



Causes of the Civil War Reading Comprehension Bundle

Integrated Reading and CRITICAL THOUGHT Activities

For Grades 5-8

8 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES
Perfect for Interactive Notebooks
Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

MR. NUSSBAUM
LEARNING + FUN

Terms of Use

Slavery RC	C, C, B, D, B, D, A
Missouri Compromise RC	A, C, D, C, B, A, D
Manifest Destiny RC	A, C, C, A, D, B, B
Kansas-Nebraska Act RC	D, B, A, A, C, D, B
Lincoln-Douglass Debates RC	B, B, ABD, D, A, C, A

This bundle is the property of Nussbaum Education Network, LLC. You may use the exercises within this bundle with your students or children. These exercises may be used in the classroom or distributed for homework. You may not re-publish this bundle or activities within these bundles, post them online, re-sell them, or use them in standardized tests. Any other uses not mentioned here are prohibited without consent from the Nussbaum Education Network, LLC .

For licensing inquires regarding this bundle, or any other works from Nussbaum Education Network, LLC, please e-mail us at:

mrnussbaumcom@gmail.com, or, visit our website at <https://mrnussbaum.com>

Manifest Destiny Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Following the War of 1812, American entered a period of history known as the Era of Good Feeling. During this time, America articulated its first foreign policy through the Monroe Doctrine and a growing sense of nationalism gripped the population. Americans started believing that they were morally and culturally superior to their Native, Mexican, and British neighbors and that it was God's will and the people's duty to spread American virtues from "sea to shining sea."

In 1845, newspaper editor John O' Sullivan first coined the term "Manifest Destiny," to describe the mindset of American expansion. The idea of Manifest Destiny was reflected in the 19th century by the mass migration of Americans from the eastern United States to the west through the great emigrant trails such as the Oregon, California, Santa Fe, and Mormon Trails. It was used to justify the corrupt treaties and wars that resulted in the removal of Native Americans from their ancestral land. It was also used to justify the Mexican-American War, resulting in the annexation of 1.2 million square miles of land in the American West.

Manifest Destiny also accelerated the onset of the Civil War as it touched off intense sectional dramas between southern states hoping to expand slavery into new territories and northern states hoping to prevent the spread of slavery.

1. As part of the Era of Good Feeling...

- a. Americans began feeling a growing pride in their nation
- b. Native Americans expanded territory into Mexico
- c. Americans fought in the War of 1812
- d. Americans believed themselves equal to British for the first time

2. What was the effect of Manifest Destiny on the Civil War?

- a. It had no influence on the onset of the Civil War
- b. It helped postpone the onset of the Civil War
- c. It accelerated the onset of the Civil War by forcing the issue of slavery
- d. It caused people to migrate to the eastern United States

3. Which of the following did NOT happen as a result of Manifest Destiny?

- a. Western expansion
- b. Increased nationalism
- c. Preservation of Native American culture
- d. The annexation of 1.2 million square miles

4. What does “migration” mean in the following sentence?

The idea of Manifest Destiny was reflected in the 19th century by the mass migration of Americans from the eastern United States to the west through the great emigrant trails such as the Oregon, California, Santa Fe, and Mormon Trails.

- a. People moving from one area to another
- b. People losing their homes
- c. People preparing for war
- d. People leaving the country

5. What question is NOT answered in the second paragraph?

- a. Who coined the term Manifest Destiny?
- b. How did people get to western parts of the United States?
- c. How were parts of the southwest and Mexico annexed to the United States?
- d. When did the Civil War begin?

6. Which of the following questions could be answered by “America’s first articulation of foreign policy”?

- a. What is Manifest Destiny?
- b. What is the Monroe Doctrine?
- c. What is the Era of Good Feeling?
- d. Why did Americans feel superior to the **Native, Mexican, and British neighbors?**

7. Which of the following best describes Manifest Destiny?

- a. American foreign policy must not be influenced by other nations
- b. American ideals must be spread across North America
- c. Americans will begin to settle in the western United States
- d. The American spirit will help resolve the Civil War

Kansas-Nebraska Act

In 1854, Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which organized the remaining territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase so that such territories could be admitted to the Union as states.

