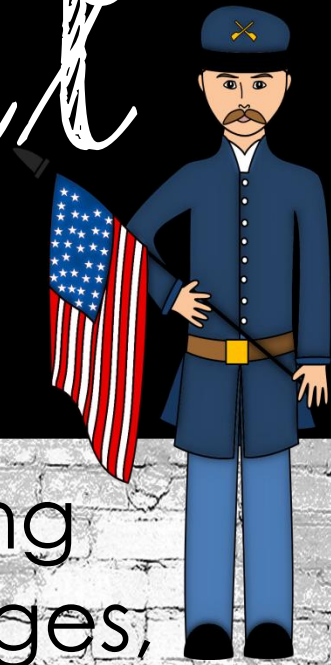
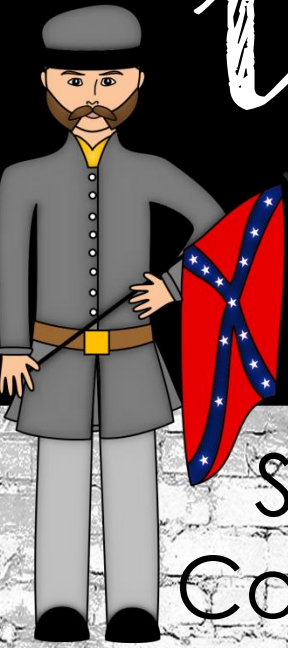


causes of the civil war



Social Studies Reading
Comprehension Passages,
questions and review sheets

Great way to incorporate essential social studies
skills and concepts while enforcing reading
comprehension strategies.

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This packet includes:

Answer Sheet

Five Passages

Missouri Compromise

Abolitionism

Compromise of 1850

Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner

Dred Scott and the Election of 1860

Comprehension Questions for each passage

Open ended

Basic recall and remembering

Critical and higher order

Review Sheets:

Access Prior Knowledge

Main Idea and Supporting Ideas

Short notes and facts for each article

Accessing Prior Knowledge

Directions: Before reading the passages, take a few minutes to write about what you know on these topics. Write about people, places, events, any facts you know about these topics.

Article	Prior Knowledge
<u>Missouri Compromise</u>	
<u>Abolitionism</u>	
<u>Compromise of 1850</u>	
<u>Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner</u>	
<u>Dred Scott and the Election of 1860</u>	

Answer sheet

Article	Answers to Questions
<u>Missouri Compromise</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.
<u>Abolitionism</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.
<u>Compromise of 1850</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.
<u>Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.
<u>Dred Scott Decision and the Election of 1860</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.

Missouri Compromise

In 1820, the population of Missouri had reached the necessary 60,000 citizens required to be able to apply to Congress for statehood. However, since it asked to be admitted as a "slave state" heated opposition arose especially from many Northern Congressmen, who had no desire to see future Western states adopted in and further spread the "peculiar institution" of slavery. In the North, slavery had been dying for some time and most hoped it would simply fade away from existence. But with the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney and the increased demand for slaves across the South, many Southerners were determined to keep their slaves and even invest in more. Another important concern over Missouri's admission was how to keep the balance of power in the US Senate. Southerners were determined to keep as many slave states as free states in order to block any future attempts to restrict slavery or even abolish it altogether. For this reason, Southern politicians demanded Missouri enter with slavery, but Northern congressmen were strongly opposed to this.

Henry Clay was a Kentuckian who had great political skills, and as congressional leader, stepped in to help resolve the dispute. Knowing for some time that Maine (which up to that time had been a part of Massachusetts) wanted to become its own state, gave an opportunity to keep the balance in the Senate by admitting it as a free state along with Missouri (slave state) simultaneously. But what about the future? Undoubtedly, more western lands would quickly grow in population and also apply for statehood. Henry Clay, understanding this, then proposed that the 36-30 latitude, which stretched across the nation, would become the boundary that separated free and slave states. To the North of that line only free states would be allowed and below that land slave states.

Most congressmen were satisfied with these terms of the Missouri Compromise, but some argued that the issue over slavery in America needed to be resolved one way or the other. An aging Thomas Jefferson warned that the Missouri Compromise was a "fire-bell sounding in the night", meaning that danger was looming and perhaps America would suffer greatly down the road for compromising on an issue that needed to be dealt with immediately!

Another consequence of the Missouri Compromise was that Southern politicians afterwards would keep a watchful eye on Northern leaders who might try to restrict or abolish slavery one day. Momentum would begin building as North and South would squabble over the issue of slavery spreading west, which will ultimately lead to the Civil War.



Comprehension questions

1. According to the reading, who is responsible for
2. deciding over admittance of new states?
3. Why was it so important to Southerners that Missouri enter in as a "slave state"?
4. In the Missouri compromise, what would determine future lands' status of being slave or free?

