

A Divided Nation

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Political parties in the United States underwent change due to the movement to expand slavery.
2. The *Dred Scott* decision created further division over the issue of slavery.
3. The Lincoln-Douglas debates brought much attention to the conflict over slavery.

Key Terms and People

Republican Party political party founded to fight slavery

James Buchanan Democratic candidate and winner of the 1856 presidential election

John C. Frémont Republic candidate for the 1856 presidential election

Dred Scott slave who unsuccessfully sued for his freedom in 1846

Roger B. Taney Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the *Dred Scott* decision

Abraham Lincoln early leader of the Republican Party

Lincoln-Douglas debates debates between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas

Freeport Doctrine Stephen Douglas’s belief in popular sovereignty, stated during the Freeport debate

Academic Vocabulary

complex difficult; not simple

Section Summary

POLITICAL PARTIES UNDERGO CHANGE

As the 1850s progressed Whigs, Democrats, Free-Soilers, and abolitionists united to create the **Republican Party** to fight slavery. Others left their parties to form the Know-Nothing Party. For the 1856 presidential election, the old Democratic Party nominated **James Buchanan**. Buchanan had been out of the country during the Kansas bloodshed, but he defeated Know-Nothing Millard Fillmore and Republican **John C. Frémont**.

Why might it matter to voters that James Buchanan had been out of the country during “Bleeding Kansas”?

Section 3, *continued***DRED SCOTT DECISION**

Dred Scott was a slave. His slaveowner was a doctor who traveled from Missouri, a slave state, to free areas and back again to Missouri. Scott sued for his freedom, since he had lived in free states.

The Supreme Court's decision in this **complex** case was against Scott. Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** wrote that African Americans were not citizens, and only citizens could sue in federal court. Taney also wrote in the Dred Scott decision that slaves were considered property, and Scott living in free territory did not make him free. Taney said that Congress could not stop people from taking slaves into federal territory.

Many antislavery voices rose against the decision. This included the voice of an Illinois lawyer named **Abraham Lincoln**.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

In 1858 Abraham Lincoln ran for a U.S. Senate seat as the Republican candidate. His opponent was Democrat Stephen Douglas, who was up for reelection. During the campaign, the two men met several times in what became known as the **Lincoln-Douglas debates**. In the debates, Lincoln was careful not to talk about slavery in the existing slave states. Instead, he claimed the Democrats were trying to spread slavery across the nation.

During the second debate, Lincoln questioned Douglas about popular sovereignty. He wondered whether that belief went against the *Dred Scott* decision. In other words, how could the people ban what the Supreme Court allowed? Douglas restated his belief in popular sovereignty. His response was remembered as the **Freeport Doctrine**.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Summarize Write a paragraph summarizing the impact of the Fifth Amendment on the Supreme Court's ruling in the *Dred Scott* case.

Underline the three decisions the Supreme Court made in the *Dred Scott* case.

Are you surprised to know that at the time of the *Dred Scott* decision, a majority of Supreme Court Justices were from the South? Why or why not?

Why do you believe Lincoln would not talk about slavery in the existing slave states?

Why did Lincoln question the Democrats' belief in popular sovereignty?

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term.

1. Abraham Lincoln _____

2. Dred Scott _____

3. *Dred Scott* decision _____

4. Freeport Doctrine _____

5. James Buchanan _____

6. John C. Frémont _____

7. Lincoln-Douglas debates _____

8. Republican Party _____

9. Roger B. Taney _____

10. Stephen Douglas _____
