



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 6

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 806

## The Civil War (1855–1880)

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**Author:**

Theresa Buskey, B.A., J.D.

**Editor:**

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

**Westover Studios Design Team:**

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.**

**Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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# The Civil War (1855–1880)

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## Introduction

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.” Abraham Lincoln spoke these words in 1858, just two years before the beginning of his presidency and the Civil War. They reflected the storm gathering across the nation that would soon empty its heavy clouds on the heads of the Union in one of America’s costliest wars.

The years from 1855 to 1880 were some of the darkest in the history of our nation. In fact, the nation almost ceased to exist during those years. In some cases, the Civil War literally pitted brother against brother. It finally settled the issue of slavery and the permanence of the Union. The years that followed the war were blackened by revenge, greed, and failure to protect the newly freed slaves. The restoration of the Union was as much in question as its survival once was, but again the nation survived. A South without slavery was reintegrated into a stronger United States of America.

This LIFEPAC® will cover the critical years from 1855 to 1880. We will present the increasing hostility and distrust between the North and the South, the events within and those that led to the Civil War, and finally the difficult post-war Reconstruction.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Discuss why and how the North and South split.
2. Name the major events that led up to the Civil War.
3. Describe how secession occurred.
4. List the advantages of both sides in the Civil War.
5. Describe the major battles and the course of the Civil War.
6. Describe Reconstruction.
7. Describe the background and policies of Civil War-era presidents.
8. Describe the post-Civil War corruption.
9. Explain the status of black Americans during and after Reconstruction.

# 1. INCREASING DISUNION

The era of compromise had ended with the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. The Whig Party had fallen apart over the issue of slavery, and the Democratic Party was soon split over it also. Several denominations, including Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians also split between North and South over the issue. The two sides were becoming more hardened and less willing to discuss their positions. The Union was in grave danger.

The rhetoric of the two sides left less and less room for compromise during the last few years of the 1850s. The publicity of the Lincoln-Douglas debates gave a national following to Abraham Lincoln who steadfastly opposed slavery as immoral. The pro-slavery Dred Scott decision by the Supreme Court was denounced in the North as invalid. A financial crash that did not disturb the South as much as the North was seen in their own eyes as proof of the South's superior position.

A whole series of violent incidents marked the last five years before the Civil War. A small civil war broke out in "Bleeding Kansas" over the issue of whether or not it would be a slave state. On the Senate floor, a Southern congressman beat a Northern senator with a cane. John Brown led a raid into Virginia, intending to start up a slave revolt and instead became an abolitionist martyr. The verbal hostility of previous years became increasingly physical.

The South felt threatened by the growing abolitionist movement and political power of the North. The last straw was the election of a Republican president in 1860. The Republican Party was a Northern, anti-slavery party, and the South would not tolerate such a party to rule over them. Eleven states seceded from the Union. The war began in April of 1861 when the Southern army at Charleston fired on a federal outpost named Fort Sumter in their harbor.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Discuss why and how the North and South split.
2. Name the major events that led up to the Civil War.
3. Describe how secession occurred.
4. List the advantages of both sides in the Civil War.
7. Describe the background and policies of Civil War era presidents.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**arsenal** (är' se nal). A building for the manufacture or storage of arms, ammunition, and military equipment.

**disavow** (dis a vou'). To deny responsibility.

**egalitarian** (ē gal i ter' ē an). Marked by a belief in human equality, especially in respect to social, economic, and political rights and privileges.

**exacerbate** (ig zas' er bāt). To make more violent, bitter, or severe.



# AMERICA from 1855 to 1880



**Franklin Pierce**  
1853-1857  
Democratic



**James Buchanan**  
1857-1861  
Democratic



**Abraham Lincoln\***  
1861-1865  
Republican



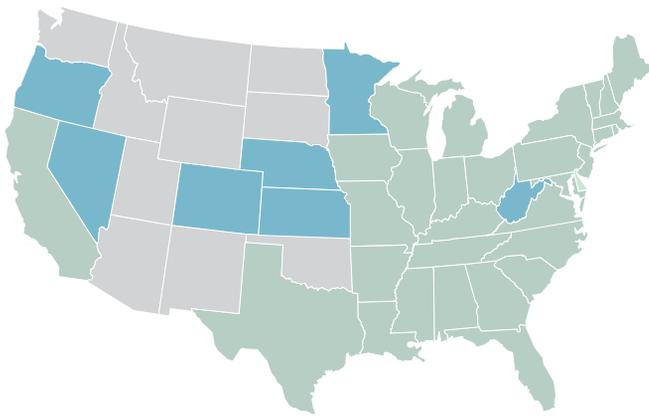
**Andrew Johnson**  
1865-1869  
Republican



