LESSON 3: CAMPAIGN OF 1860

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Objectives

- *Identify the candidates running for president in 1860.*
- *Explain the platforms of each of the four candidates of the 1860 election.*
- *Interpret election maps and charts.*
- *Identify the role of the 1860 election in the origins of the Civil War.*

INTRODUCTION

During the 1850s, Americans became increasingly divided about the country's future, especially in regards to the institution of slavery. These divisions are reflected in the Presidential Election of 1860, which pitted four candidates against each other in one of the most contentious elections in U.S. history. The Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln, who was seen as a moderate on slavery. Southerners, however, feared his election would bring an end to that "peculiar institution." The Democratic Party split: Northern Democrats nominated Stephen A. Douglas, while Southern Democrats chose John Breckinridge as their candidate. A third party, the Constitutional Party, a moderate party of former Whigs, Know-Nothings and other southerners, nominated John Bell. Lincoln won without carrying a single southern state. Almost immediately after his election, southern states began seceding from the Union, setting the stage for the Civil War.

Materials

- *Primary Documents from the "Lincoln Biography Reading Kit" (and on this CD).*
  - *#36 Lincoln Hamlin Flag*
  - *#37 a-e campaign brochures*
  - *#40 Lincoln Hamlin Political Medallions*
  - *#41 Campaign Song*
- *Markers, pens, pencils, crayons, art paper.*
- *Books from library or internet sources.*
- *"1860 Election Prediction Worksheet" (in this lesson plan).*
- *"1860 Election Popular Vote by State Data Sheet" (in this lesson plan).*
- *"1860 Election Popular Vote Map Worksheet" (in this lesson plan).*
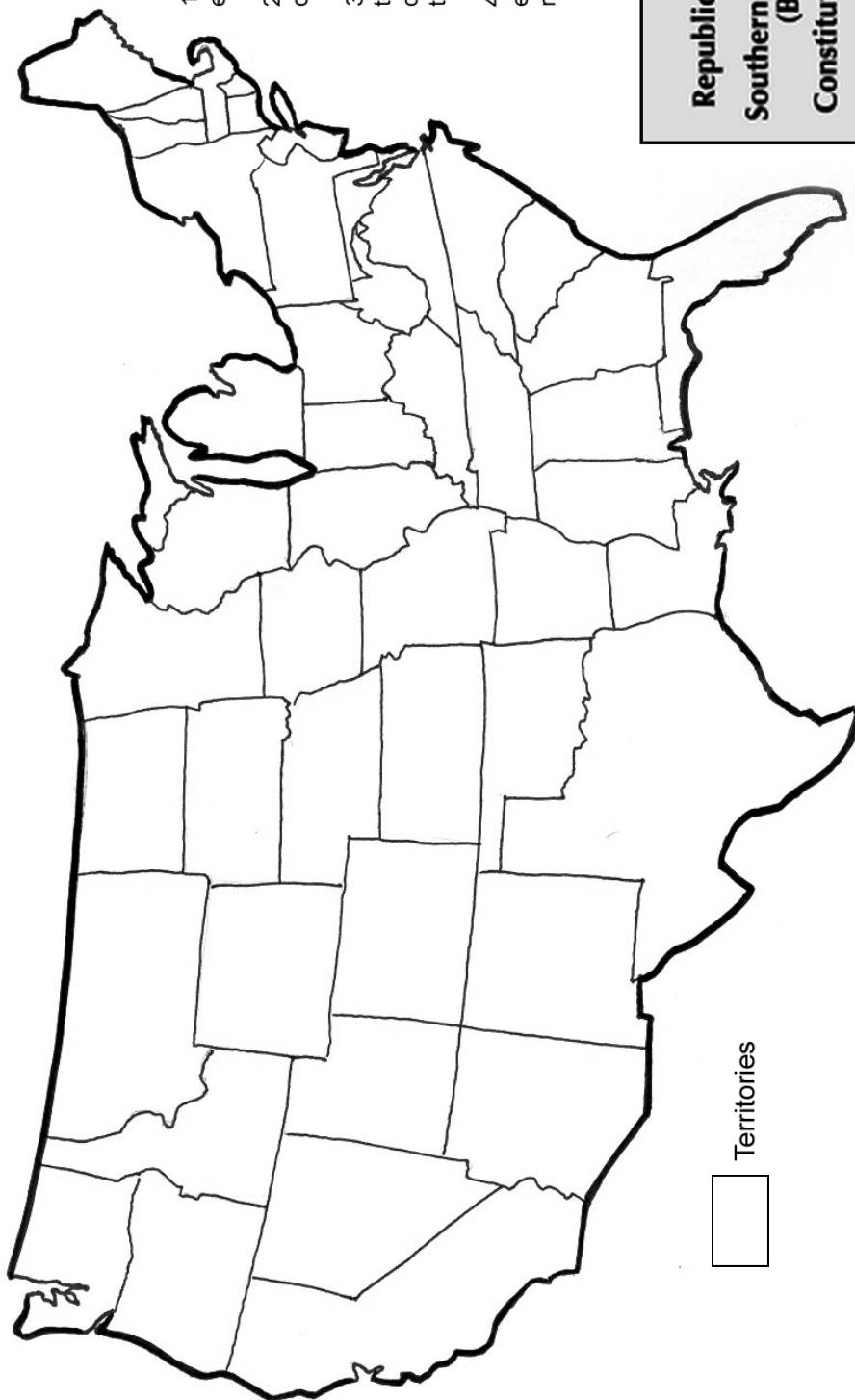