Probably the most important result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was its language concerning the contentious issue of slavery. Proposed by Stephen A. Douglas, and signed by president Franklin Pierce, the bill divided the region into two territories. Territory north of the 40th parallel was called Nebraska Territory, and territory south of the 40th parallel was called Kansas Territory. The most controversial aspect of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was that each territory would decide for itself whether or not to permit slavery. This stipulation repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which stated that slavery was prohibited north of 36° 30'.

As there was more support for slavery in Kansas, both pro-slavery and anti-slavery advocates organized teams of people to settle in the state. Not surprisingly, the area became a battleground for both sides, and the resulting violence caused the territory to be referred to as “Bleeding Kansas,” and was one of the first major causes of the Civil War. Eventually, on January 29, 1861, after much controversy, Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state – just months before the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

1. What was the purpose of the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

- A. To repeal the Missouri Compromise
- B. To make sure all territories could vote on the issue of slavery
- C. To admit Kansas and Nebraska to the Union as free states
- D. To organize territories so they could become states

2. What was controversial about the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

- A. Slavery would be allowed in both Kansas and Nebraska Territories
- B. Territories would decide whether or not to allow slavery within their borders
- C. Neither Kansas or Nebraska could become states if they allowed slavery
- D. Slavery would be prohibited in certain parts of the territories

3. What is a stipulation as used in the following sentence?

This stipulation repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which stated that slavery was prohibited north of 36° 30'.

- A. A condition or requirement
- B. A change
- C. An illegal act
- D. A promise

4. Which of the following is true?

- A. There was more support for slavery in Kansas
- B. There was equal support for slavery in both Kansas and Nebraska
- C. There was more support for slavery in Nebraska
- D. There was little support for slavery in Kansas or Nebraska

5. Why did Kansas become known as “Bleeding Kansas?”

- A. Because of the increased slave trade that occurred before it became a state
- B. Because slavery supporters were always violent
- C. Because slavery supporters and slavery opponents both moved to the state
- D. Because it was a major cause of the Civil War

6. Eventually...

- A. Kansas became a slave state after the start of the Civil War.
- B. Kansas became a slave state before the start of the Civil War.
- C. Kansas became a free state after the start of the Civil War.
- D. Kansas became a free state before the start of the Civil War.

7. What was the effect of the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

- A. It brought the nation together
- B. It brought the nation closer to war
- C. Slavery became legal in Kansas
- D. Slavery would eventually become illegal in America

The Election of 1860 Reading Comprehension

Name: _____

By 1860, the United States was in the midst of serious political turmoil. The issue of slavery threatened to rip the nation apart. The 1860 presidential election was THE critical issue. The Democratic Party had been split into two factions, the Northern Democrats and the Southern Democrats. The Northern Democrats nominated Stephen A. Douglas from Illinois for president, and the Southern Democrats nominated John C. Breckinridge from Kentucky. Douglas would become the first presidential candidate to "campaign," by embarking on a national speaking tour. The newly formed anti-slavery Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln, a Representative from Illinois, legendary for his oratory. Lincoln won the nomination over three more well-known candidates, William Seward, Salmon P. Chase and Edward Bates (all of whom would become members of his cabinet). The Constitutional Union Party nominated John Bell from Tennessee.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was officially elected as president, despite the fact that he wasn't even listed on the ballot in nine southern states. Because the bulk of the voting population lived in the Northern states, those states had higher electoral values. Lincoln won the three states with the highest electoral values, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. He won 17 states in all. John C. Breckinridge won every southern state except Virginia and Tennessee. Those states were won by John Bell. The election of 1860 turned out to be the second highest on record in terms of voter turnout. The results of the election brought the country to Civil War. South Carolina, whose voters believed that a Republican president would restrict slavery in the new territories, and then attempt to prohibit it completely, supported secession. They believed slavery was an American "institution," and that their agricultural economy would collapse without it. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina issued a Declaration of Secession from the United States. Ten other states would follow its lead within a few months. The new President had a mighty task of preserving a fractured Union. War was the only way.

