

# The 1860 Election

Read the text and answer the questions.

Sectionalism between North and South increased as the country divided over the key issues of slavery and states' rights. Abraham Lincoln, a Republican from Kentucky, gained national attention for his stance against the spread of slavery to free-soil western territories.

The election of 1860 brought national discontent to a tipping point. After serving one term in the U.S. Senate, Lincoln secured the Republican nomination for President in the 1860 election. Lincoln ran on an anti-slavery platform that many people feared would cause Southern states to secede and move the country toward war. Democrats were divided between supporting Democratic candidate Stephen Douglas and Southern Democratic candidate John C. Breckinridge. With the Democratic Party divided, Lincoln won the election with nearly no support from the South.

By Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, seven states had seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. South Carolina was the first to secede, with others quickly following. In reaction, the Union quickly admitted the territories of Kansas, West Virginia, and Nevada to the Union as free-soil states. Four pro-slavery states did not declare secession, and remained "border states" between the Union and the Confederacy.

A month after Lincoln's inauguration, Confederate forces fired on the Union-held Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

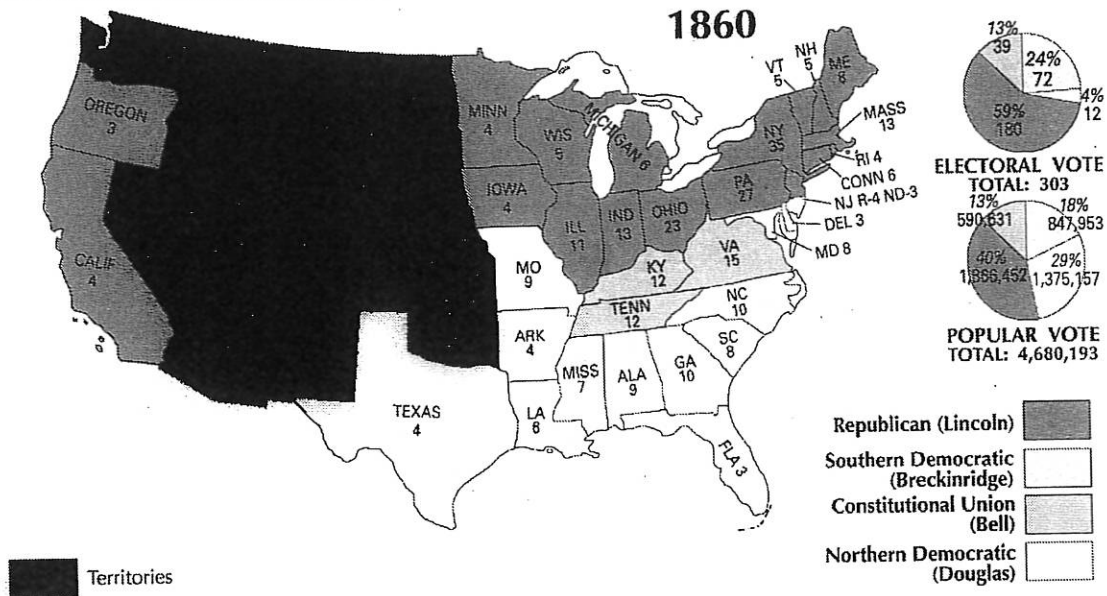
1. What caused division between the North and the South?
2. Explain how the election of 1860 was a "tipping point" for war. Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. What is the relationship between the 1860 election and the Civil War?
4. Use the text to number the following events in chronological order:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Confederate forces fire on Union forces at Fort Sumter
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln secures the Republican Party's presidential nomination
  - \_\_\_\_\_ South Carolina secedes from the Union
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln defeats Breckinridge and Douglas in 1860 election
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Three territories are admitted into the Union as free-soil states

## DATA ANALYSIS

# Election of 1860

Use the map and data to answer the questions.

### 1860 Presidential Election Results:



- Which candidate won the 1860 presidential election?
  - What political party did he represent?
- What political party did the majority of northern states support?
- What political party did the majority of southern states support?
- What can you infer about the overall opinion of people in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee in regard to pre-war issues?
- Explain how sectionalism affected the outcome of the 1860 election.
- Predict how the outcome of the election would have been affected had the Democratic Party supported one candidate instead of two. Explain.
- Explain why the 1860 election brought the country closer to the start of the Civil War.

**BONUS:** Use technology to create a poster urging the Democratic Party to change their approach to the 1860 election. Give at least one specific recommendation that, in hindsight, could have changed the outcome of the election.