Regional Disagreements

READ TO FIND OUT What caused disagreements between the Northern and the Southern states?

By the middle of the 1800s, the Northern states and the Southern states were very different. In the North, many people worked in cities. In the South, almost everyone farmed.

Owners of large farms in the South depended on the work of enslaved Africans. Slaves were held against their will and worked without pay. Northern states did not allow slavery.

The economy of the South was based mostly on farming.
Plans such as the Compromise of 1850 kept the number of free states and slave states equal for a while.

People in the North did not like a law that said escaped slaves had to be sent back to their owners. People in the South did not like the high tax they had to pay on goods from other countries.

For a while, the country had the same number of free and slave states. Free states did not allow slavery. Slave states allowed it. Then people argued over whether new states should allow slavery. The Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 kept peace for a time.

**READING CHECK** GENERALIZE Why was there conflict between the Northern and the Southern states?
Resisting Slavery

READ TO FIND OUT What groups of people tried to end slavery?

Dred Scott was an enslaved man. He lived in many parts of the country with his owner. Sometimes they lived in the North. When his owner died, Scott said he should be free. He felt this way because he had lived in a free state.

Scott went to court to fight for his freedom. In 1857, the Supreme Court said that enslaved people had no rights. This decision made people in the North and people in the South disagree even more about slavery.

Dred Scott

Newspapers, around the country told Dred Scott's story.
Many people worked to end slavery. They were called abolitionists. They included white Northerners and free African Americans. Some gave speeches and wrote newspaper articles and books telling people why slavery was wrong. Some wanted to use violence to stop slavery.

Other people helped enslaved people run away on the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a chain of secret routes and hiding places that led to freedom.

**READING CHECK**

MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS What groups of people tried to end slavery?
Sojourner Truth

"But we'll have our rights; see if we don't."

Isabella Van Wagener was enslaved until she was 30 years old. She lived in New York. As an enslaved person, Isabella had no rights. She was not allowed to make choices about her life.

In 1827, New York freed enslaved people who lived in that state. Isabella decided to help others. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Sojourner means "traveler."
Sojourner Truth traveled all over the country. She told people how slavery hurt people. She also spoke about kindness and the fact that all people are equal. She wanted women to have the same rights as men. One of these rights was the right to vote.

Like most enslaved people, Sojourner Truth had never learned to read or write. But she told her story to a writer who made it into a book. After reading the book, many people wanted to work to end slavery. They also wanted to work to give women more rights.
The Nation Breaks Apart

READ TO FIND OUT What made the nation break apart?

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran for President. He was against the spread of slavery to new states. Many people in the Southern states said that their states would break away from the United States if Lincoln won the election.

Lincoln won. South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas voted to leave the United States, or the Union. These states formed a new government, called the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy.
In April 1861, the Confederacy took over a United States fort on an island near Charleston, South Carolina. With this attack, a civil war started. A **civil war** is a war between people in the same country.

The United States Civil War divided the country. Even families were divided. In some families, some people fought for the Confederacy, while others fought for the Union.

**REVIEW CHECK** **CAUSE AND EFFECT** What caused the nation to break apart?
The War Begins

**READ TO FIND OUT** What were some important events in the early years of the Civil War?

The North's plan to win the war was to stop the South from getting supplies. Northern ships blockaded the South's seaports. The South's plan was to fight until people in the North got tired of the war. The South also hoped to get help from Britain and France.

The early battles showed that it would not be a quick war. After the Battle of Antietam, President Lincoln said he would free the slaves in any area fighting the Union.

*These actors are reenacting the Battle of Antietam.*
After 1863, African American soldiers fought in almost every major battle of the Civil War.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln made his Emancipation Proclamation. To *emancipate* means “to free.” Union troops moved through the South and freed enslaved people. Thousands of freed slaves went north.

All kinds of people helped each side during the war. Some women took over jobs at factories, businesses, and farms. Others were nurses or even spies. About 180,000 African Americans joined the Union army.

**READING CHECK**  **SUMMARIZE** What were some important events in the early years of the Civil War?
The Road to Union Victory

**READ TO FIND OUT** How did the Union win the Civil War?

In May 1863, the Union army attacked Vicksburg, Mississippi. A few months later, they captured the city. This gave the North control of the Mississippi River.

In July 1863, a Southern army led by General Robert E. Lee met Union troops near the town of Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania. The armies fought for three days. In the end, it was a victory for the Union. Later that year, President Lincoln gave a famous speech at Gettysburg.

*Major Battles of the Civil War*

Most of the early battles of the Civil War were fought in the South.
In 1864, Union soldiers marched through the South. They burned homes and crops along the way. The Union also captured Mobile Bay. The bay was the Confederacy’s last open port on the Gulf of Mexico. In 1865, Union troops captured Richmond, Virginia. Soon the South’s armies were out of food and other supplies.

Finally, on April 9, 1865, the South gave up. The Civil War was over. More than 600,000 soldiers had died in the terrible war. Thousands of others had been hurt.

**READING CHECK** GENERALIZE How did the Union win the Civil War?
Ulysses S. Grant

"This war was a fearful lesson, and should teach us the necessity of avoiding wars in the future."

Ulysses S. Grant was born in a small town in Ohio in 1822. When he was 17 years old, he went to the United States Army’s college at West Point. After he graduated, the Army sent Grant to serve in many places. Over time, he missed his family so much that he left the Army.
When the Civil War began, in 1861, Grant decided to go back into the Union army. Grant was a strong leader. The troops Grant led won many battles during the war. By the end of the war, he was the leader of the entire Union army.

After the war, many people thought Grant was a hero. In 1869, he ran for President and was elected. Four years later, Grant was elected President again.
Reconstruction

READ TO FIND OUT  How did the United States government treat the South after the Civil War?

Just five days after General Lee surrendered, President Lincoln was shot to death. Vice President Andrew Johnson became President.

President Johnson followed Lincoln’s plan for the Reconstruction, or rebuilding, of the country. Lincoln had wanted to bring the country back together as quickly as possible. His plan was to make it easy for the Southern states to rejoin the Union.

After the Civil War, many parts of the country had to be rebuilt.
Some leaders in Congress thought that Johnson was too easy on the South. Johnson had let the Southern states pass laws that took away some rights of former slaves. To punish the Southern states, Congress put them under military rule.

Congress made each Southern state write a new constitution before it could rejoin the United States. The Southern states had to give African American men the right to vote.

**READING CHECK**  
**MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS**  
How did the government treat the South after the Civil War?
Reconstruction Ends

Read to find out What problems did the South face after the Civil War?

After the war, life in the South was very hard. Congress set up the Freedmen’s Bureau to help freed African Americans. It gave them food and built schools.

Work was hard to find. Many freed African Americans went back to work on plantations. As pay, they were given part of the crops they grew. This way of farming is called sharecropping. People made very little money this way.

The Freedmen’s Bureau built more than 4,000 schools and hired thousands of teachers.
Some white people in the South were upset that freed people were allowed to vote. Over time, Southern leaders passed laws that kept African Americans from voting and kept people separated by race.

When Union soldiers left the South in 1877, African Americans lost many of their rights again. Still, African American leaders, such as Booker T. Washington, kept working for equality.

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE** What problems did the South face after the Civil War?