1. Which statement about the 1860 presidential candidates is false?

- a) Lincoln represented the Republican party.
- b) John C. Breckinridge represented the Northern Democrats.
- c) Stephen Douglas did not represent the Republican Party.
- d) John Bell represented the Constitutional Union Party.

2. Which is the best synonym for “oratory,” used to describe Lincoln in the first paragraph?

- a) Public speaking
- b) Law-making
- c) Leading
- d) Traveling

3. How did Lincoln win the election despite not being listed on the ballot in some Southern states?

- a) He was a write-in candidate in the southern states.
- b) Breckinridge conceded the election to Lincoln.
- c) He won many Northern states with large populations.
- d) He won every other Southern state except Virginia and Tennessee.

4. Which statement about the Election of 1860 is true?

- a) It had a low turnout.
- b) It had an unsurprising victor.
- c) It had historic consequences.
- d) It ruined Lincoln’s political career.

5. Why did South Carolina secede from the Union?

- a) They were afraid that Lincoln would abolish slavery as president.
- b) They felt their agricultural economy could do better on its own.
- c) They were angry that their candidate, Douglas, lost the election.
- d) They wanted a president who opposed slavery.

6. South Carolina believed that slavery was an American “institution.” Infer what this means.

- a) A replaceable aspect of the economy
- b) A well-designed education system
- c) A social construct created by the government
- d) A staple of American society

7. Which statement about Abraham Lincoln is supported by the passage?

- a) He was part of an anti-slavery political party.
- b) He was unopposed when competing for the Republican nomination.
- c) Both of the above
- d) None of the above

-----Key-----

1. (b)
2. (a)
3. (c)
4. (c)
5. (a)
6. (d)
7. (a)

John Brown Rebellion Reading Comprehension

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.

A Hatred of Slavery

John Brown was born on May 9th, 1800, in Torrington, Connecticut. At age 5 he moved to Ohio and acquired a hatred for the institution of slavery from his father. When he was 12, he stayed with a Michigan family who continuously beat their slaves. The image would haunt Brown for the rest of his life. Brown soon became a staunch abolitionist (an advocate for the banning of slavery) and even started a school to help educate young black people in 1834.

A Murderous Act of Vengeance

In 1855, John Brown followed five of his sons to "Bleeding Kansas", where a number of abolitionists had recently been murdered. Brown and his sons subsequently murdered five slavery advocates at Pottawatomie, Kansas on May 24, 1856. Brown and his sons immediately became fugitives and withstood a mob of attacking Missourians at Osawatomie. Brown's actions, together with his stand at Osawatomie, made him a legendary figure and a nationally recognized opponent of slavery.

Planning for an Insurrection

When Brown returned east, he formulated a plan to free slaves by force. He had financial support from many wealthy abolitionists in the northeast. Brown's plan included a refuge for runaway slaves in the mountains of Virginia. On October 16, 1859, John Brown, his sons, and a small number of loyal supporters, launched an attack against the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. He believed word of the arsenal's capture would inspire slaves throughout Virginia to rebel against their owners. The group easily took the town and the arsenal. Brown, however, failed to launch any further offensives and took a defensive position within the arsenal. Brown's group was quickly surrounded by the local militia, and then, a day later, by U.S. marines led by Robert E. Lee. The ensuing battles resulted in the death of two of his sons, his own injuries, and an unconditional surrender.

A Martyr

As a result of his actions, Brown was charged with murder and treason. He was hanged at Charleston, Virginia on December 2, 1859. Nevertheless, his rebellion was one of the primary causes of the Civil War. Many southern sympathizers believed Brown's rebellion was a conspiracy against slavery advocates of the south staged by the U.S. Government. Others feared Brown's rebellion would indeed cause a slave insurrection. For many years after his death, Brown was considered a martyr and hero to the abolitionist cause.

