

A Divided Nation**Section 2****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The debate over the expansion of slavery influenced the election of 1852.
2. The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed voters to allow or prohibit slavery.
3. Pro-slavery and antislavery groups clashed violently in what became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

Key Terms and People

Franklin Pierce Democratic candidate who won the presidential election of 1852

Stephen Douglas representative who introduced what would become the Kansas-Nebraska Act

Kansas-Nebraska Act the law that divided the rest of the Louisiana Purchase into two territories—Kansas and Nebraska

Pottawatomie Massacre the murder of five pro-slavery men at Pottawatomie Creek by John Brown and several other abolitionists

Charles Sumner Massachusetts senator who was an outspoken critic of pro-slavery leaders

Preston Brooks South Carolina representative who used a cane to beat Charles Sumner on the Senate floor for his criticisms of pro-slavery leaders

Academic Vocabulary

implications effects of a decision

Section Summary**ELECTION OF 1852**

In the presidential election of 1852, the Democrats nominated **Franklin Pierce**. He was not a well-known politician, however his promise to honor the Compromise of 1850 assured him many southern votes. Pierce ran against Whig candidate Winfield Scott.

Pierce’s win over Scott was resounding. When the votes were counted, it was discovered that out of the 31 states, 27 voted for Pierce.

Why was Franklin Pierce a popular candidate in the South?

Section 2, *continued***THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT**

The slavery issue continued to plague the United States. In 1854, Representative **Stephen Douglas** introduced a bill that addressed slavery in the Louisiana Territory. When it was signed into law on May 30, it became known as the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. It got its name from the two territories into which it divided the rest of Louisiana—Kansas and Nebraska. In each territory, popular sovereignty would determine the answer to the slavery question.

To make sure Kansas voted in favor of slavery, pro-slavery voters left their homes in Missouri to cross the border and vote in Kansas. They won and quickly set up a pro-slavery government. However those who did not believe in slavery set up another, separate government in Topeka.

“BLEEDING KANSAS”

In May 1856, pro-slavery jurors charged antislavery leaders with treason. Pro-slavery forces rode to Lawrence to arrest those charged. When they found the suspects had fled, they burned and looted the town.

The Sack of Lawrence outraged many abolitionists, including New England abolitionist John Brown. Together with a small group that included four of his sons, Brown was responsible for the **Pottawatomie Massacre**, in which five pro-slavery men were killed. Quickly, Kansas fell into civil war.

Fighting even took place on the Senate floor. South Carolina Representative **Preston Brooks** used his cane to beat Massachusetts Senator **Charles Sumner** into unconsciousness because of Sumner’s criticisms of pro-slavery leaders.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Explain Write a few sentences to explain how Kansas got the nickname “Bleeding Kansas.”

How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act get its name?

What do you think would be the consequences of one state having two governments?

What caused the Sack of Lawrence?

Was Senator Charles Sumner for or against slavery?

Section 2, *continued*

Preston Brooks	John Brown	Stephen Douglas
Kansas-Nebraska Act	Franklin Pierce	Pottawatomie Massacre
Charles Sumner		

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

- _____ 1. Franklin Pierce attacked Charles Sumner in the Senate chamber and beat him unconscious with a cane.

- _____ 2. Democratic candidate Stephen Douglas won the presidential election of 1852.

- _____ 3. Preston Brooks, a senator from Massachusetts, spoke out against the pro-slavery people in Kansas and was beaten by a fellow senator.

- _____ 4. The Pottawatomie Massacre resulted in the deaths of five pro-slavery men in Kansas.

- _____ 5. Senator Stephen Douglas introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

- _____ 6. The Kansas-Nebraska Act divided part of the Louisiana Purchase into two territories—Kansas and Nebraska.

- _____ 7. Abolitionist John Brown and his sons moved to Kansas in 1855 and began to “strike terror in the hearts of the pro-slavery people.”

- _____ 8. The Pottawatomie Massacre removed the Missouri Compromise’s restriction on slavery north of the 36°30’ line of latitude.
