GOAL 2 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

1861: The Country Goes to War

GRADES: Middle School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to explain the state of the nation and list the sequence of events leading to the Civil War.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to complete a timeline of events from the election of Lincoln to the First Battle of Manassas.
2. After reading primary source documents from leaders and from citizens, students will be able to discuss how individuals felt about the coming war.
3. Students will be able to identify the Southern states, Northern states, and border states on a map of the United States.

COMMON CORE:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7
Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:

1—Culture
2—Time, Continuity, and Change
3—People, Places, and Environment
5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
6—Power, Authority, and Governance
10—Civics, Ideals, and Practices

MATERIALS:

1. Entrance Pass
2. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint
3. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet
4. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet (Teacher Version)
5. 1860 U.S. Map Worksheet
6. Labeled 1860 U.S. Map (for teacher use)
7. Pencils in 3 Different Colors
8. Exit Pass

ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK

Using the *Entrance Pass*, have students provide three significant events or developments that led up to the American Civil War.

PROCEDURE:

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that can be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

Activity 1

1. Hand out *The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet*.
2. Present *The Country Goes to War PowerPoint*.
3. The students should complete the note sheet during the presentation.

Activity 2

1. Hand out *the 1860 U.S. Map Worksheet* and have students fill in the Northern states, Southern states, and border states using different colors as a class. See *Labeled 1860 U.S. Map* as a guide.
2. Have the students answer the follow-up question.

CLOSURE:

1. Have students watch the In4 Video, [Union with Dr. Gary Gallagher](#).
2. Discuss why the idea of Union was so important.
3. Revisit why South Carolina left.
4. Discussion Question or Journal Question: What are some of the reasons why the war broke out?

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. *Entrance Pass* completed with three events or developments that pushed the United States toward civil war.
2. A completed *The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet*.
3. A colored and labeled map of the *U.S. in 1860* with follow-up question.
4. Informal assessment through conclusion discussion. Or journal entry.

ENTRANCE PASS

Using the Entrance Pass, have students provide three significant events or developments that led to the American Civil War.

1.

