

Key Term

- **civil war** – a war between opposing groups of the same country
- **Accommodation** – to make an adjustment, or adaptation.

Quote

All we ask is to be let alone.
- Jefferson Davis

Secession and the Start of Civil War



Objectives:

- Describe the results of the election of 1860.
- Explain why southern states seceded from the Union.
- Summarize the events that led to the outbreak of the Civil War.



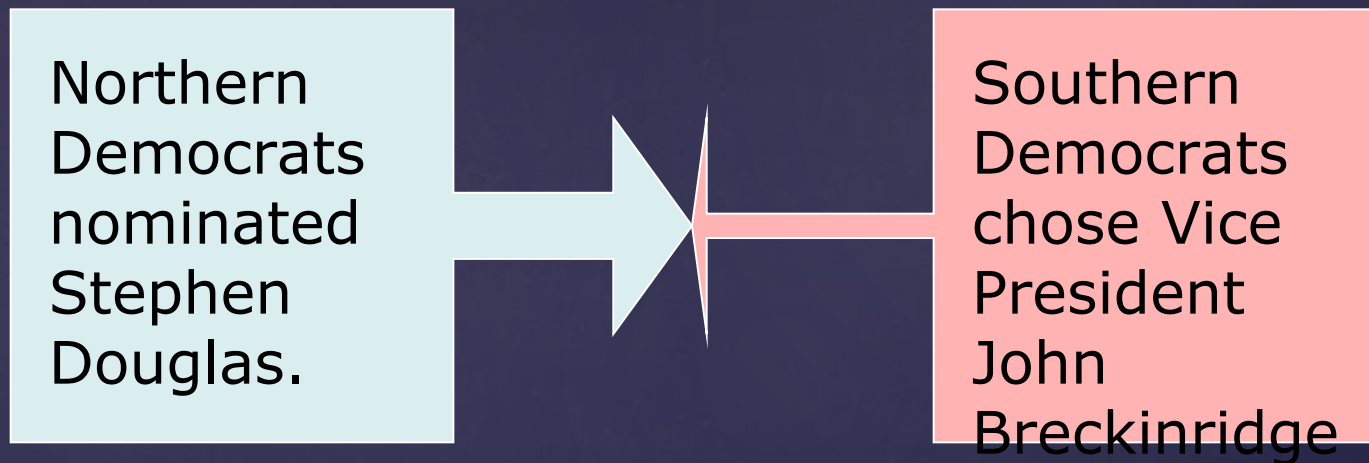
Why did the election of Abraham Lincoln spark the secession of southern states?

Abraham Lincoln took a stand against slavery in his debates against Douglas. In 1860, Lincoln was elected President.



Southerners felt they no longer had a voice in the national government. Some southern states seceded.

Democrats became divided over whether to support slavery in the territories.



Stephen Douglas desperately sought to appease southern voters.

However, southerners often jeered at him during his campaign speeches.

In total, four candidates ran for president in 1860.

Republicans	Abraham Lincoln	criticized slavery
Northern Democrats	Stephen Douglas	avored individual states deciding on slavery
Southern Democrats	John Breckinridge	supported slavery in the territories
Constitutional Union Party	John Bell	promised to protect slavery <i>and</i> keep nation together

The outcome of the election showed just how fragmented the nation had become:

Lincoln won in every free state.

Breckinridge won most of the slave states.

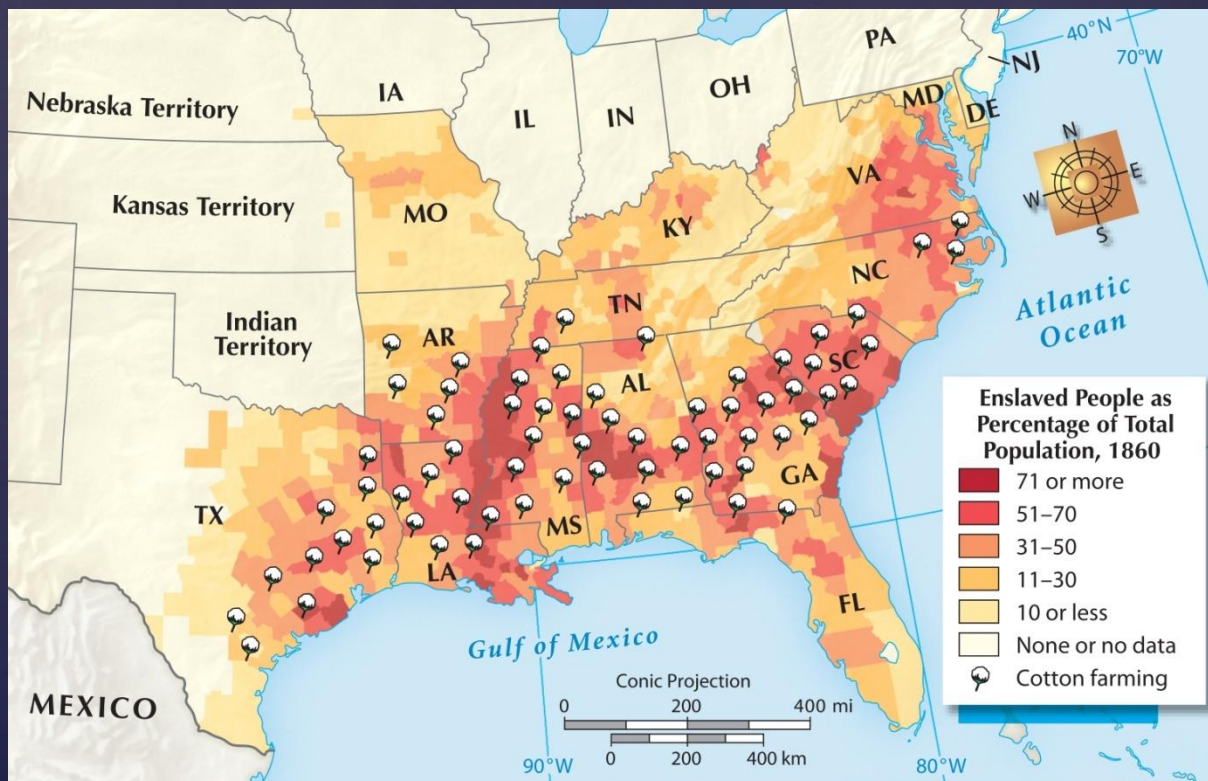
Bell won three states in the upper South.

