

Abraham Lincoln - Election to Inauguration

Group Members

Confederate States of America

Use the map up on the board or online to answer the following questions.

- Which state was the first to secede from the Union?

- List all the things that you think the first 8 states to secede have in common?

- Why do you think AR, TN, VA and NC waited until after violence broke out to secede?

Virginia - Should I Stay or Should I Go?

If Virginia remains in the Union under the domination of this infamous, low, vulgar tyranny of Black Republicanism, and there is one other state in the Union that has bravely thrown off the yoke, I will seek my domicile in that state and abandon Virginia forever.

-Edmund Ruffin

- Ruffin was known as a 'fire eater'. What is a 'fire eater' based on his comments above?

"[If Virginia secedes from the Union] we are in favor of striking West Virginia from Eastern Virginia and forming a state independent of the south, and firm to the Union."

-a pro-Union group in Tyler County explaining its position

- Why do you think the people of western Virginia supported the union over the confederacy?

I can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union. It would be an accumulation of all the evils we complain of, and I am willing to sacrifice everything but honor for its preservation. I hope, therefore, that all constitutional means will be exhausted before there is a resort to force. Secession is nothing but revolution.

“If the Union is dissolved, and the Government disrupted, I shall return to my native State and share the miseries of my people, and save in defense will draw my sword on none.” - Robert E. Lee - January 1861

- What does Robert E. Lee hope will happen to the union? How do you know this?

- If the union were to be divided, what side would Lee go to? Why do you think that is?

Lincoln Inauguration Observations:

As for 83-year-old Roger Taney, he said, "I saw the withered form of Chief Justice Taney, the author of the famous Dred Scott decision, that judicial compend of the doctrine of slavery, administer the oath of office to the first President elected on a distinct anti-slavery platform." Taney died in office three years later, and Lincoln filled the position with abolitionist Salmon Chase.

- What is the upcoming change that this quote references?

- How would the various sides of the nation view the change?

Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, sat behind Lincoln during the speech, "expecting to hear its delivery arrested by the crack of a rifle aimed at his heart, but it pleased God to postpone the deed, though there was forty times the reason for shooting him in 1860 that there was in '65, and at least forty times as many intent on killing or having him killed. No shot was then fired, however; for his hour had not yet come."

- What did Horace Greeley expect to have happen during the course of the inauguration speech?

- Abraham Lincoln would be assassinated 4 years later. Why do you think is would have more likely he be assassinated in 1861 than in 1865?

The ceremony ended with the oath of office, breaking the tension. Said a young New Englander, "When the address closed and the cheering subsided, Taney rose, and almost as tall as Lincoln, he administered the oath, Lincoln repeating it; and as the words, 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution' came ringing out, he bent and kissed the book [Bible]; and for one, I breathed freer and gladder than for months. The man looked like a man, and acted a man and a President."

- Is the man quoted above a supporter or opponent of Abraham Lincoln?

- Why do you think the man above was so relieved at the moment of inauguration?

<http://www.civilwar.org/hallowed-ground-magazine/winter-2010/states-of-the-pseudo-confederacy.html>

