

UNIT 3 A Nation Divided
Slavery and The Civil War 1850 to 1865

A STEIN WOOD
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



Historical Introduction
SLAVERY & THE CIVIL WAR
1850 - 1865

with **Jim Soto**

SPEAK YOUR MIND

“A house divided against itself can not stand.”

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Even as the United States was being created, differences arose between Northerners and Southerners over the issue of slavery. In the early years of the 19th century, the North and South developed in two different directions. The resulting Civil War was a tragic period in U.S. history, in terms of both the crisis of ideals that divided Americans and the resulting loss of life and destruction. Ultimately, a modern consciousness emerged and it produced a new literature.

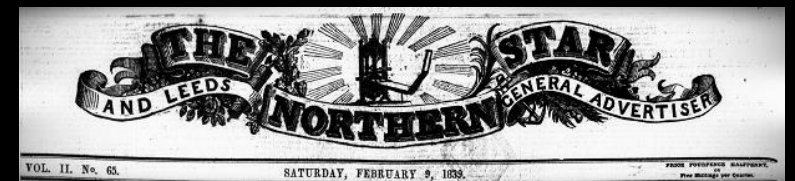
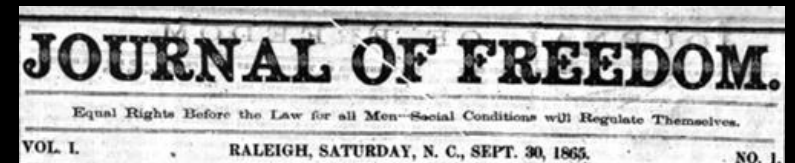
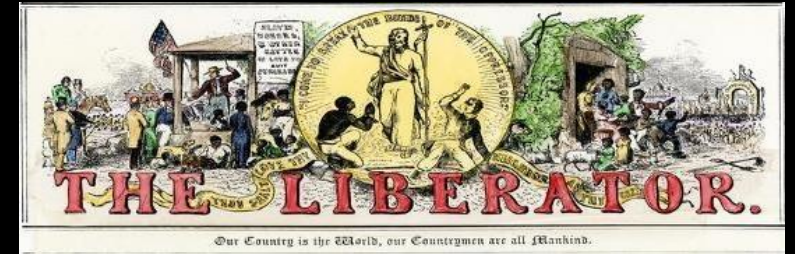
How does resolving disagreements result in a better situation?

Thomas Jefferson had included a strong antislavery statement in his draft of the Declaration of Independence, but it was deleted because of Southern opposition. Proponents argued that owners treated their “valuable property” well, but the reality was different. Slaves typically worked from sunup to sundown. They lived in sub-human conditions. Additionally, they were forbidden to learn to read and write, sold away from their families, and often whipped for minor offenses.