**Ulysses S. Grant**  
1869-1877  
Republican



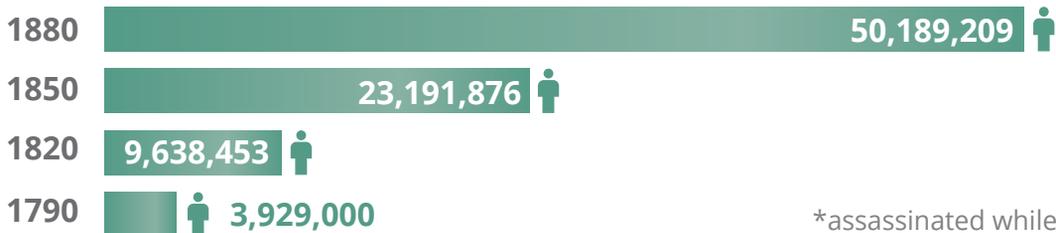
**Rutherford B. Hayes**  
1877-1881  
Republican



## STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

- Minnesota** 1858
- Oregon** 1859
- Kansas** 1861
- West Virginia** 1863
- Nevada** 1864
- Nebraska** 1867
- Colorado** 1876

## POPULATION of the United States of America



\*assassinated while in office

**repercussion** (rē per kush' un). A widespread, indirect, or unforeseen effect of an act, action, or event.

**segregate** (seg' re gāt). To separate people of different races by having separate facilities like schools, restaurants, and theaters for each race.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## Division and Violence

**The South.** The slave states of the South in 1855 had a unique culture; they thought of themselves as virtually a separate nation. They believed they had a better way of life than the North. The South clung to older notions of an “aristocratic” class long after it had been abandoned by the rest of the nation. Its population was stagnant, and few immigrants came to the South because there were few opportunities there. The population was more uniformly people of British background whose families had lived in America for generations. A strict class system existed with wealthy planters at the top and slaves at the bottom. Southerners believed this was an ideal society and looked down on the **egalitarian** North.

The South was agricultural. It had little manufacturing. The factories that did exist were smaller and employed fewer people than those in either the North or northwest. The main cash crop was cotton with tobacco, rice, and sugar cane as alternatives in some areas. These crops were very labor intensive and were raised primarily on large plantations by slaves. Only about one-quarter of Southern families owned slaves. Those that did not often practiced subsistence agriculture. Even those without slaves supported the plantation system. Even the poorest white man had status above the black slaves.

By 1855 the South was very concerned about the threat from the North to their way of life. The North’s growing population had given them

complete control of the House of Representatives. The Compromise of 1850 had left the North in control of the Senate. The North had its own political party, the Republicans, which was rapidly gaining popularity and offices. The South equated the Republican Party with the radical abolitionists who spoke of fighting and slave revolts in order to end slavery in the South. The Republican Party pledged not to attack slavery where it existed, but only to prevent its spread. Most southerners did not trust those statements. The Democratic Party still had supporters in both the North and South. Southerners looked to it as one of the last united institutions in the nation.

**Abolitionists.** Anti-slavery sentiment had existed in America for many years, but the serious, organized movement that so frightened the South began in the 1830s. In 1831 William Lloyd Garrison began publishing the anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator*. In 1833 Parliament voted to end slavery in the British West Indies. That same year, the American Anti-Slavery Society was formed with about sixty members. Within five years, it had grown to about 250,000 people. Hundreds of other societies devoted to the end of human bondage were formed all over the North in the late 1830s. Many of these people were Christians putting feet on their faith. These organizations worked by lobbying, organizing rallies, printing literature, publishing stories, and petitioning the government.



its first legislature in 1855, Missouri pro-slavers crossed the border and voted illegally, giving the pro-slavery people control of the new government. The free-soil supporters formed their own illegal government at Topeka to counter it. A pro-slavery “posse” invaded the anti-slavery town of Lawrence in 1856 to arrest members of the illegal government, looting and burning the town. A violent (and possibly insane) abolitionist named John Brown butchered five pro-slavery men in Potawatomie Creek in response.

