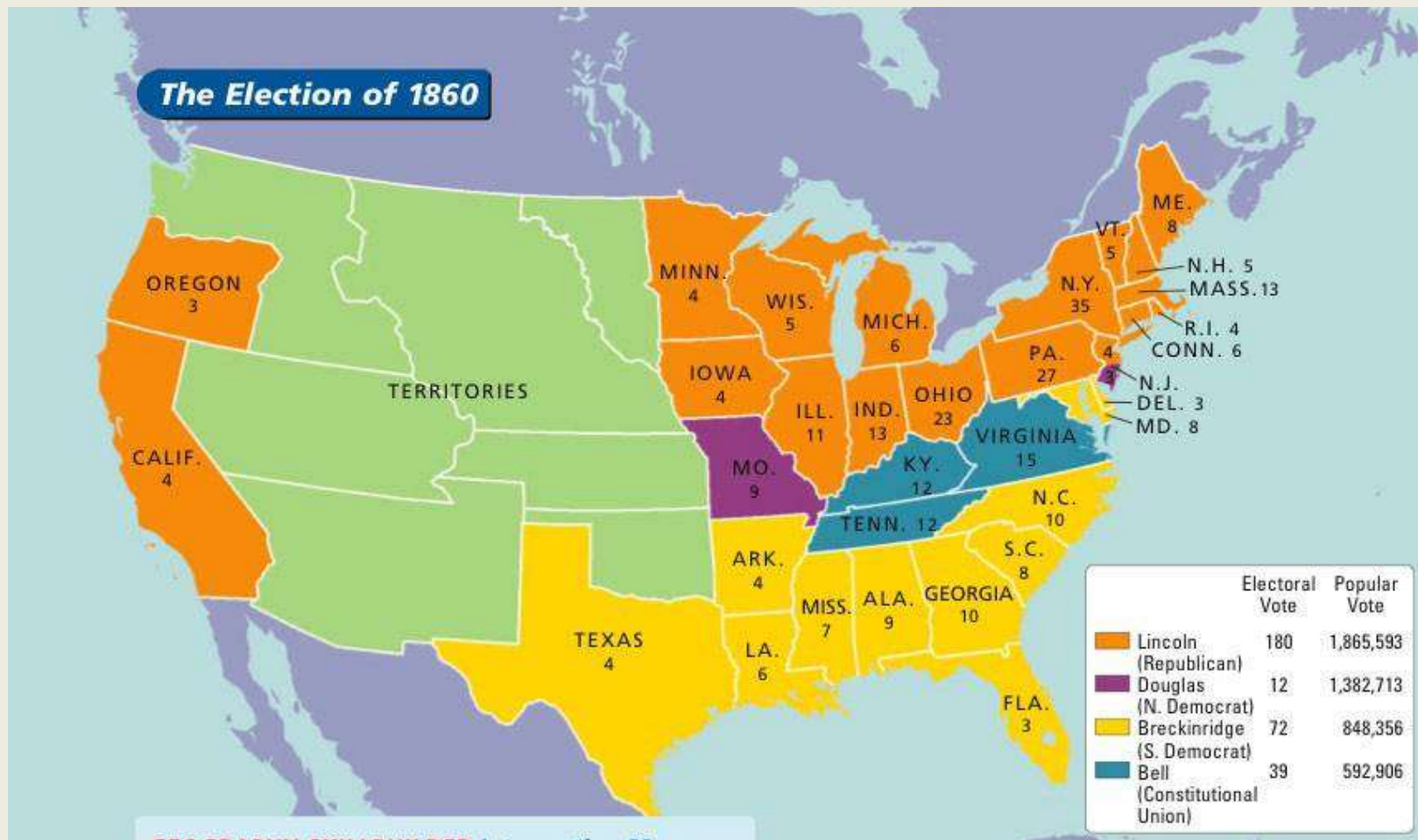
But the election depends on what happens in the North. The North has a much larger population. Abraham Lincoln and the Republicans win all of the Northern states, California, and Oregon. Stephen Douglas only wins one state, Missouri. Abraham Lincoln wins the presidency. The Republicans have won the presidency!