1. Infer the meaning of the prefix ab- as used in the word “abolitionist.”

- a) Off, away from
- b) Towards
- c) With
- d) Across

2. Why did Brown grow up with a hatred of slavery?

- a) His childhood growing up in Connecticut
- b) A visit to a violent family in Ohio
- c) Influence from a parent
- d) Personal experience as a slaveowner

3. Which event happened first?

- a) John Brown and his sons go to Bleeding Kansas
- b) Brown attacks Harper’s Ferry
- c) Brown starts a school to educate young Black individuals
- d) Two of Brown’s sons die

4. Why did Brown’s raid at Harper’s Ferry fail?

- a) Brown failed to capture the arsenal.
- b) Brown and his followers failed to act after raiding the arsenal.
- c) One of Brown’s sons told Robert E. Lee of the impending attack.
- d) U.S. Marines were waiting at the arsenal when Brown and his sons arrived.

5. Which statement about John Brown’s rebellion is true?

- a) It had no impact on the state of the union leading up to the Civil War.
- b) It resulted in the continued decline of relations between North and South.
- c) It motivated slaves to begin uprising against their owners.
- d) It was condemned by abolitionists.

6. Which best describes John Brown?

- a) A hot-headed diplomat
- b) A violent freedom fighter
- c) A reckless Southern sympathizer
- d) A peace-seeking abolitionist

7. A student wants to learn more about John Brown’s plans to raid Harper’s Ferry. Which source would be the best for this purpose?

- a) A map of Union and Confederate states in the Civil War
- b) Letters from John Brown to his wife leading up to the raid
- c) A blueprint of the arsenal at Harper’s Ferry
- d) The curriculum used at John Brown’s school

-----Key-----

1. (a)
2. (c)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (b)
6. (b)
7. (b)

Southern Perspective

The issue of slavery became more and more contentious between northern states and southern states in the middle part of the 19th century, especially as the United States expanded westward and began to take in new territories and states. Slavery was important to the southern economy because of the large labor force required to pick and process cotton – the southern cash crop. The southern states scored a victory with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Introduced by Stephen A. Douglas, the bill called for the residents of the particular territory to choose for itself whether to allow slavery (otherwise known as *popular sovereignty*). Northern politicians such as Abraham Lincoln and abolitionists (those opposed to slavery) fought vigorously against the bill. With the election of President Lincoln in 1860, southern officials began to fear that Lincoln would repeal the bill and that the northern majority would threaten their way of life – and their economic interests. Southern states began to fear that Lincoln would emancipate slaves. The 1859 raid on the federal arsenal by John Brown, a radical abolitionist, perpetuated fears and led many to believe in a northern conspiracy. Shortly after Lincoln’s election, South Carolina officially seceded from the Union. Ten states would follow soon after and form the Confederate States of America.

Northern Perspective

Although the North was divided on their views of slavery, political officials in power such as Abraham Lincoln fought against the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Although many viewed slavery as immoral, which was one reason for its proposed abolishment, officials in the north were also worried that the extension of slavery into western states would give the southern states disproportional influence in such areas. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president, eleven states promptly seceded (broke away) from the Union. Lincoln deemed this unacceptable and declared war for the purposes of preserving the Union.

1. What caused the issue of slavery to become a big problem?

- A. Cotton
- B. The secession of the eleven Confederate states
- C. Westward expansion and the adoption of new states
- D. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln

2. What was popular sovereignty?

- A. The right for the southern states to allow slavery
- B. The right of the president to abolish slavery
- C. The right of a state to decide on the issue of slavery
- D. The right of the southern states to secede from America

