A Divided Nation

MAIN IDEAS
1. John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry intensified the disagreement between free states and slave states.
2. The outcome of the election of 1860 divided the United States.
3. The dispute over slavery led the South to secede.

Key Terms and People

John Brown's raid Brown's attack on the Harpers Ferry arsenal, which began October 16, 1859

John C. Breckinridge pro-slavery candidate nominated by southern Democrats for the 1860 presidential election

Constitutional Union Party new political party that concentrated on constitutional principles

John Bell candidate nominated for the 1860 election by the Constitutional Union Party

Confederate States of America the country formed by seceding southern states

Jefferson Davis the Confederacy's first president

John J. Crittenden Tennessee senator who proposed a compromise to try to stop southern secession

Section Summary
RAID ON HARPERS FERRY

John Brown was an abolitionist. He decided to use violence to try to stop slavery. He planned to lead an attack on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

John Brown's raid began on October 16, 1859. Although he succeeded in taking the arsenal, federal troops overwhelmed him and his small band. They killed some of Brown's followers and captured others, including Brown himself. Brown was charged and found guilty. On December 2, 1859, he was hanged for his crimes.

> **When did John Brown's raid begin?**
>
> _____
>
> _____

Many northerners agreed with Brown's anti-slavery beliefs, but they did not agree with his violent methods. Southerners worried that Brown's raid was the start of more attacks on the South.

Why do you think John Brown's raid scared southerners?
_____
_____

ELECTION OF 1860

The country was torn as the 1860 presidential election approached. The Democrats proposed two candidates—the North's Stephen Douglas and the South's **John C. Breckinridge**. In addition, the new **Constitutional Union Party** nominated **John Bell**. Abraham Lincoln ran on the Republican ticket.

Lincoln won the election, but he did not carry a southern state in his win. This angered southerners, who worried that they had lost their political power.

Underline the names of the presidential candidates who ran for election in 1860.

THE SOUTH SECEDES

Southern states responded to Lincoln's election with secession. These states joined together into a new country—the **Confederate States of America**. They elected Mississippian **Jefferson Davis** as their first president. In this country, slavery was legal.

Lincoln argued that southern states could not secede. It seemed that even compromises, like one proposed by Kentucky Senator **John J. Crittenden**, would not mend this tear in the national fabric. President-elect Lincoln declared there could be no compromise where slavery was concerned. He also announced that the federal property in southern lands remained part of the United States.

What event led southern states to secede from the United States of America?
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Analyze Write a paragraph explaining why the Democrats ran two candidates in the 1860 presidential election and the affect that had on the South's secession.

DIRECTIONS Write a word or phrase that means the opposite of the term given.

1. Confederate States of America _____

   _____

2. secession _____

   _____

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

3. _____ was an attack on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia in 1859. (secession/John Brown's raid)

4. During the election of 1860, a new political party emerged called the

   _____.

   (Constitutional Union Party/Confederate States of America)

5. _____ was chosen as the Constitutional Union Party's candidate for president. (John J. Crittenden/John Bell)

6. _____ was elected president of the

   _____. (John J. Crittenden/Jefferson Davis);

   (Constitutional Union Party/Confederate States of America)

7. Senator _____ from Kentucky proposed a series of constitutional amendments he hoped would satisfy the South and save the Union. (John J. Crittenden/John Bell)

8. Abolitionist John Brown was executed for his part in the raid on

   _____. (Harpers Ferry/Confederate States of America)