

Causes of the Civil War: Analyzing Events

The Civil War began in 1861, but tensions between the North and South started much earlier. Several key events contributed to growing tensions and hostilities leading up to the Civil War. Answer the following questions about some of those events.

1. How did the 1820 Missouri Compromise increase tensions between the North and the South?



A map showing the terms of the Missouri Compromise

2. How did the Compromise of 1850 increase tensions between the North and the South?

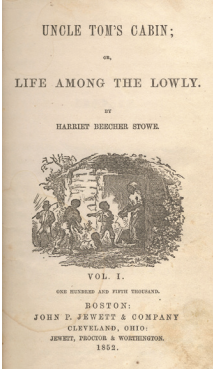


A Fugitive Slave Law sign offering a reward for returning an enslaved woman in 1851

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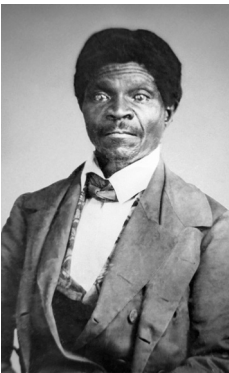
Keep going! Answer the questions below.

4. How did the popularity of Uncle Tom's Cabin, published in 1852, impact public opinion on the issue of slavery?



The novel sold 300,000 copies the first year of its publication.

4. How did the 1857 Dred Scott Decision increase tensions between the North and the South?



Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1857 and lost.

5. How did John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry increase tensions between the North and South?

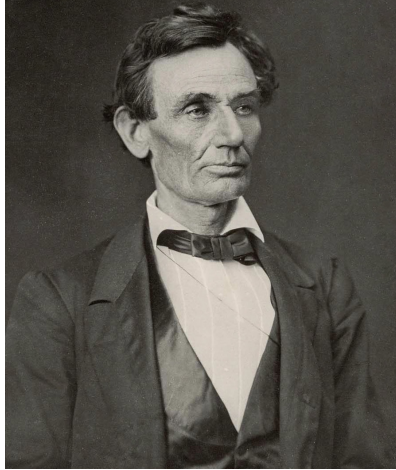


John Brown led violent uprisings against slavery.

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Keep going! Answer the questions below.

6. What immediate effect did Abraham Lincoln's 1860 presidential election have on the South?



Lincoln won the 1860 election without support in the South.

7. Why did the 1861 attack on Fort Sumter make it impossible for the North to avoid war against the South?



A print illustrating the attack on Fort Sumter in 1861 that started the war

Bonus question: Write a newspaper article dated April 13, 1861, with the title "Tensions Kept Building: Now We Are at War." The article should mention at least five of the events highlighted in the questions above.