- 3. Why did southerners begin to believe that slavery was threatened?**
- A. Because popular sovereignty was allowed following the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - B. Because Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860
 - C. Because abolitionists fought against passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - D. Because slavery was important to the southern economy
- 4. Northern politicians feared...**
- A. that Abraham Lincoln would declare war on the southern states.
 - B. that Abraham Lincoln would eventually allow slavery in America.
 - C. that slavery was immoral.
 - D. the extension of slavery into new territories would give the southern states too much influence.
- 5. Which of the following best describes northern attitudes toward slavery?**
- A. The north was united in their desire to end slavery
 - B. The north was divided on the issue of slavery
 - C. The north did not believe in slavery, but believed it should be allowed in the south
 - D. Politicians in the north believed in the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- 6. What was the effect of the Election of 1860?**
- A. The John Brown rebellion
 - B. It changed people's views on slavery in the north
 - C. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - D. The secession of eleven states
- 7. Why was the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act a victory for the southern states?**
- A. Because it made of the possibility that new states and territories would allow slavery
 - B. Because it guaranteed that slavery would be allowed in new states and territories
 - C. Because it pulled the nation closer to the Civil War
 - D. Because it led to southerners believing in a northern conspiracy



The Origins of Cotton in America

The production of cotton is an industry deeply rooted in the fabric of America's history, particularly in the south. In 1556, the first settlers grew cotton in southern Florida and used it to make homespun clothing. In order to grow properly, cotton requires a warm climate, so the American south is the ideal place for it to be harvested. In the 1730s, England began using American cotton as part of its clothing industry. The cotton from the American south was shipped overseas so the English could spin it into clothing and textiles.

Invention of the Cotton Gin

Cotton is not an easy crop to grow, however; it has to be picked and all of its seeds have to be removed. Until the late 1700s, this task required hours of manual labor. However, in 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin: a machine that sped up the process of separating cotton from its seeds by a factor of ten. Whitney's invention made it significantly easier to mass-produce cotton and make money from it, causing the American cotton industry to grow from an annual revenue of 150,000 to 8 million dollars. And with the money, the greed of cotton planters grew. Planters needed more workers in their fields to harvest more cotton and make even more money. Those workers came in the form of slaves forcibly taken from Africa and made to work for no pay in the southern heat. Slave labor increased in cotton fields in the 1800s, powering the cotton industry and the selling of textiles. In the 1830s and 1840s, one slogan captured the growth of the American economy: "cotton is king."

Cause of the Civil War

The harsh treatment of slaves in cotton fields led to unrest. Many northern abolitionists felt that slave labor was inhumane and should end. Southern plantation owners were big supporters of slavery, since without it, cotton production would collapse. Cotton was the biggest crop in the south; if there weren't enough hands in the field to produce it, the southern economy would hit rock bottom. Because of this, tensions continued to increase between northern and southern America, making the cotton crop one of the major causes of the American Civil War from 1861-1865. After the war, northern victory, and freeing of slaves, the cotton industry took a major hit. In 1892, cotton bud-eating beetles known as boll weevils came into the south from Mexico, destroying cotton crops. By the time measures were put in place to stop the weevils in the 1950s, the industry had already lost over 22 billion dollars. Today, the cotton clothing industry is still strong in the United States: a grim reminder of the time when both cotton, and slave labor, were king.

1. Which of the following is the best interpretation of the saying “cotton is king”?

- a) Cotton was the only crop exported by the United States at the time.
- b) The American Civil War was fought only over control of the cotton crop.
- c) The cotton industry helped transition the colonies to a monarchy.
- d) The cotton industry heavily influenced the economics and politics at the time.

2. Which of the following is the best explanation as to why cotton was not grown in the north?

- a) It did not sell well in the north.
- b) The clothing industry was more popular in the south.
- c) The climate was better for cotton growth in the south.
- d) The south refused to allow the north to sell cotton.

3. Which of the following statements about the cotton gin is false?

- a) The invention of the cotton gin increased the need for slave labor in the south.
- b) The cotton gin increased the speed at which cotton could be produced.
- c) The invention of the cotton gin slowed clothing and textile production.
- d) The cotton gin made southern farmers significantly more money.