By 1857 Kansas had enough people to apply for statehood. The majority of the population was anti-slavery, but the legislature was under the control of the pro-slavery group. The state had to vote on the issue of slavery to comply with “popular sovereignty,” so the legislature created a shifty document known as the Lecompton Constitution. The people were allowed to vote only on the constitution, with or without slavery. But the constitution itself protected slavery. Even if the people voted for it to be free, Kansas would still be a slave state. The free-soil people boycotted the election, and the constitution passed with slavery. It was sent to Washington as the basis for admitting Kansas to the Union.

**The Caning of Sumner.** Charles Sumner was a radical abolitionist member of the Senate. In May of 1856, he delivered a scathing two-day speech on “The Crime against Kansas.” His colorful rhetoric was very insulting to the South. He also made some vulgar insults against South Carolina’s Senator Andrew Butler. The speech was not well received by his Northern colleagues. Even William Seward, abolitionist leader of Congress, did not approve of his language.

Sumner’s speech was considered a personal insult by Congressman Preston Brooks, a relative of Butler’s. He decided to deal with the senator personally. Brooks decided against challenging him to a duel, since he believed Sumner to be his social inferior, and it was likely the



| Bleeding Kansas

northerner would refuse. Instead, he decided to beat him to redress the insult.

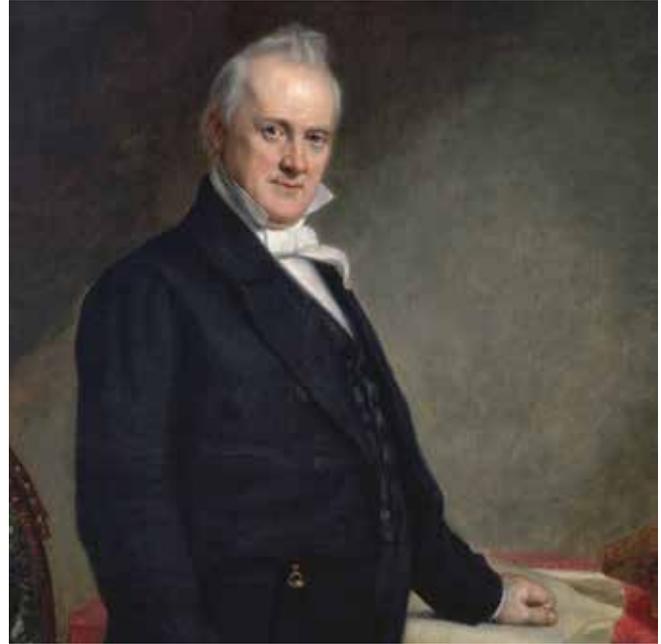
On May 22nd Brooks walked into the Senate chamber and approached Sumner, who was sitting at his desk. He raised his cane and proceeded to beat the helpless man about the head and shoulders until the cane broke. Finally, someone stopped Brooks, and Sumner was carried away unconscious.

What was remarkable about the incident was the difference between the reactions in the North and the South. People in the North saw it as a use of force to stop anti-slavery speech, and it drew a great deal of abolitionist publicity. Sumner was voted back into his seat in the Senate, even though it was three years before he was well enough to serve. In the South, Brooks was hailed as a hero. Hundreds of people sent him new canes to replace the one he had broken. His constituents voted him back into the House of Representatives after he resigned because of the incident. The difference in the reactions highlighted a dangerous separation between the two sides.

**Election of 1856.** In 1856 the Democrats managed to unite behind one candidate, James Buchanan. Most of the potential candidates for president were tainted by the Kansas-Nebraska Act and could not gain the support of Northern Democrats. Buchanan had been acting as the American minister in Great Britain from 1852–1856 and was therefore “safe” on the issue. Buchanan avoided the slavery issue as much as possible and argued for the preservation of the Union.