Critical Thinking

5. What do you think would have happened if the Missouri Compromise had not been agreed upon? Why?

Abolitionism

In the 1830s, a spiritual revival movement swept across America which became known as the 2nd Great Awakening. Like the first, back in colonial times, many notable preachers, such as Charles Finney preached “Hell-fire and Brimstone” sermons that challenged people to not just read their Bibles and go to Church, but also put into practice their Christian beliefs and actively “tackle the burning social issues” of the day. As a result, the temperance movement began and would strive to limit the use of alcohol encouraging moderate usage or even complete prohibition. Dorothea Dix would bring attention to the horrible conditions of prisons, of which many changes would be brought about. Education reform and even women striving for rights would be brought to light in society. But the revival movement had the greatest impact on anti-slavery rhetoric and consequently the Abolitionist Movement began.

Quakers back in the Middle-Atlantic colonies had first challenged America to pursue abolish slavery and bring about equality of all men and women. But not until the 1830s would a growing number of Americans begin to feel passionate about slavery's evil and gruesome attributes. William Lloyd Garrison was a fiery character that wrote about abolitionism in his *Liberator* magazine that quickly spread across the north gaining converts to the cause. Up until the Civil War and contrary to exaggerated reports, most northerners did not become abolitionists. But this movement was spreading, especially due to the efforts of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her book, *Uncle Toms Cabin*, not only became a best-selling work across the north and even into Europe, but it exposed the horrors of human bondage and the tormenting agony of slave families being ripped apart in slave-trading. In England, Queen Victoria wept over it as did many eye-opening northerners in America. Even Abraham Lincoln later suggested that Stowe was the “little woman who wrote the book that started this great war”.

Abolitionists also included activists such as Harriet Tubman, who began the “Underground Railroad”. This network of white and black abolitionists helped thousands of runaway slaves escape to freedom in the north or into Canada. While hiding in attics and haylofts by day and traveling by night, Tubman herself, would personally escort over 300 slaves to freedom in the 1850s, all the while being America's most wanted fugitive. She credited her Savior, Jesus Christ, with helping to direct her and continue the fight towards freeing her people. This might explain why she became popularly known as “Moses”.

Other activists included Frederick Douglass, who was probably the most well-known black abolitionist. He, surprisingly, was self-educated and inspired many slaves to strive for freedom and equality in his many eloquent speeches. His greatest contribution however, was mobilizing and recruiting thousands of blacks to enlist in the Union Army and fight for their freedom. The most famous white abolitionist was probably John Brown (“God's Angry Man”), who became militant in trying to start a slave revolt at Harper's Ferry, VA. His failed revolution, that sought to arm thousands of slaves with weapons, would quickly end in defeat as no slaves came to his support. But his trial and eventual execution for treason would further divide Americans as many northerners saw Brown as a “martyr” (a religious saint who died for the cause), while angry southerners saw him as a murderer. Without a doubt, abolitionism played a significant part in leading to the Civil War as southerners concluded that northerners wanted to free all slaves and consequently ruin the southern economy.

Comprehension Questions

1. According to the reading, what does prohibition and abolitionism probably mean?
2. How did both William Lloyd Garrison and Harriet Beecher Stowe use their talents to promote the spread of abolitionism?
3. What is an activist and why were Tubman, Douglass and Brown considered activists?

Critical Thinking Questions

4. If John Brown failed to bring about a successful slave revolt why did he further divide America?

Compromise of 1850

From 1820 until 1850, America continued to fulfill its Manifest Destiny as it expanded west to the Pacific Ocean. However, controversy over the extension of slavery continued to divide Americans in the North and the South. After the Gold Rush in 1849, California was ready to apply for statehood, but because its geographic location was partly below the 36-30 parallel, southerners complained about it becoming another free state in the Union. An elderly Henry Clay once again came to the forefront to resolve the dispute. Since he understood that many southerners were becoming more concerned about their slaves running and escaping to freedom in the north, there was an opportunity to pacify the South by initiating a new fugitive slave law (requiring that runaway slaves be returned to their masters in the South) while allowing California to enter as a free state. Along with this compromise, the Utah and New Mexico territories would be opened to popular sovereignty, which would allow the people of those eventual states to decide for themselves on the issue of slavery. Also, slave trading in the nation's capital (Washington D.C.) would be outlawed. While both northern and southern politicians would applaud the political compromise of 1850, both sides in the course of time would eventually see it as a calamity.

After the "Bloodhound Bill" (fugitive slave law) went into effect, southerners especially became resentful as runaway slaves were not returned and northerners were increasingly ignoring the law. Northerners had never been forced to look and deal with slavery directly. It had always been something peculiar to the South. But now northerners were being asked to participate in not only acknowledging slavery, but to actually have runaway slaves rounded up by authorities and forcibly sent back to the south. This appalled many in the North who had been neutral on the issue. Northerners and Southerners became even more antagonistic towards each other.

It was becoming more difficult to compromise on the issue of slavery as more and more northerners had their eyes opened towards this bad habit of slavery that America was not growing out of. Southerners too were becoming more stubborn and unwilling to continue to be a part of a nation where their interests were being threatened.

