A Dividing Nation

Was the Civil War inevitable?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Missouri Compromise
Compromise of 1850
Fugitive Slave Law
Uncle Tom's Cabin
Kansas-Nebraska Act
Republican Party
Dred Scott decision
John Brown's raid
Fort Sumter

PREVIEW

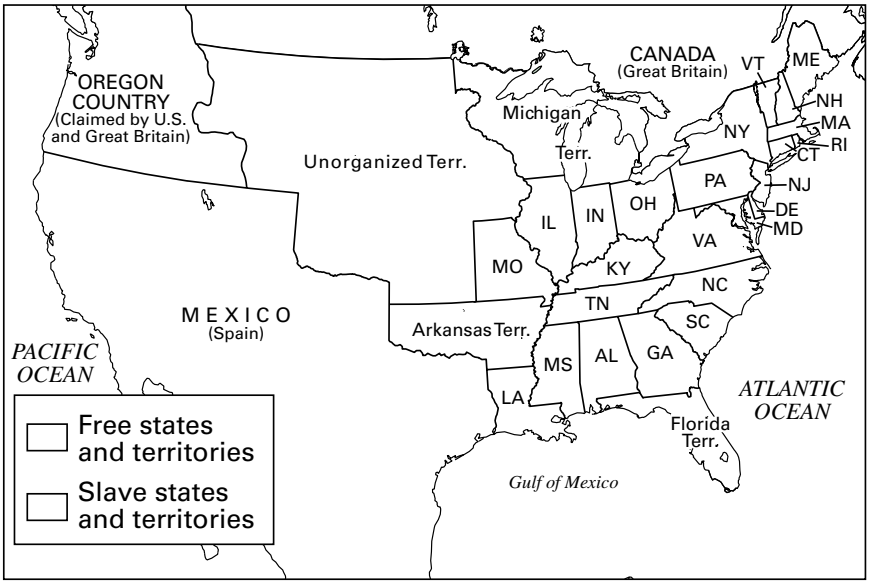
Answer this question in your notebook: *If you are involved in a serious argument in which something important is at stake, is it better to compromise with or confront your opponent? Explain your reasoning.*

READING NOTES

Section 2

Trace the map below into your notebook.

- Draw in and label the Missouri Compromise line.
- Color free states and territories. Fill in the key with the appropriate color.
- Use a different color for slave states and territories.
- Annotate your map with differences between the North and South by listing at least three important details about the way of life in each region.



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Section 3

Copy the timeline below into your notebook and title it "Events Leading to the Civil War."

On the side of the timeline labeled "Compromise," place events from the list below that you believe reflected a spirit of compromise. On the side of the timeline labeled "Conflict," place events that you believe showed a spirit of conflict. Be sure to include

- the name and date of the event.
- a short description of the event.
- a brief explanation of why you believe this event showed a spirit of compromise or conflict.

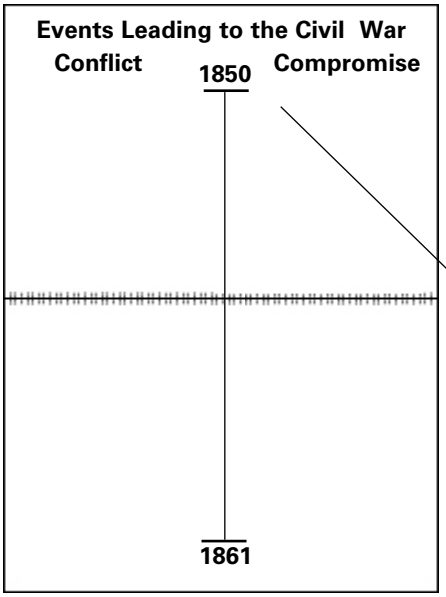
Compromise of 1850	Kansas-Nebraska Act
Uncle Tom's Cabin	

Section 4

Add the following events to the vertical timeline in your notebook as described in the instructions for Section 3.

Dred Scott decision	Election of 1860
John Brown's raid	Fort Sumter

A partially completed sample is shown below.



Compromise of 1850 (1850)

The Compromise of 1850 was . . .

It showed a spirit of compromise because . . .

PROCESSING

Write an article for a European newspaper reporting on the April 1861 attack on Fort Sumter. Your newspaper article must be at least three paragraphs and must include

- a headline that will attract readers.
- an introduction that outlines who was involved, what happened, where it happened, when it happened, and why it was important.
- a description of at least two events that led up to the attack. Explain how these events showed a spirit of compromise or of conflict between the North and the South at the time of the event.
- a conclusion that discusses whether you think a civil war was inevitable.

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