Buchanan was opposed by the Republican candidate John Frémont, called “the Pathfinder” for his work mapping routes and sites for forts in the west. The Republicans campaigned on the issue of no slavery in the territories. “Free soil, free men, and Frémont” was their slogan. Millard Fillmore was a candidate for the Know-Nothing Party and also had the support of the dying Whig Party. The two-year-old Republican Party made a remarkable showing, winning eleven states, all in the North. However, the still barely unified Democrats won the election, putting James Buchanan in the White House.

**James Buchanan.** James Buchanan (1791–1868) was the only U.S. president never to marry. He entered the White House with impressive credentials. He had been born to immigrant parents in Pennsylvania and became a prosperous lawyer in that state. He began his political career as a Federalist, but eventually became a strong Democrat supporter of Andrew Jackson. He had served in the Pennsylvania legislature and as a soldier in the War of 1812. He had served in both the House and Senate in Washington. He was secretary of state under James Polk and represented America in both Russia and Britain.



| James Buchanan, the Only President Never to Marry

Buchanan lacked strong convictions on the issue of slavery and tended to be pro-Southern in his policies. He did not have the fortitude or the foresight to deal with the rising divisions in the nation. When the Lecompton Constitution was presented to Congress, Buchanan backed it without quibbling about its origins. Stephen Douglas showed that he was made of sterner stuff. He had proposed popular sovereignty for the territories, and he meant it to be just that! He successfully opposed the admission of Kansas under the dubious document. Instead, it was sent back for a vote on the whole constitution. The anti-slavery voters in Kansas rejected it. But with the ongoing conflict, it was not until 1861 that the state was finally able to organize a genuine constitution and be admitted to the Union.



### Complete these sentences.

- 1.1 Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ beat Senator \_\_\_\_\_ with a cane over a speech the senator made.
- 1.2 The three candidates in the 1856 election were: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.3 One of the last united political institutions in 1855 was the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.
- 1.4 The Lecompton Constitution was supported in Washington by \_\_\_\_\_, but was successfully opposed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5 The anti-slavery movement seriously took off in the decade of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.6 The main source of livelihood in the South was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.7 Buchanan's policies tended to favor the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.8 Pro-slavery partisans looted and burned the town of \_\_\_\_\_, Kansas in 1856.
- 1.9 By 1857 most of the people in Kansas were \_\_\_\_\_ slavery.
- 1.10 The speech that got Charles Sumner into trouble was entitled " \_\_\_\_\_."
- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ murdered five pro-slavery men in Potawatomie Creek in response to the invasion of Lawrence.
- 1.12 The Republican slogan in 1856 was \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer these questions.

- 1.13 What made the South think the North was a threat to their way of life?

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- 1.14 How had the Democrats and Whigs dealt with the slavery issue before 1855?

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**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |                       |  |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ John Brown      | a. Confederate general                                   |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ James Buchanan  | b. violent abolitionist martyr                           |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ Abraham Lincoln | c. beaten by a Congressman in the U.S. Senate            |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ Stephen Douglas | d. offered a compromise after secession                  |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ Charles Sumner  | e. first Republican presidential candidate               |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Dred Scott      | f. slave who lived in the North and sued for his freedom |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ Robert E. Lee   | g. U.S. president when the Confederacy began             |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Jefferson Davis | h. president of the Confederacy                          |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ John Frémont    | i. his election prompted Southern secession              |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ John Crittenden | j. won the 1858 senate race in Illinois                  |

**Choose the correct word(s)** to complete each sentence (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011** Twisted, illegal version of popular sovereignty produced the pro-slavery \_\_\_\_\_ Constitution in Kansas.
- 1.012** The \_\_\_\_\_ Party opposed the spread of slavery but agreed it could not be abolished where it already existed.
- 1.013** The Civil War began when Confederate forces fired on \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.014** John Brown was executed for his attack on the arsenal at \_\_\_\_\_ , Virginia.
- 1.015** The \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Debates centered on the issue of slavery and made Abraham Lincoln a national figure.