ABOLITIONISM

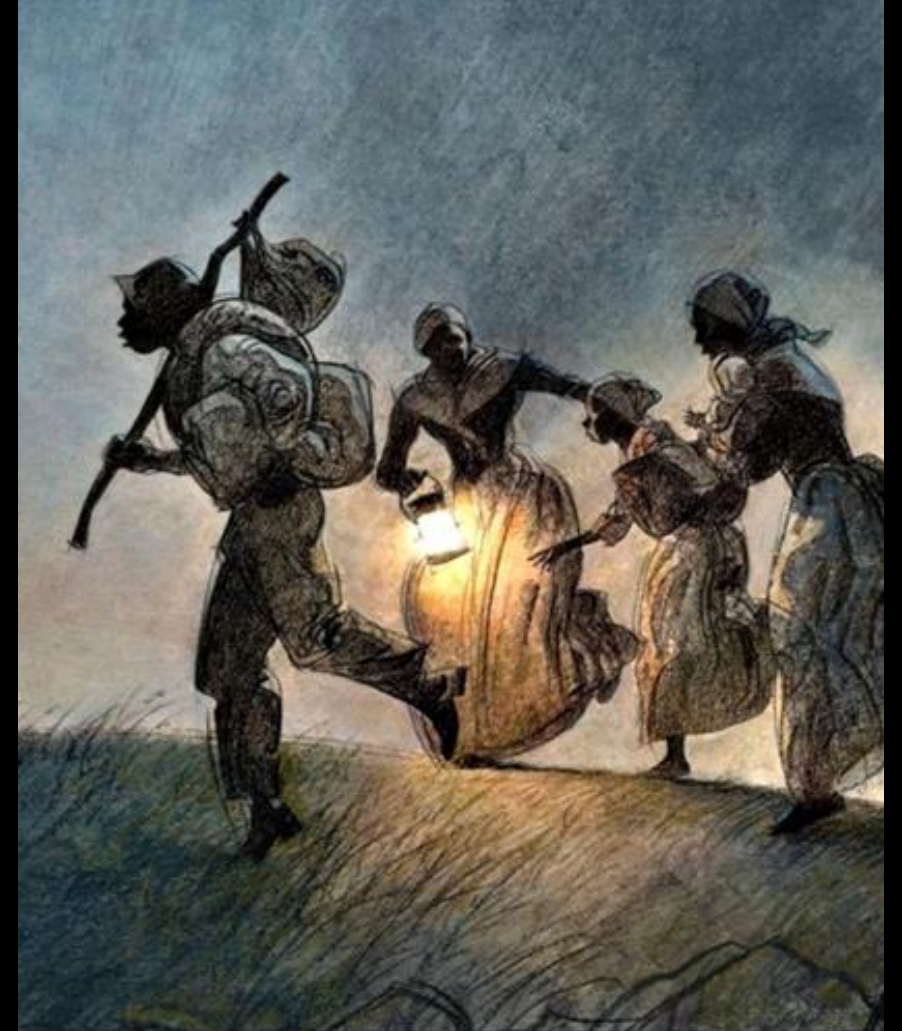
In the North, the abolitionist movement pushed for ending slavery by law. The abolitionists found a voice in the newspapers of the day, including *The Liberator* and black-owned papers such as *Freedom Journal* and *The North Star*. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* also influenced public opinion against slavery. Abolitionists organized the **Underground Railroad**, a system of safe houses and guides for slaves escaping to free states in the North. Its most famous "conductor" was **Harriet Tubman**, a runaway slave herself.



POLITICAL CONCESSIONS

Several events increased hostilities between North and South. **The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** was a concession to the South in exchange for its agreement to allow the Mexican war territories to enter the Union as nonslave states.

This made it easy for slave owners to recapture slaves who fled to the North and to pick up any black whom they claimed was a runaway. It infuriated prominent Northerners supportive of the Underground Railroad.



- **The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854** allowed these new states to decide the issue of slavery for themselves. Both pro- and antislavery forces rushed to the two states to vote on the issue, which led to bloody fighting between armed bands in Kansas, known as “Bleeding Kansas.”
- In **the 1857 Dred Scott decision**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a slave who had fled to free territory could not sue for his freedom because he was property, not a person; this further fanned the flames of war.
- Abolitionist **John Brown’s** raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry to capture weapons for slaves and his subsequent hanging gave the North a martyr.

NORTH VERSUS SOUTH



When Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861, seven states had already voted to secede from the Union. Delegates from the South formed the **Confederate States of America**, choosing Jefferson Davis as president. When Lincoln attempted to retake federal Fort Sumter in the Charleston, South Carolina, harbor, four more Southern states seceded, beginning the most troubled period in American history.



At the start of the war, the main goal of the North was to restore the Southern states to the Union. The main goal of the South was to establish an independent nation that would allow preservation of a way of life that included slavery.

People on both sides expected the war to be over quickly, but it lasted five years. Many of the first major battles were losses for the Union forces, which were plagued by poor leadership.