Draw a circle around the states that Lincoln won.

Make a square around the states that the Southern Democrats won.

Shade /// the border states that voted for the Constitutional Union party.



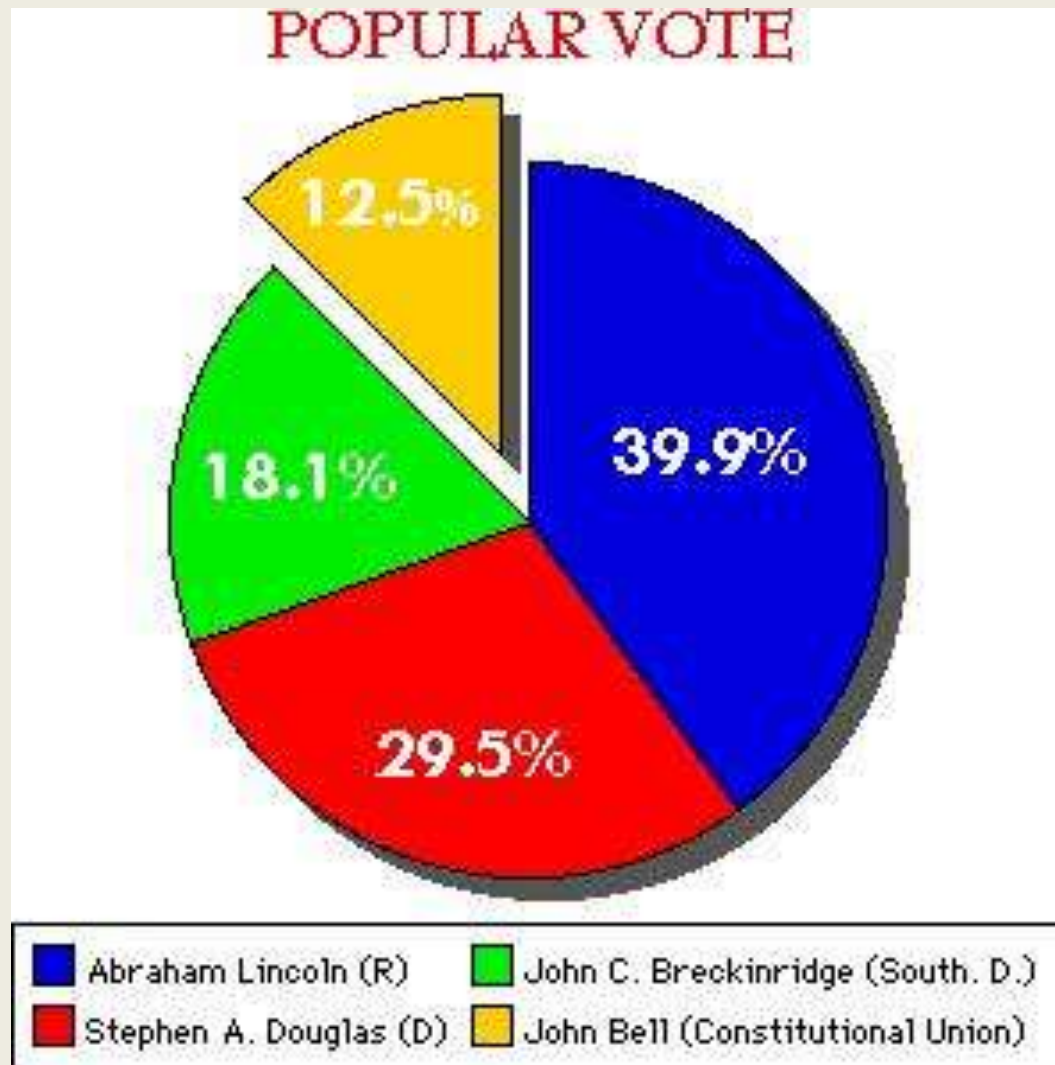
How many states did Lincoln win?

