

AP United States History
Unit 4- The New Republic
Topic: The Causes of the Civil War

The Fugitive Slave Law and the Rise of the Know-Nothing Party

1. How did Northerners react to the Fugitive Slave Law? What did Southerners believe about the reaction of the Northern states to the new Fugitive Slave Law?
2. What led to the rise of the Know-Nothing Party? What was Abraham Lincoln's reaction to the Know-Nothing Party?

The Kansas-Nebraska Act and The Revival of the Slavery Issue

3. What did the Kansas-Nebraska Act actually do? What was the doctrine of popular sovereignty?
4. What led to the rise of the new Republican Party in 1854? What two factions existed in the new Republican Party?

Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner

5. What led to a civil war beginning in Kansas? Why did Representative Preston Brooks cane Charles Sumner on the Senate floor?
6. How did the caning of Charles Sumner impact public opinion in both the North and the South? What role would the abolitionist, John Brown, play in the civil war that had erupted in Kansas?

The Election of 1856 and the Dred-Scott Decision

7. What made the Election of 1856 one of the most bitter in American history up to that time? How close did the new Republican Party come to winning the election?
8. What was the ruling in the Dred-Scott Decision? What was the reaction of the new Republican Party– and Abraham Lincoln in particular, to the Dred-Scott Decision?

The Gathering Storm and The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

9. What did the powerful Senator from New York, William Seward, believe had caused the sectional crisis of the 1850s that would soon lead to the Civil War? How did Northerners regard Southerners by the end of the decade?
10. How did Lincoln paint Douglas as his opponent and in contrast– how did Douglas characterize Lincoln? How did the election end, and why did it propel Lincoln into the national spotlight with a chance to win the presidency in 1860?

