

Social Studies

Civil War Activity Guide

The tensions between the North and South were rising, ultimately due to the single issue of slavery. The North wanted to abolish slavery, and the South wanted to continue on with it. It seemed like a war was inevitable, and it turns out that it was. But first the nation had to get through this election. You'll learn how the bloodshed in Kansas, and the truly awful Kansas-Nebraska Act led directly to the decrease in popularity of Stephen Douglas, the splitting of the Democratic party, and the unlikely victory of a relatively inexperienced politician from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's election would lead directly to the secession of several southern states, and thus to the Civil War.

Directions: Complete the chart along with the video (Crash Course U.S History #18)

Road to Secession Chart: Causes of the Civil War		
Cause	What is it?	What is the significance?
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly is an anti-slavery novel by American author Harriet Beecher Stowe. Published in 1852, the novel had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and slavery in the U.S.	It is said to have "helped lay the groundwork for the Civil War"
Compromise of 1850	The Compromise of 1850 was a package of five separate bills passed by the United States Congress in September 1850.	It defused a political confrontation between slave and free states on the status of territories acquired in the Mexican–American War.
Kansas - Nebraska Act	The Kansas–Nebraska Act of 1854 was a territorial organic act. It was drafted by Democratic Senator Stephen A. Douglas, passed by the	It created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

	33rd United States Congress, and signed into law by President Franklin Pierce.	
John Brown's Raid	John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was an effort by abolitionist John Brown, from October 16 to 18, 1859, to initiate a slave revolt in Southern states by taking over a United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.	It has been called the dress rehearsal for the Civil War.
Dred Scott Case	Fred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393, was a landmark decision of the US Supreme Court.	Court held that the US Constitution was not meant to include American citizenship for black people.
Lincoln's Case	List of cases involving Abraham Lincoln concerns litigation while Abraham Lincoln worked as a lawyer. He brought cases to local courts, the Illinois Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court during his career before he became President of the United States.	Lincoln's Greatest Case: The River, the Bridge, and the Making of America
Battle of Fort Sumter	The Battle of Fort Sumter was the bombardment of Fort Sumter near Charleston, South Carolina by the South Carolina militia.	The return gunfire and subsequent surrender by the United States Army, that started the American Civil War