How many states did Douglas win?

How many states did Breckenridge win?

How many states did Bell win?

This chart shows the popular vote. This is the total number of votes.

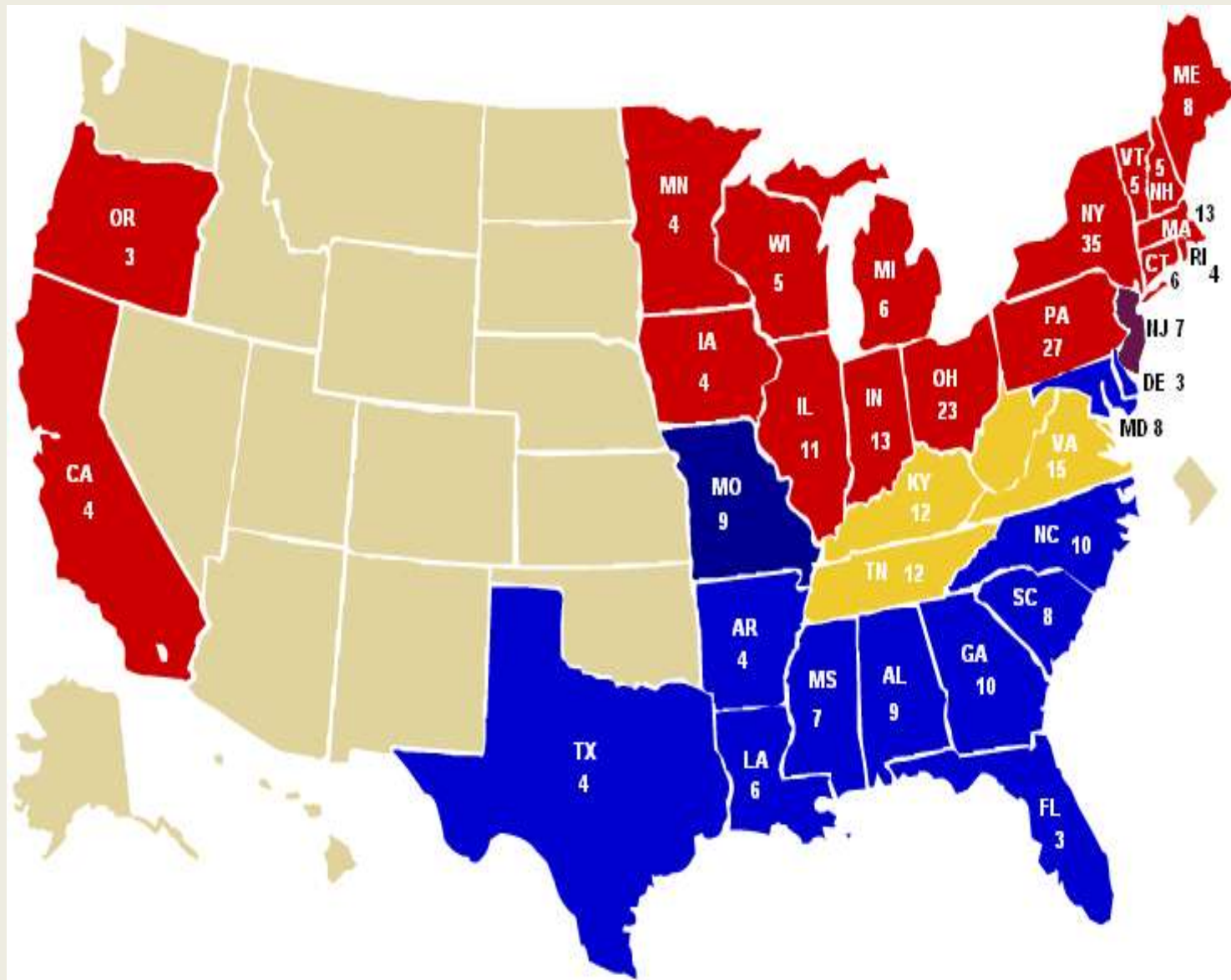


Who won the most votes?