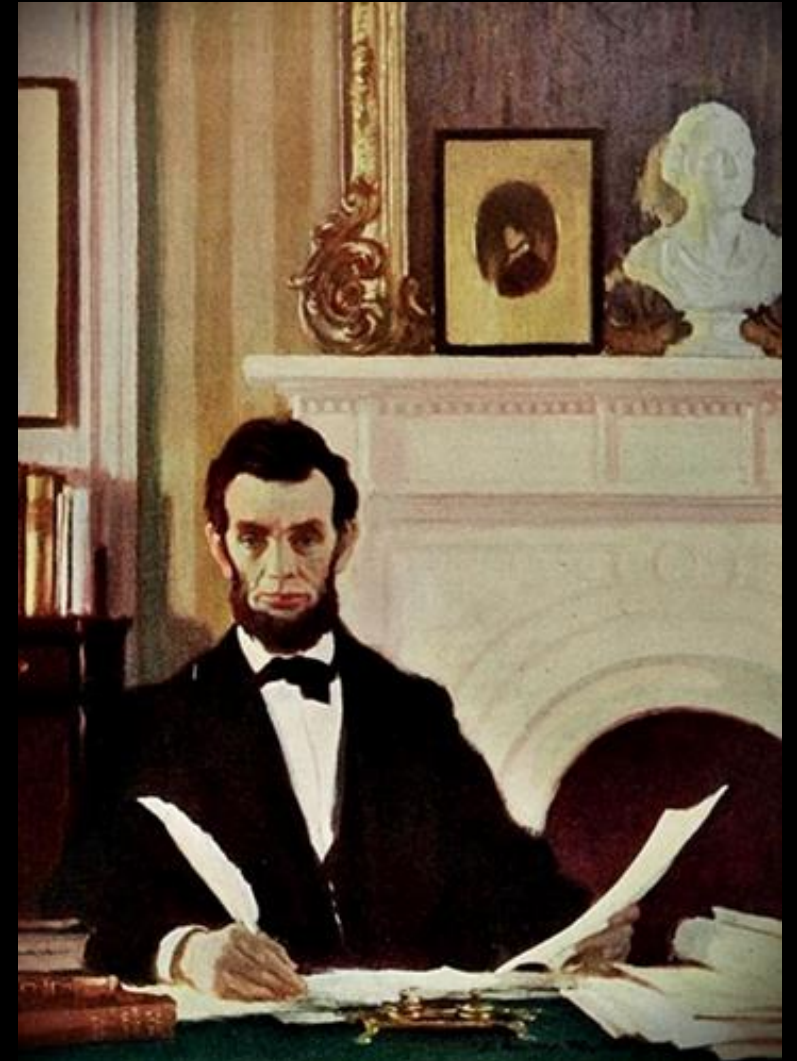
During the first three years of the war, President Abraham Lincoln went through three army commanders, while the Confederate forces were led by only one. On the seas, the Union blockade of Southern ports managed to reduce trade by two-thirds, and the battle of the two ironclad warships, **the Monitor** and **the Merrimac**, marked the beginning of a new type of naval warfare.



EMANCIPATION AND THE WAR'S END

Facing mounting criticism from the abolitionists, Lincoln issued **the Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863. It freed slaves in the Confederate states but not in the slave-holding states that had remained in the Union.

Congress finally enacted legislation ending slavery resulting in the passage of the **Thirteenth Amendment** in 1865. The Proclamation also opened the Union military forces to black men.





After Union victories in Gettysburg, Mobile Bay and Atlanta, Lincoln won the election for a second term. The war continued one more year, during which Union forces “leveled” Georgia on their “march to the sea.” Confederate General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, after losing the Confederate capital of Richmond.



The war's end found the South in ruins. Because most of the battles had been fought on Southern territory, farmland and rail lines had been destroyed. Essential goods were scarce and food shortages had caused riots in Atlanta and Richmond.

In both the North and South, citizens of every city and town mourned their dead in the bloodiest war in American history, while their leaders struggled to find ways of bringing the war-torn nation back together.

