

ordinary PEOPLE
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COURAGE

MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Lesson 2: Background of Secession and The Civil War

The Objective:

The objective of this lesson is to introduce students to the events leading up to the Civil War, and how the country was divided based on beliefs about slavery and state's rights.

The Overview:

Students will read the overview article about the beliefs of the Northern, Southern, and Border states and identify them on the U.S. map.

Standards:

- Indiana Standards: 3rd grade: 3.1.5,3.1.6, 3.1.7, 3.3.3, 4th grade: 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.1.15, 5th grade: 5.1.20, 8th grade: 8.1.24,8.1.25, U.S. History: USH 1.3
- Kentucky Standards (2018*)5th grade: SS-05-5.1.1, 5.2.4, 2.3.1,2.3.2, 8th grade: SS-08-2.1.1, 2.3.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.3, 4.3.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.4 U.S. History

Materials:

- Articles on Northern, Southern and Border States: https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/border_states.php
- **Graphic Organizer** (page 6): Big Ideas of the Northern, Southern and Border States
- **U.S. Maps** with State abbreviations (pages 7 and 8)
- Blue, red and gray colored pencils/crayons/markers
- **Reflection Sheet** about Map Representation (page 9)

Timing:

- (1) 45–60 minute session depending on the modeling that needs to be done for reading the article, and recording information. Additional time may need to be allotted depending on time spent with the labeling and coloring of the map.



LESSON PROGRESSION:

Lesson 1. After the video yesterday, students will need clarification on the time period and the pre-Civil War era itself. To begin the lesson, ask students what they know about this time period, and the reasoning behind the divisiveness in country.

Lesson 2. To extend student understanding on the topic, introduce the article cited from https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/border_states.php. This article is included in the materials below, and the electronic version is linked if devices are readily accessible.

Lesson 3. While reading and annotating this article, students will complete the **Graphic Organizer** (page 6). The Organizer will prompt students to do two distinct things. The first is to identify the belief structure of each of the areas, and then to identify the states that made up each of the regions of the country at that time. (15-20 minutes)

Lesson 4. Upon completion of the reading and **Graphic Organizer**, review the states that fell in each of the three categories: Northern/Union, Southern/Confederate and Border states.

Lesson 5. After all students have classified the states correctly, students will apply their classifications to the political U.S. maps that are included in the **Materials**. There are two different maps available:

- a. **Map 1:** Blank Map of the U.S. with no state labels: Depending on the content grade level of your class, this map could be used to have students apply the geography skills and label the states accurately.
- b. **Map 2:** U.S. Map with state abbreviations: This map, can be used for students who do not have the background knowledge to know where each of the states are in terms of geographical location. Also included to supplement/scaffold is a list of the abbreviations to help students translate from state name to abbreviation seamlessly

Lesson 6. Students will color:

- Northern/Union states blue.
- Southern/Confederate states red.
- Border states gray

Lesson 7. Once finished with the map, students may respond to the **Map Reflection** questions either in written form or through class discourse.



Civil War Overview

<https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil-war.php>

The American Civil War

was fought between southern and northern states of the United States. The southern states didn't want to be part of the United States any more and decided to make their own country. However, the northern states wanted to stay one country.



The South (Confederacy)

When the southern states decided to break away, or secede, they made their own country called the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy. They wrote their own Constitution and even had their own president, Jefferson Davis. The Confederacy was made up of 11 southern states including South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.



The North (Union)

The North consisted of the remaining 25 states which were located in the north. The North was also called the Union to symbolize that they wanted the United States to remain a single country and union. The North was bigger and had more industry than the South. They had a lot more people, resources, and wealth giving them an advantage in the civil war.



Why did the Southern states want to leave?

The Southern states were worried that as the United States expanded, they would gain less power. They wanted the states to have more power and be able to make their own laws. One of the laws they were worried about losing was the right to have slaves. Many northern states had outlawed slavery and they were worried that the United States would outlaw slavery in all the states.



Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was the president of the United States during the Civil War. He wanted a stronger federal government and was against slavery. It was his election that triggered the southern states leaving and the Civil War. He was determined that the country remain united.





The border states during the Civil War were the slave states that didn't leave the Union. These states included Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. West Virginia, which separated from Virginia during the war, was also considered a border state.



Kentucky

President Abraham Lincoln considered Kentucky's loyalty to the Union as an important factor in the Union winning the Civil War. Kentucky began the war as a neutral state, but later came under Union control.

Missouri

At the start of the war Missouri decided to remain with the Union and not secede, but many people in the state felt that the war against the Confederacy was wrong. As the war progressed, the Missouri state government split into two rival governments. One of the state governments voted to secede from the Union while the other wanted to stay. As a result, the state was claimed by both the Union and the Confederacy for a period of time.

Maryland

Maryland was also very important for the Union. The land of Maryland was the only thing standing between Virginia and the Union capital at Washington D.C. The war would have gone very differently had Maryland seceded from the Union. Maryland voted to abolish slavery during the war in 1864.

Delaware

Although Delaware was a slave state, few people in the state owned slaves at the outbreak of the war. The state didn't actually border any Confederate states and was always loyal to the Union.

West Virginia

When the state of Virginia seceded from the Union, West Virginia broke away and formed its own state. It remained loyal to the Union, however, the people of West Virginia were split. Around 20,000 West Virginia men fought on the side of the Confederacy.



WHY WERE BORDER STATES IMPORTANT?

Keeping control of the border states played an important role in the victory for the Union. These states gave the Union the advantage in troops, factories, and money.

SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION

The border states were the primary reason that President Lincoln waited so long to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Abolitionists in the North were demanding that he free the slaves. However, Lincoln knew he needed to win the war. He was stuck between wanting to free the slaves and needing the border states to win the war. He knew he had to win the war to truly free the slaves.

DID EVERYONE SUPPORT THE UNION?

Not everyone in the border states supported the Union. In some cases, like Missouri and West Virginia, the support for each side was fairly evenly split. Thousands of soldiers from the border states headed south and joined the Confederate Army. There were also politicians in these states who fought hard for secession. Even if they didn't want secession, many of the people of the border states thought the war against the Confederacy was wrong. They felt that the states should be able to leave the country if they wanted.