Who got the 2nd most votes?

Who got the 3rd most votes?

Who got the 4th most votes?



The above map shows the states' electoral votes. Each state gets a number of electoral votes. This is based on its population. States with larger populations have higher electoral votes.

Look at the Northern states:

What three states have the most electoral votes?

How many electoral votes does New York have?

How many electoral votes does Ohio have?

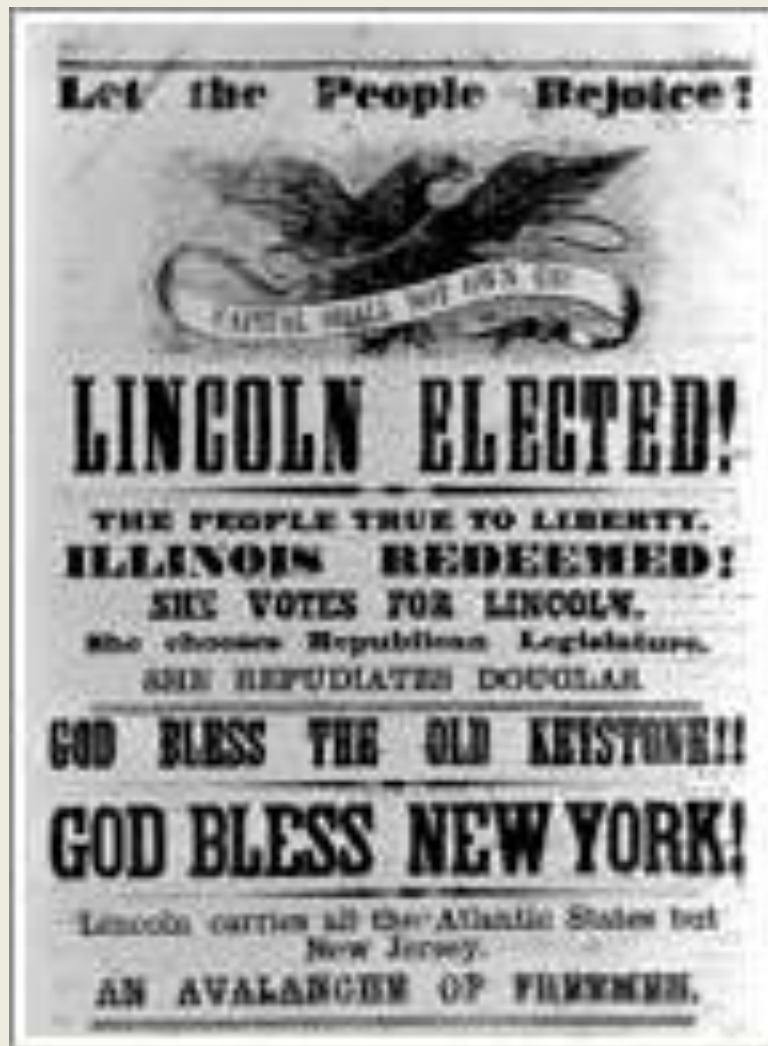
How many electoral votes does Pennsylvania have?

What do you notice about the Northern states? (Hint: do they have more or less votes than the South)

Now, look at the Southern states that voted for Breckenridge.

What Southern state has the most votes?

What do you notice about the Southern states? (Hint: do they have more or less votes than the South)



So, in November of 1860, Abraham Lincoln is elected. **He will be inaugurated in March of 1861.** Inaugurated means when you actually take the job of president. When he takes the job, the House will be divided and starting to fall. The Union will be divided into North and South, and war will finally happen.

Summarize

1. What kind of “Republican” was Abraham Lincoln? How did he feel about slavery? Why was he a “moderate” choice for the Election of 1860?
2. What is Lincoln’s famous speech in the Lincoln-Douglas debates? What does he mean?
3. What happens to the Democrats in the Election of 1860? Why is it impossible for them to win the election?
4. What is a Union? What does it mean when we talk about keeping the Union together? How does the Election of 1860 show the Union is divided?