- 1.016** The Supreme Court declared that slavery was legal in all of the U.S. in the \_\_\_\_\_ Decision.
- 1.017** The South had little difficulty with the Panic of 1857 because of the high price of \_\_\_\_\_ on the international market.
- 1.018** The era of compromise was ended by the \_\_\_\_\_ Act.
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ was the first state to secede.
- 1.020** Any hope of European aid to the Confederacy was ended by the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Complete these items** (each answer, 3 points).

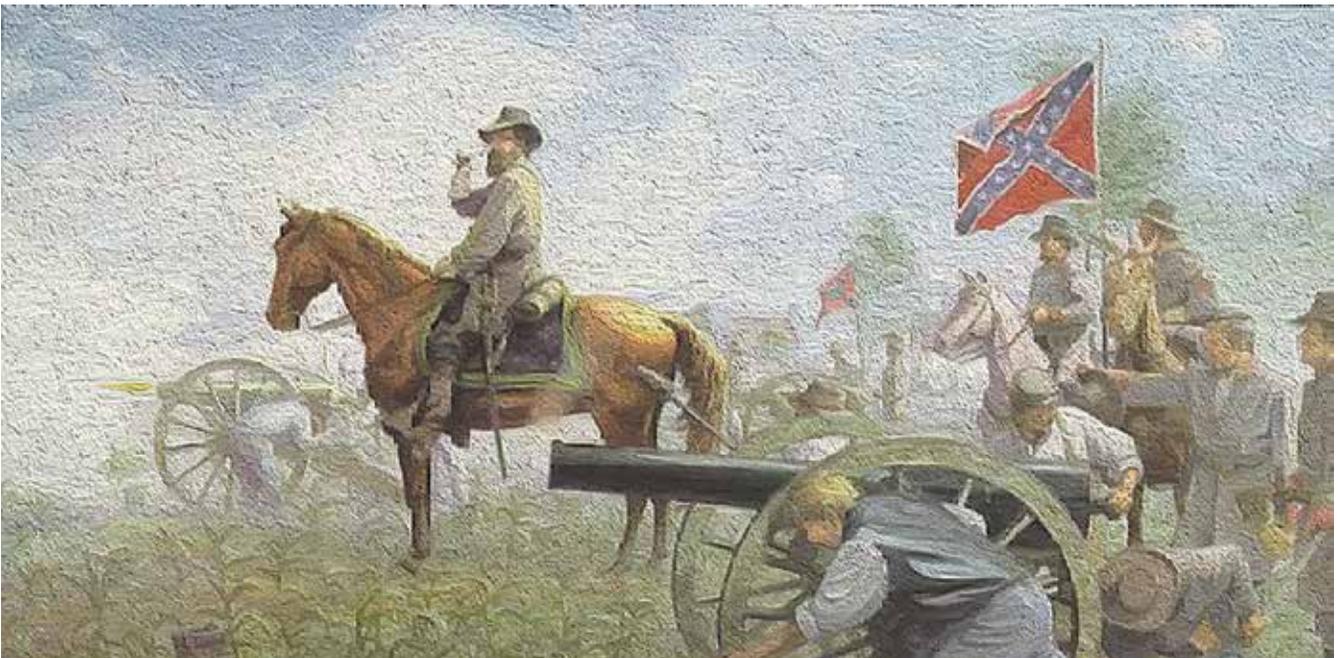
- 1.021** Name four advantages the North had in the Civil War.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.022** Name two advantages the South had at the beginning of the war.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.023** Give two reasons why the nations of Europe might have supported the South.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.024** Name two border/slave states that did not secede.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write true or false on the blank** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln believed that the U.S. could not continue to be part slave and part free.
- 1.026** \_\_\_\_\_ Britain almost went to war with the Union after two Confederate officials were arrested on the British steamer the *Trent*.
- 1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ The South received a tremendous number of immigrants in the years leading up to the Civil War.
- 1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ The Democratic Party split in two in 1860.
- 1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ James Buchanan did little to solve the divisions in the nation.

- 1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ Blacks in the Union army served in segregated units, usually with white officers.
- 1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ The blockade of the South hurt textile manufacturers in Britain.
- 1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln was a well-educated man with many years of national experience when he became president.
- 1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln believed slavery was morally wrong.
- 1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ The American abolitionist movement began its serious growth in the 1830s.

80 100	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials	date
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| Painting By Civil War Artist Dale Gallon



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