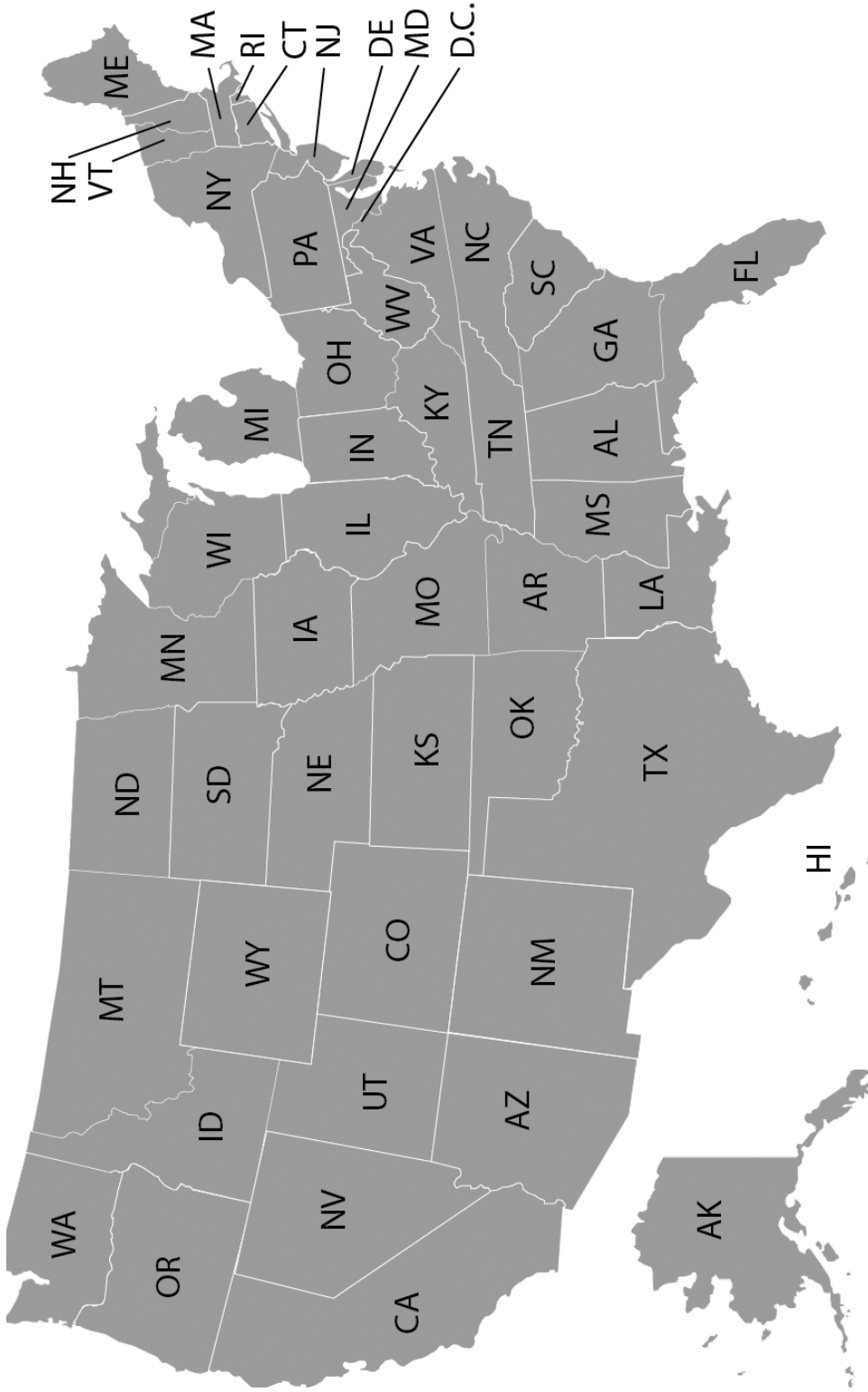


Graphic Organizer:

Big Ideas of the Northern, Southern and Border States

Northern States	Southern States	Border States
Northern Beliefs	Southern Beliefs	Border Beliefs





- Alabama - AL
- Alaska - AK
- Arizona - AZ
- Arkansas - AR
- California - CA
- Colorado - CO
- Connecticut - CT
- Delaware - DE
- Florida - FL
- Georgia - GA
- Hawaii - HI
- Idaho - ID
- Illinois - IL
- Indiana - IN
- Iowa - IA
- Kansas - KS
- Kentucky - KY
- Louisiana - LA
- Maine - ME
- Maryland - MD
- Massachusetts - MA
- Michigan - MI
- Minnesota - MN
- Mississippi - MS
- Missouri - MO
- Montana - MT
- Nebraska - NE
- Nevada - NV
- New Hampshire - NH
- New Jersey - NJ
- New Mexico - NM
- New York - NY
- North Carolina - NC
- North Dakota - ND
- Ohio - OH
- Oklahoma - OK
- Oregon - OR
- Pennsylvania - PA
- Rhode Island - RI
- South Carolina - SC
- South Dakota - SD
- Tennessee - TN
- Texas - TX
- Utah - UT
- Vermont - VT
- Virginia - VA
- Washington - WA
- West Virginia - WV
- Wisconsin - WI
- Wyoming - WY



EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT:

1. Students will complete the **Map Reflection** sheet below to evaluate their map and noticing any differences that they might have.
2. Students may share their thinking if time allows, or it can be turned in for a graded writing to demonstrate learning assignment.

Map Reflection Questions

How many states did the Northern, Southern and Border states each have?

Do you think that the number of states impacted the power that the Northern and Southern armies would have in fighting the Civil War?

How did geographic location help to define the beliefs of the North and the South?