2

3

POWDER KEG

CAUTION: EXPLOSIVE

Name: _____

Date: _____
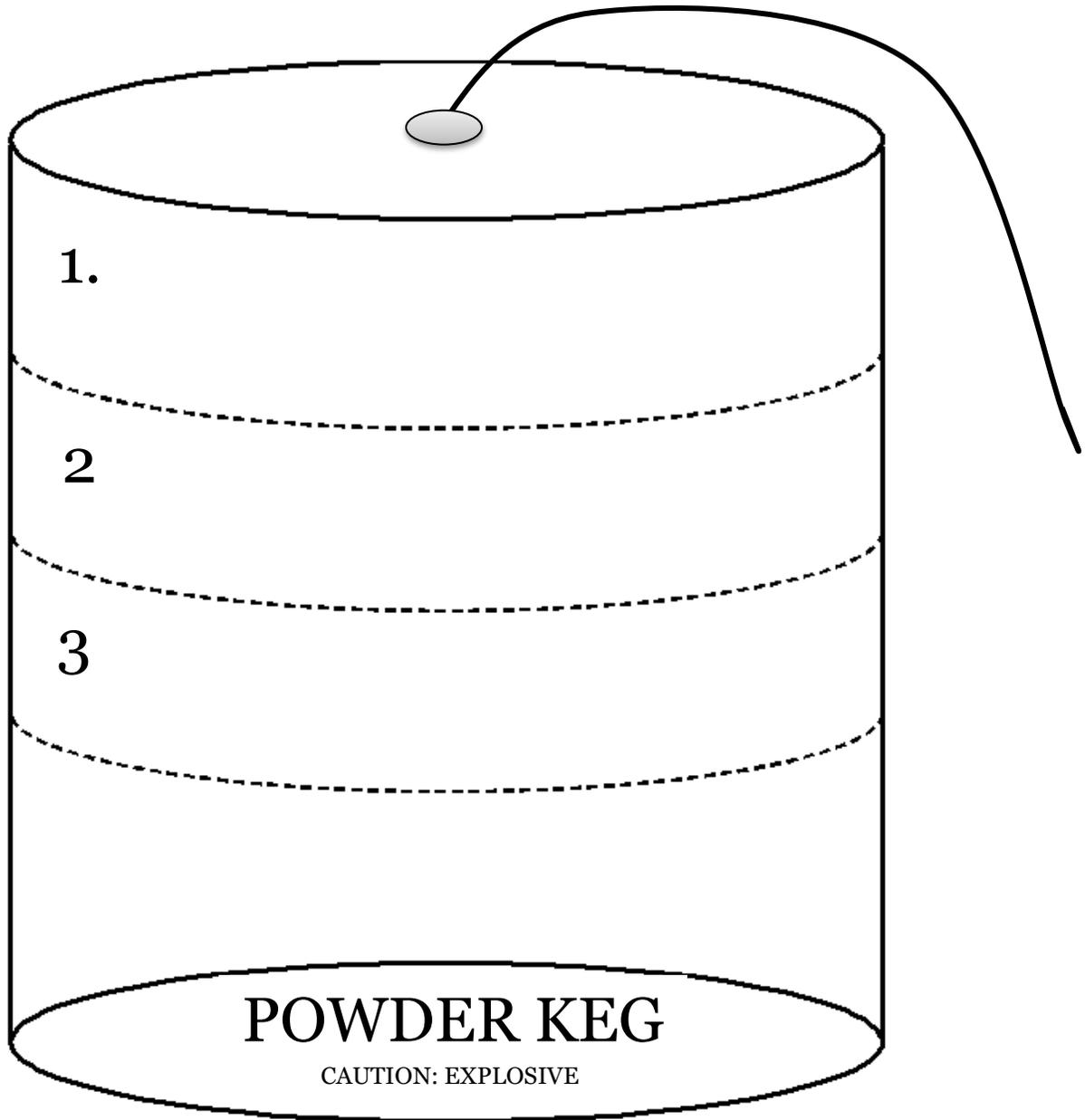
The Country Goes to War

Student Note Sheet

Complete the following timeline:

