

STUDY GUIDE: ANTEBELLUM SECTIONALISM (1841-1860)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- To what extent did economic, political, and social factors in this era help promote expansion and the development of the "American Dream"?
- Were sectional disagreements after 1848 more difficult to compromise due to economic differences, a fight for political control of the nation, or differences over the morality of slavery?
- To what extent was the Dred Scott decision the turning point event leading to the Civil War?
- To what extent was slavery the main cause of the Civil War?

IN A NUTSHELL:

- The U.S. fulfilled many expansionist goals in the 1840s.
- Before 1860, the North and The South were separated by economic, political, and cultural differences that made it increasingly difficult to compromise.
- After the election of Abraham Lincoln, several southern states seceded from the Union, an action that led to civil war in 1861.

KEY TERMS

EVENTS:

Annexation of Texas, 1845
Oregon Treaty, 1846
Mexican-American War, 1846-1848
Wilmot Proviso proposed in Congress, 1846
Calhoun Resolutions proposed in Congress, 1847
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848
California Gold Rush, 1849
Compromise of 1850
Fugitive Slave Act, 1850
Uncle Tom's Cabin published, 1852
The Gadsden Purchase, 1853
Republican Party emerges, 1854
Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854
Pottawatomie Massacre, 1856
Dred Scott v. Sandford, 1857
Panic of 1857
Lincoln-Douglas debates, 1858
John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, 1859
Election of 1860 (November)
Secession of South Carolina, Dec. 20, 1860
Crittenden Compromise debated, early 1861

PEOPLE:

William Henry Harrison
Stephen F. Austin
Santa Anna
Sam Houston
James K. Polk
John C. Calhoun
Zachary Taylor
Winfield Scott
Stephen Douglas
Henry Clay "The Great Compromiser"
Daniel Webster
Harriet Beecher Stowe
John Brown
Roger Taney
Abraham Lincoln

OTHER TERMS:

Manifest Destiny
"Great American Desert"
Great Plains
King Cotton
planters
yeoman farmers
"free persons of color"
The Old Southwest
abolitionism
popular sovereignty
Free Soil Coalition

forty-niners
Transcontinental railroad
"Bleeding Kansas"
"border ruffians"
Lecompton Constitution
Freeport Doctrine