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

Lincoln actually had begun planning for the **Reconstruction** period before the war had ended. His goal was to reunite the nation quickly and without further acrimony; contrary to some in the North, he was not looking for revenge but rather healing. Tragically, Lincoln would not live to see the rebuilding of the nation. He was assassinated on April 14, 1865, just five days after Lee's surrender.

LINCOLN SHOT

CONDITION CONSIDERED HOPELESS

Will Not Live Through Night Doctors Declare



To Our Readers

The staff of *The National News* is proud to present a SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION. A PRESIDENT REMEMBERED. Published on the occasion of the first anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, it is devoted entirely to the story of his tragically brief life.

As you can see, we begin with that dreadful day and its aftermath. To accurately recreate the atmosphere of disbelief, shock, fear, and anger that engulfed our country, we reproduce the headlines and articles we ran at the time.

Faithfully recalling Lincoln's life presented a different challenge. Our staff writers traveled thousands of miles and spent countless hours interviewing those who knew him best. They have crafted a compelling story of his boyhood, youth, family life, emergence onto

the national political scene, and years as leader of our nation.

A group of equally dedicated artists contributed visually in styles that range from simple but evocative pencil sketches to the results of the marvelous modern invention, photography.

You have in your hands the fruits of this labor of love. Throughout the year-long process we have tried to heed Abraham Lincoln's wise words of warning:

"Biographies, as generally written, are not only misleading, but false. The author makes a wonderful hero of his subject. He magnifies his perceptions, if he has any, and suppresses his imperfections. History is not history unless it is the truth."

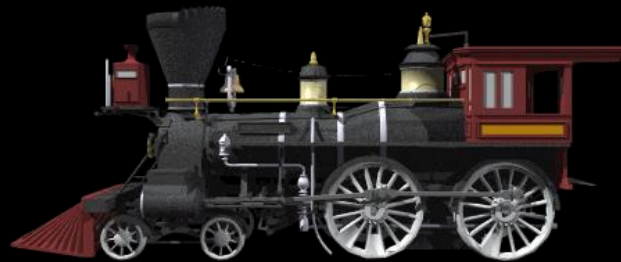
Our president's life was taken at a time of new beginnings for him and for us. It was a time of renewed promise for the nation he had held together with steadfast determination, transcendent vision, and infinite compassion. After four horrible years of civil war it was time for all Americans to rejoice; but the celebration was cut short by an assassin's bullet.

As so often in the case in life and letters, the poets have the last word. And so we include Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" as a fitting, final tribute.

Working on this SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION allowed us to temper our grief with appreciation. We hope it helps you to do the same.

LITERARY LEGACY OF THE WAR

The American Renaissance period, in which American literature, in the wake of the Romantic movement, came of age as an expression of a national spirit, ended. Civil War literature often included nonfiction genres such as speeches, diaries, letters, and memoirs. After the war, a new era of literature emerged: **Regionalism**, fueled by postwar curiosity about the different parts of the United States, and a sense of nostalgia for a rural past that seemed to be slipping away. Also: **Realism**, which appeared due to the radical changes in American society when the U.S. developed from an agricultural to an industrial society.



ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 176-182 in your book, complete the following activities:

1. Imagine you and their family are providing assistance to slaves who escape by way of the Underground Railroad. In a letter to a friend, diary entry, a poem or a personal essay, describe your experiences and feelings.
2. "*A house divided against itself can not stand.*"—ABRAHAM LINCOLN, In light of the American Civil War, explain this quote by President Lincoln.
3. When rebels in South Carolina blockaded Charleston Harbor to prevent U.S. supply ships from reaching Fort Sumter, Abraham Lincoln sent navy vessels into the harbor, where they might be in serious danger. After Lincoln acted, Jefferson Davis responded by sending his forces to attack the fort. Why did each leader make the choice he did? How might history have been different if the two leaders had made other decisions?



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