Election of 1860, Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States

November _, 18_ _

Secession of _____ _____

December 20, 18_ _

Firing on _____ _____

April 12, _ _ _ _

Battle of _____ _____ of First Manassas

July 21, _ _ _ _
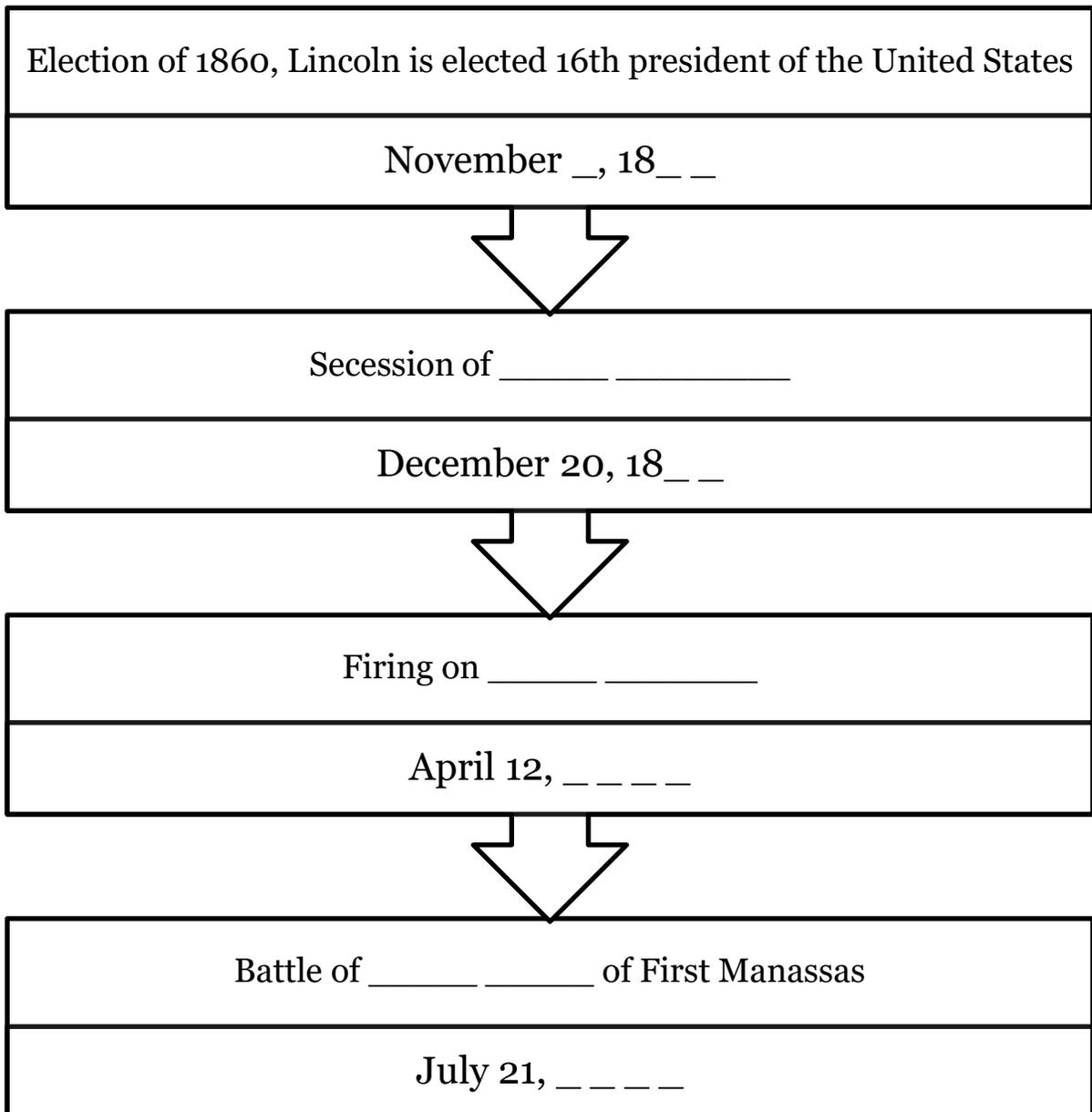
US election of 1860 Winner - _____ _____

The South became fearful that this new president would…

_____

_____

_____ _____ is the first state to secede from the Union on

December 20, 18_ _, **44** days after Lincoln is elected president.

What does "secession" mean?

_____

_____

Why did South Carolina secede from the United States?

_____

_____

What does South Carolina want other Southern states to do?

_____

Why would these other states want to do this?

_____

_____

Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy?

_____

_____

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that?

_____

_____

_____

Does Abraham Lincoln want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that?

_____

_____

_____

Who fired at Fort Sumter?

○
Union

○
Confederacy

Why?

_____

_____

Who occupied (was located in) Fort Sumter?

○
Union

○
Confederacy

Who were the aggressors in this situation? The US or the Confederacy? Explain your

answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

How did the citizens of Richmond, Virginia, feel about the actions at Fort Sumter? How

exactly, do you know this?

_____

Who called for troops right after the firing on Fort Sumter?

_____

Virginia joined the Confederacy April _____, 1861.

In April of 1861, Virginia joined the Confederacy. After Virginia joined, what city became the Confederate capital? _____

Following the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run), the governor of New York does what?

_____

What does this tell you about what people thought of the war?

_____

The first major land battle of the Civil War took place near _____, Virginia, on July _ _, 18_ _.

At this battle, the Union Army _____ the Confederate Army.

What did citizens of both the Confederacy and the United States realize at this time?