Comprehension Questions

1. What 2 parts of the Compromise of 1850 would Southerners approve of?
2. What 2 parts of the Compromise of 1850 would Northerners approve of?
3. Why would both the North and the South end up hating the Comp. of 1850?

Critical Thinking Questions

4. What could Henry Clay have done to have made the Compromise of 1850 more successful? Why?

"Bleeding Kansas" and "Bleeding Sumner"

In 1854, an ambitious Illinois Senator, Stephen Douglas, convinced congress to pass the Kansas/Nebraska Act. Despite the fact that a year earlier, Congress had approved the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico for the purpose of having a southern Transcontinental Railroad built, Northerners wanted a northern route heading out to California. Douglas realizing this, convinced Southerners to accept this on the condition that Kansas and Nebraska would be opened up to popular sovereignty. This meant that the people of a territory would decide for themselves if the lands would be free or slave. For the first time since the Missouri Compromise back in 1820, Southerners would have a chance to bring in slave territory above the 36-30 parallel out west. To most Americans, it seemed very "American" and democratic to let the people choose, and yet angry abolitionists in the North rightly acknowledged that slavery under popular sovereignty was still spreading west! Nonetheless, the deal was hammered through Congress and the race was on to Kansas!

The first 5000 Americans to register as new "Jayhawkers" in Kansas could vote either slave or free. However, many nearby Missourians, also called "border ruffians", were cheating as they pretended to come into Kansas as new residents to vote for slavery, but then after voting went back across the border. Angry protests and violence erupted in Kansas as the nation saw in the newspapers everywhere. Many historians have suggested that the Civil War really began out in "Bleeding Kansas".

Back East, in the nation's capital, violence even reached the Senate floor as an angry South Carolina Senator, Preston Brooks savagely beat Massachusetts Senator William Sumner with his cane. Nearby, other Senators simply stood and watched without interfering. Actually, the next day Southern Senators brought Brooks new canes to replace his broken one in the ordeal. All this was in response to heated dialogue over slavery and the abolitionist cause. Americans everywhere now wondered if the violence would soon lead to Civil War.

Comprehension Questions

1. If popular sovereignty was widely accepted by most Americans, then what was its fatal defect?
2. What led to the violence in Bleeding Kansas?
3. Why do you think Preston Brooks would beat William Sumner with his cane?

Critical Thinking Questions

4. What was repealed (or cancelled) with the passing into law of the Kansas/Nebraska Act?

Dred Scott and the Election of 1860

In 1857, a black slave from Missouri went with his master to visit in the free state of Illinois. When his master suddenly died, some suggested that Dred Scott ought to be freed rather than sent back to his master's family in Missouri. After getting legal help, the case was sent all the way to the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. But with a majority on the high court being southern sympathizers, Dred Scott was ruled against and ordered back to his Master's family. Not only did the court tell him he was an "inferior order" and had no right to come to court, but they also said that since Dred Scott was considered property, any property must be allowed to remain with its owner. What the Court was basically saying was that slavery is considered property and a person's property (like a horse or any other possession) is protected under the Constitution. Even if popular sovereignty ruled slavery in certain lands, slaves would still be allowed legally. Thus, slavery could go anywhere in America! Obviously, northerners were quite angry over the Supreme Court's ruling and only time would tell if that actually held up.

A year later, Abraham Lincoln brought up this case in an important debate with Stephen Douglas over the Senate seat in Illinois. Lincoln's asked Douglas whether the court should be honored or popular sovereignty in determining the status of slavery out west. Douglas' response of opposing the Court's decision would lose Southern support and propel Lincoln into a national candidate for the Republican Party.

The election of 1860 would see Lincoln, Douglas and 2 other candidates run for the presidency. With the Democratic Party being split over the slavery issue (Northern Democrats – against slavery and Southern Democrats - for it), Lincoln would easily win. Since the Republican Party and Lincoln campaigned not as abolitionists, but on refusing to allow slavery to spread west, this would lead several Southern states to secede (separate from the Union, declare their independence), of which South Carolina would lead the way. Sadly for Lincoln, by the time he was inaugurated and sworn in as president, the nation for which he was elected to lead was divided. His daunting task for the next 4 years was to preserve the union and win the Civil War!

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Dred Scott feel that he should have his freedom when his master died?
2. Who would be upset over the Supreme Court's decision regarding Dred Scott? Why?
3. Why did Stephen Douglas lose support from Southerners?
4. What enabled Lincoln to easily win the election of 1860?

Critical Thinking Questions

5. f Stephen Douglas had not lost Southern support and won the election of 1860, would the Civil War still have begun? Why?

Proving the Main Idea

Directions: Use the passages to determine a main idea. Use supporting evidence from the text that supports the overall idea.

Article	Main Idea	Supporting Details
Missouri Compromise		
Abolitionism		
Compromise of 1850		
Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner		
Dred Scott & the Election of 1860		

History Notes

Directions: Use the passages to take short notes of important facts or details.

Missouri Compromise

Abolitionism

Compromise of 1850

Bleeding Kansas and
Bleeding Sumner

Dred Scott and the
Election of 1860

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