PROCEDURE

1. Divide students into four groups and assign each group a candidate from the 1860 election.

2. Using library books, the Internet or other sources, have students research their candidate to get a full understanding of the candidate's platform and constituents.

3. Students prepare for a campaign rally.

- Using images of campaign memorabilia, have students create banners, posters, buttons and ribbons in support of their candidate.

- One student from each group will represent that group's candidate at the rally and present a 2-5 minute overview of their political platform.

- Two other students from each group will provide two-minute testimonials as to why they will vote for their candidate. Students can take on the persona of representative Americans such as a slave holder from Mississippi, a Chicago factory worker, or a farmer in Oregon.

- While these students are presenting the other student in that particular group will "rally" for their candidate using the campaign items they created.

4. Following the rally, have students working individually, in groups or as a class, predict the election results based upon what they have learned through their research and at the rally.

- Have students fill in the "1860 Election Prediction Worksheet" based upon their predictions.

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1860 Election
Projections Worksheet

1, Use this worksheet to project election results.

2. Select a color for each candidate and color in the key.

3. Color each state according to your prediction of which candidate won the popular vote in that state.

4. Be sure to choose a different color to indicate the territories that did not vote.

Republican (Lincoln)

Southern Democratic (Breckinridge)

Constitutional Union (Bell)
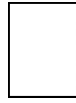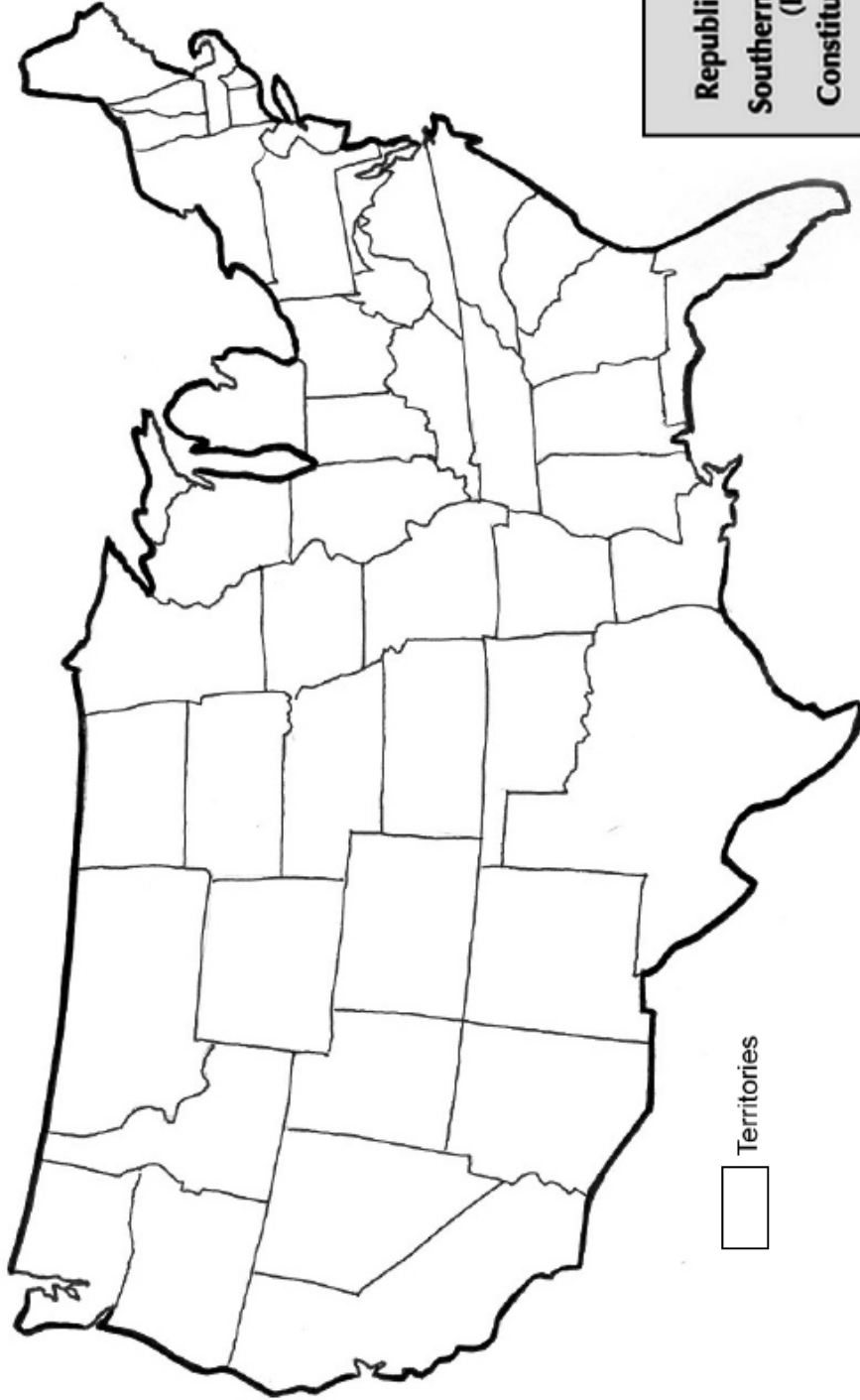
Northern Democratic (Douglas)