4. Which of the following factors did not have an impact on cotton production?

- a) The cotton gin
- b) Boll weevils
- c) The Civil War
- d) All of the Above

5. Put the following events in chronological order.

- I. Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.
- II. The American Civil War
- III. Boll weevils destroy cotton crops
- IV. England starts to use American cotton

- a) I, II, III, IV
- b) IV, I, II, III
- c) I, II, IV, III
- d) IV, II, I, III

6. Infer why cotton production decreased after the Civil War, based on evidence from the passage

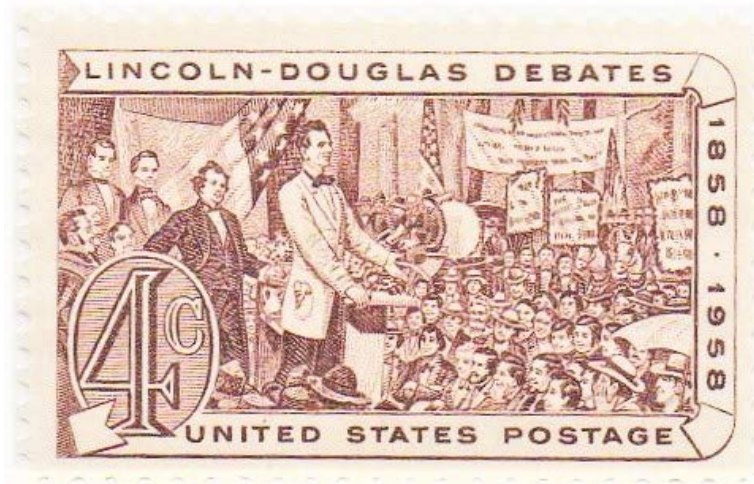
- a) The loss of slave labor in the south to work the fields
- b) Americans moved on from cotton textiles to silk
- c) The death of almost all cotton plantation owners in the fighting
- d) The boom in the southern economy due to the southern victory

7. Which statement about cotton in the southern colonies is false?

- a) Cotton was first grown in America in the state of Florida.
- b) Cotton was primarily used to make clothing
- c) Cotton was grown in the south to be used for clothing production in the north.
- d) Cotton production has decreased steadily over time.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Name _____



In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas engaged in a series of seven debates in the congressional districts of Illinois over the issue of slavery. Both were vying for the Illinois Senate seat to be elected by the state legislature. Lincoln was an anti-slavery Republican and Douglas, nicknamed the "Little Giant" for his small stature but powerful voice, was the pro-slavery Democrat. Although Douglas would ultimately win the Senate, the debates helped propel Lincoln to national prominence.

The major theme of the debate was the extension of slavery into new territories. In 1854, the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (authored by Douglas) allowed for popular sovereignty in the new territories. Popular sovereignty meant that residents of a state or territory could vote whether to allow slavery.

Throughout the seven debates, Douglas claimed that Lincoln was a "dangerous radical" for his stance against popular sovereignty. He frequently referenced Lincoln's famous Republican nomination speech in which he claimed "a government cannot permanently endure half slave, half free," in accusing him of threatening the stability of the nation.

Lincoln attacked the "monstrous injustice" of slavery and referenced the murderous events in Kansas as evidence that popular sovereignty was harmful to the nation. He claimed that "the crisis would be reached and passed when slavery was put in the course of ultimate extinction." Despite his stance against slavery, the debates revealed that Lincoln did not necessarily consider Blacks his equal. He denied he was an abolitionist in saying "And in as much as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

Despite winning the popular vote for the senate seat by more than 30,000 votes, it was Douglas who prevailed because he won the electoral vote. During the debates, however, Lincoln's tough questioning of Douglas caused a split in Democratic Party resulting in Lincoln's victory over Douglas in the Presidential Election of 1860.

1. In 1858, Lincoln and Douglas...

- A. were hoping to become the next president.
- B. were hoping to become senator.
- C. were hoping to end slavery.
- D. were against popular sovereignty.

2. Despite his setback against Douglas, Lincoln...

- A. became senator of Illinois.
- B. rose to national prominence.
- C. won the Lincoln-Douglas debates.
- D. became president in 1858.