Douglas won Missouri.

Abraham Lincoln received enough electoral votes to win the election.



Southerners felt that the President and Congress were now set against their interests—especially slavery. **Some of the most powerful southern leaders believed that they were out of options.**

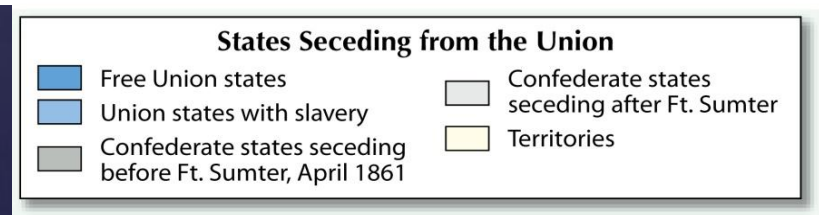


Frustrated southern states formed the Confederate States of America.

South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union.



Six other southern states soon followed.

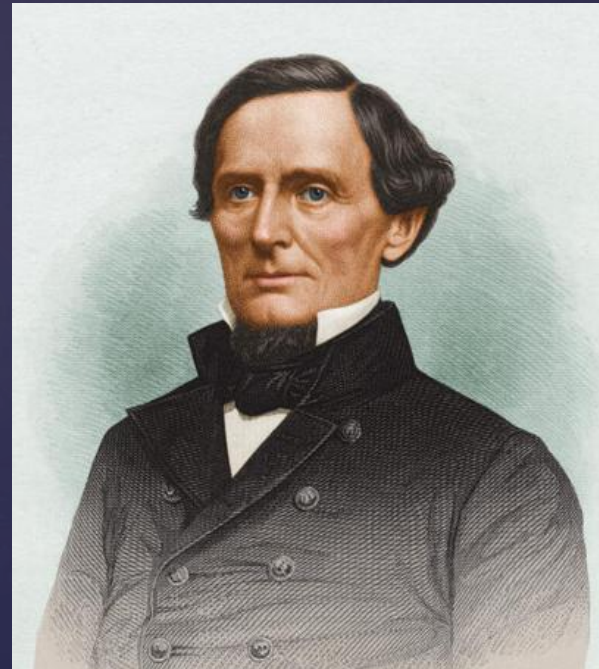


Some moderate southerners did not want to secede, but their voices were overwhelmed.

By March, the Confederacy had adopted a constitution.



Former Senator Jefferson Davis was named president.



When President Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, the nation faced the greatest crisis in its history.

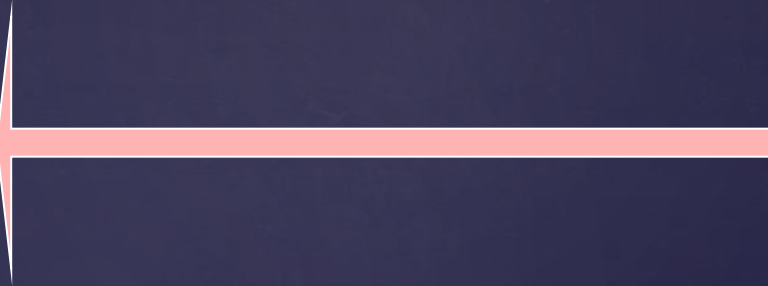
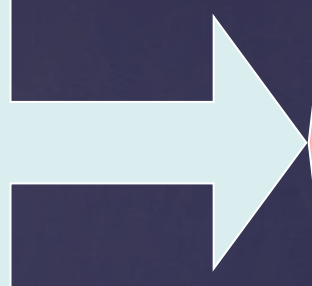
Lincoln told the seceded states he would not "interfere... with slavery where it exists."

Lincoln encouraged the Confederacy to return to the union.

The Confederate states responded by taking over federal property within their borders.

Already, an urgent struggle had begun.

The commander at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, had refused to surrender to the Confederates.



Lincoln did not send troops because he did not want other states to secede.

He planned to send food on ships without guns.

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On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter.



The U.S.
troops
surrendered.



The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter marked the beginning of a long civil war.

By 1861, many people in the North and South believed that war was unavoidable.



However, Americans were unprepared for the terrible war that would last for the next four years.

Quiz

1. person who was elected President in 1860, which led the South to secede

- a. Civil War
- b. Zachary Taylor
- c. Mexican-American War
- d. Abraham Lincoln

2. war that began after the Confederacy's attack on Fort Sumter

3. The first state to secede from the Union was _____.

4. The states that had seceded set up a new nation called the _____.

5. Southern leaders met to form a new nation in _____.

6. The South chose _____ as president of its new nation.

7. President Lincoln tried to make peace by promising not to interfere with _____.

8. The Confederate attack on _____ was the first battle of the Civil War.

9. Why were southerners opposed to the election of Abraham Lincoln?

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. South Carolina
- c. Jefferson Davis
- d. Confederate States of America
- e. Fort Sumter
- f. Virginia
- g. Montgomery, Alabama
- h. Stephen Douglas
- i. slavery