Territories

Name

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1860 Election Popular Vote

	Lincoln		Douglas		Breckinridge		Bell	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Alabama	0	0	13,618	15.1	48,669	54	27,835	30.9
Arkansas	0	0	5,357	9.9	28,732	53.1	20,063	37
California	38,733	32.3	37,999	31.7	33,969	28.3	9,111	7.6
Connecticut	43,488	58.1	15,431	20.6	14,372	19.2	1,528	2
Delaware	3,822	23.7	1,066	6.6	7,339	45.5	3,888	24.1
Florida	0	0	223	1.7	8,277	62.2	4,801	36.1
Georgia	0	0	11,581	10.9	52,176	48.9	42,960	40.3
Illinois	172,171	50.7	160,215	47.2	2,331	0.7	4,914	1.4
Indiana	139,033	51.1	115,509	42.4	12,295	4.5	5,306	1.9
Iowa	70,302	54.6	55,639	43.2	1,035	0.8	1,763	1.4
Kentucky	1,364	0.9	25,651	17.5	53,143	36.3	66,058	45.2
Louisiana	0	0	7,625	15.1	22,681	44.9	20,204	40
Maine	62,811	62.2	29,693	29.4	6,368	6.3	2,046	2
Maryland	2,294	2.5	5,966	6.4	42,482	45.9	41,760	45.1
Massachusetts	106,684	62.8	34,370	20.2	6,163	3.6	22,331	13.1
Michigan	88,481	57.2	65,057	42	805	0.5	415	0.3
Minnesota	22,069	63.4	11,920	34.2	748	2.1	50	0.1
Mississippi	0	0	3,282	4.7	40,768	59	25,045	36.2
Missouri	17,028	10.3	58,801	35.5	31,362	18.9	58,372	35.3
New Hampshire	37,519	56.9	25,887	39.3	2,125	3.2	412	0.6
New Jersey	58,346	48.1	62,869	51.9	0	0	0	0
New York	362,646	53.7	312,510	46.3	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	0	2,737	2.8	48,846	50.5	45,129	46.7
Ohio	231,709	52.3	187,421	42.3	11,406	2.6	12,194	2.8
Oregon	5,329	36.1	4,136	28	5,075	34.4	217	1.5
Pennsylvania	268,030	56.3	16,765	3.5	178,871	37.5	12,776	2.7
Rhode Island	12,244	61.4	7,707	38.6	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	11,281	7.7	65,097	44.6	69,728	47.7
Texas	0	0	18	0	47,454	75.5	15,383	24.5
Vermont	33,808	75.7	8,649	19.4	218	0.5	1,969	4.4
Virginia	1,887	1.1	16,198	9.7	74,325	44.5	74.481	44.6
Wisconsin	86,110	56.6	65,021	42.7	887	0.6	161	0.1
	1,865,908	39.9	1,380,202	29.5	848,019	18.1	516,493	12.5

5. Next have students chart the actual results of the 1860 election on the "1860 Election Popular Vote Map Worksheet" using the data found on the "1860 Election Popular Vote by State Data Sheet" (above) to create a color coded map of the voting results.

6. As a class discuss the following:

- Who won the election and by what percentage? Was this a close election? Were votes evenly distributed? Are you surprised by the results?

- Were there any major differences between what students projected and what actually occurred? Can you explain these differences?

- Does the voting seem to be reflective of geography? Why do you think that is?

- What can you tell about individual states based upon the candidate they selected?

- How does the outcome of this election affect the future of the Union? How does this election relate to the beginnings of the Civil War?

- What does this newly created map reveal about the feelings of many Americans on the eve of the Civil War?

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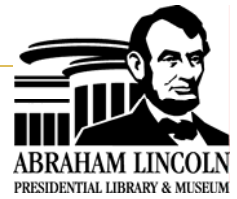# 1860 Election
Popular Vote Worksheet

Name _____

1. Use this worksheet to map the results of the popular vote.

2. Select a color for each candidate and color in the key.

3. Using the 1860 Election Popular Vote Data Sheet, Color each state according to candidate who won the popular vote in that state.

4. Be sure to choose a different color to indicate the territories that did not vote.

Republican (Lincoln)

Southern Democratic (Breckinridge)

Constitutional Union (Bell)

Northern Democratic (Douglas)

Territories

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ONLINE RESOURCES

- Harp Week—Presidential Election Cartoons
  http://elections.harpweek.com/

- Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project
  http://dig.lib.niu.edu/message/campaignhistory-1860.html

- Lincoln Net—The Campaign of the Century
  http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/biography8sources.html

- Atlas of Presidential Elections
  http://uselectionatlas.org/

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1860 Presidential Election
Popular Vote

Legend:
- Abraham Lincoln
- Stephen A. Douglas
- John C. Breckinridge
- John Bell