3. Circle all of the following that ARE NOT true.

- A. Lincoln believed slavery should end and claimed that he was abolitionist
- B. Lincoln believed that slavery should end and all races were equal
- C. Douglas believed in popular sovereignty and that Lincoln was a radical
- D. Douglas and Lincoln agreed on popular sovereignty

4. Which of the following best defines Lincoln's quote as used below?

... "a government cannot permanently endure half slave, half free."

- A. The government will succeed if both sides agree to be half slave, half free
- B. Good governments do not last forever
- C. A government will fail if it continues to allow slavery
- D. A government will fail if there are two sides that are not united

5. What does the author seem surprised about?

- A. That Lincoln did not consider Blacks to be equal to whites
- B. That Stephen A. Douglas won the electoral vote for the senate
- C. That Stephen A. Douglas was called "the Little Giant"
- D. That Lincoln considered slavery to be an injustice

6. For which of the following questions would "residents of the state vote on whether or not to allow slavery."

- A. What was the major theme of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates?
- B. Why did Douglas refer to Lincoln as a dangerous radical?
- C. What is popular sovereignty?
- D. What was Lincoln's stance on popular sovereignty?

7. What was an effect of the Lincoln Douglas debate?

- A. The split in the Democratic Party
- B. Lincoln won the popular vote by more than 30,000 votes
- C. The stability of the nation was threatened
- D. Lincoln would eventually become Senator

In 1819, as Missouri began drafting a state constitution in preparation for statehood, New York congressman James Tallmadge introduced two antislavery amendments to the bill which allowed for the creation of Missouri as a state. Despite the fact that Tallmadge's bills were not passed, the issue involving slavery threatened to explode.

The issue of slavery had remained controversial in America since 1787. In 1819, half of America's twenty-two states were free states (northern), and half were slave states (southern). Because the free states had larger populations, they controlled the House of Representatives. Free and slave states shared equal representation in the Senate. The admission of Missouri as a free state or slave state would upset the balance. Antislavery members of Congress argued that slavery should be prohibited in new states, while pro-slavery members of Congress argued that the state should have the right to determine if slavery was legal or illegal within its borders.

A compromise was made when Maine applied for statehood in 1820. According to the deal thought of by Henry Clay, if the southern states agreed to the admission of Maine as a free state, Missouri would be admitted as a slave state. In addition, all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30' N latitude would be free. Both the free and the slave states agreed to Clay's compromise, which lasted 30 years before being repealed following another period of American expansion.

- 1. What was the primary issue that made the Missouri Compromise necessary?**
 - A. slavery
 - B. statehood
 - C. Maine
 - D. Henry Clay

- 2. The admission of Missouri as a free state had the potential to...**
 - A. cause slavery.
 - B. destroy the House of Representatives.
 - C. upset the balance in Congress.
 - D. give the northern states too much power.

3. Slavery supporters argued that...

- A. slavery should be illegal.
- B. slavery should be allowed in all states.
- C. that slavery should only be illegal in the new states.
- D. that citizens of new states should vote on slavery.

4. What happened when Maine was admitted to the Union?

- A. Slavery was permitted in Maine
- B. Slavery was permitted throughout the country
- C. Slavery was permitted in Missouri
- D. Slavery was not permitted in Missouri

5. Why is the Louisiana Purchase important in this discussion?

- A. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery became illegal in all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- B. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery became illegal in some of the lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- C. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery was permitted in all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- D. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery was permitted throughout America

6. What does the passage suggest about the Missouri Compromise?

- A. The same problems that caused the Missouri Compromise would appear again in the near future
- B. The problems addressed in the Missouri Compromise were permanently solved
- C. Eventually, Missouri would become a free state
- D. There were some states that did not agree to Clay's compromise.

7. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage above?

- A. The life of Henry Clay
- B. The House of Representatives and its Stance on Slavery
- C. Maine – the Story of a Free State
- D. How the Issue of Slavery Shaped America's Map