

Sectionalism

Sectionalism is a time period in American history prior to the Civil War when the country became increasingly divided between the agricultural proslavery South and the industrial North. Tariffs, acquisition of territory in the West, and growing moral objections to slavery contributed to the growing divide in the country. But several compromises were made in the decades before the Civil War that managed to keep the country unified for a time. Eventually these differences became overwhelming and the Civil War broke out between the North and the South.

Directions: Use the content from the Bee in a Box website to help answer the following questions:

PEOPLE

John C. Calhoun

- 1) How did John C. Calhoun justify the institution of slavery?

Henry Clay

- 1) Despite running for president for five times, why do you think Henry Clay was never elected?

Stephen Douglas

- 1) Explain the doctrine of popular sovereignty that Stephen Douglas supported.

Daniel Webster

- 1) How did Daniel Webster's belief about state nullification of federal law differ from John C. Calhoun?

DOCUMENTS

Missouri Compromise

- 1) How did Henry Clay manage to please both the north and the south in the Missouri Compromise?

Compromise of 1850

- 1) Which part of the Compromise of 1850 would be most upsetting to the North? And which part of the compromise of 1850 would be the most upsetting to the South?

Uncle Tom's Cabin

- 1) How did *Uncle Tom's Cabin* influence and grow the abolition movement?

Kansas-Nebraska Act

- 1) How was the violence of "Bleeding Kansas" linked to the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

Dred Scott v. Sanford

- 1) According to the ruling in the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision, why was Dred Scott not allowed to file his lawsuit asking for freedom?

EVENTS

Webster Hayne Debates

- 1) Describe the differing viewpoints held by Daniel Webster and Robert Hayne toward national and state sovereignty.

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- 1) Despite Abraham Lincoln losing the 1858 Senate race to Stephen Douglas, why were the debates important for Abraham Lincoln's campaign for the presidency in 1860?

John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry

- 1) Was John Brown justified in his use of violence to fight slavery? Explain your answer.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Which person from this era would be most disappointed by the violence of the Civil War? Explain your answer.
- 2) Was the Compromise of 1850 an equal compromise or did one side, the North or the South, get a better deal? Explain your answer.
- 3) As a slave in the South, which would you find most upsetting, the Fugitive Slave Law in the Compromise of 1850 or the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision? Explain your answer.