



There were many causes of the Civil War in antebellum America, including states' rights, sectionalism, and slavery. Slavery, however, connected each of the other causes of the War. It became more important and necessary after the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 made separating seed from cotton bolls easier. The expansion of slavery into the western territories and the Dred Scott decision further divided the North and South, leading the country to war.

How Did the North and the South Become So Divided?

The Industrial Revolution was a period of unprecedented technological advancements which changed the means of producing textiles and metals, and introduced the factory labor system. It began in England and soon spread to the United States, predominantly in the Northern region.



The North had many rivers and streams that were needed to turn the water wheels of factories. The topography of Northern land was rocky and made large-scale farming difficult, making the transition to factory work appealing to its residents. The topography of the South lent itself to large-scale farming.

After the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney, the process of separating seed from the cotton boll was made easier, thus there was an increased need for slave labor. The Southern states were also affected by the

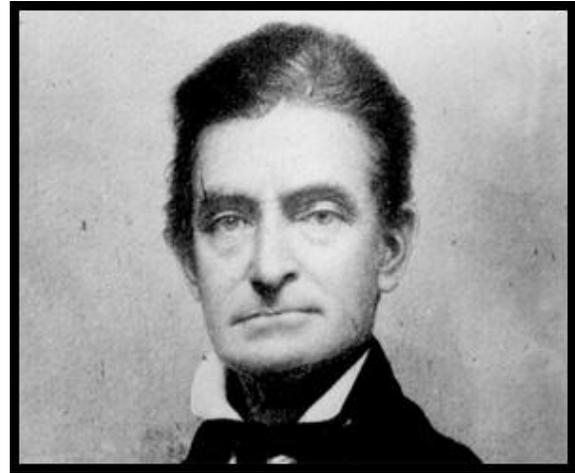
Industrial Revolution. However, it was not on as significant a scale as in the North.

Bleeding Kansas was a proxy war between Southerners and Northerners over the issue of slavery in the territory of Kansas and the state of Missouri. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 nullified the Missouri Compromise, an act that allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed the people of the territory to vote on whether or not slavery would be legal in the state. This idea is known as Popular Sovereignty. The Missouri Compromise also established that the status of future states would be determined by the state's location north or south of the 36°30' parallel.



Reading: A Nation Divided

One figure often associated with "Bleeding Kansas" is John Brown. Brown was an abolitionist who led the Pottawatomie Massacre in Kansas that resulted in the deaths of five settlers. The Massacre was in reaction to the destruction of Lawrence, Kansas, an anti-slavery town, after 800 southerners stormed Lawrence. They destroyed the newspaper press, burned the hotel, and took all the residents' guns. Brown became best known for his failed raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). He broke into the arsenal there in order to give weapons to slaves. The coup failed, as fewer slaves chose to join the rebellion and Brown was eventually hanged.



Important Figures of the Civil War



Abraham Lincoln

The sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln served two terms and led the nation during the American Civil War. He was assassinated on Friday, April 14, 1865.



Jefferson Davis

The first and only president of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis was a representative and senator from the state of Mississippi before becoming the president of the

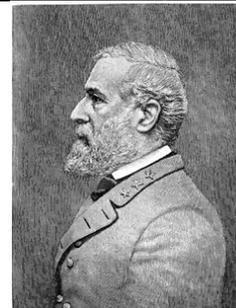
Confederacy.



Ulysses S. Grant

A West Point graduate from Illinois, Ulysses S. Grant served as the General-In-Chief of the United States Army and was later president of

these United States.

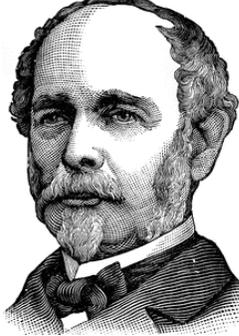


Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee graduated second in his class at West Point and he served as an engineer in the U.S. Army. When the Civil War began, Lee resigned his commission with the U.S. Army and became

General of the Army of Northern Virginia, and later commander-in-chief of all Confederate



 <p>General William T. Sherman</p> <p>General William T. Sherman served as a General in the Union Army during the Civil War. Sherman is infamous for his scorched-earth policy and his use of this strategy during the Atlanta Campaign.</p>	<p>forces.</p>  <p>Joseph E. Johnston</p> <p>Trained at the U.S. Military Academy, Joseph E. Johnston served as a general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Johnston commanded the Army of Tennessee during much of the Atlanta Campaign. Confederate President Jefferson Davis replaced Johnston with General John Bell Hood in July 1864.</p>
 <p>Harriet Beecher Stowe</p> <p>Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in Litchfield, Connecticut and remains one of the most famous abolitionists in American history. In 1852, Stowe published her book Uncle Tom's Cabin depicting the treatment of slaves in the American South. This publication served as a rallying point and roused further debate about the institution of slavery.</p>	 <p>Frederick Douglass</p> <p>Frederick Douglass was into slavery in Maryland. He escaped to New York around age twenty. Douglass would go on to become the most famous abolitionist in the United States. He was famous for his oratory skills and for his various written works, including Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave and Life and Times of Frederick Douglass.</p>
 <p>William Lloyd Garrison</p> <p>Born in December 1805 in Massachusetts, William Lloyd Garrison was a famous American social reformer. While his contributions to the women's suffrage movement are noted, Garrison is famous for his work as an abolitionist. He is most well-known for his service as editor of the Liberator, an anti-slavery newspaper.</p>	



Vocabulary Words:

1. **Sectionalism**
 - excessive regard for local interests; regional or local spirit, prejudice, etc
2. **Nationalism**
 - devotion and loyalty to one's own nation; excessive patriotism and loyalty
3. **Abolitionist**
 - a person who favors the ending of a practice or institution, such as slavery
4. **Antebellum**
 - pre-war era