_____

_____

Name: _____

Date: _____

# The Country Goes to War
Student Note Sheet (Teacher Version)

Complete the following timeline:

Election of 1860, Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States
November 6, 1860

Secession of ____South Carolina____
December 20, 1860

Firing on ___Fort____Sumter
April 12, 1861

Battle of _Bull__Run___ of First Manassas
July 21, 1861
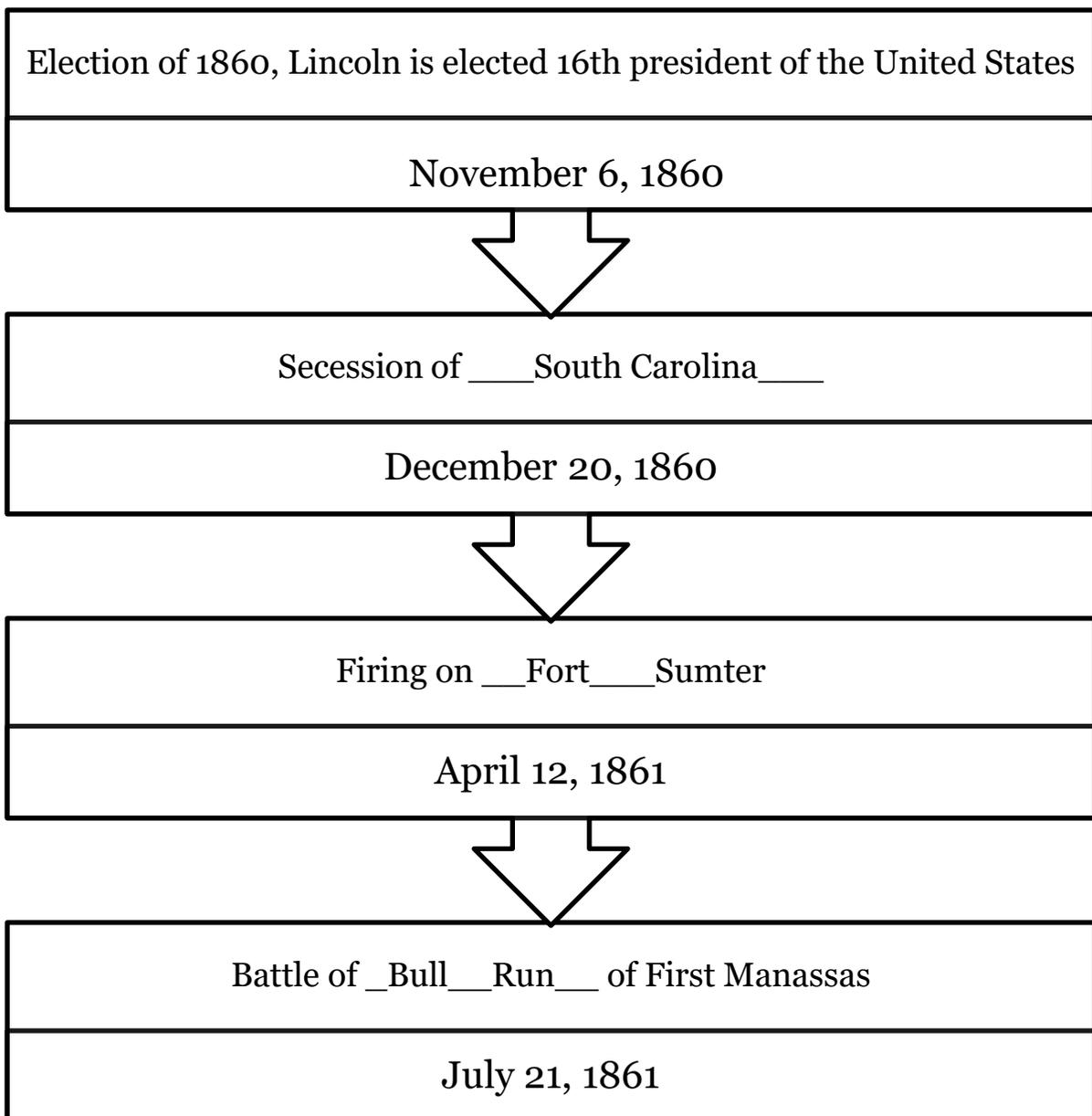
Election of 1860 Winner - _____Abraham_____ ____Lincoln_____

The South became fearful that this new president would_____ abolish slavery or not support the slaveholding states

_____South_____ ____Carolina_____ is the first state to secede from the Union on December 20, 1861, **44** days after Lincoln is elected president.

What does secession mean? _To leave the Union _____

Why did South Carolina secede from the United States? _The non-slaveholding states were not following the law that was laid out in the Constitution and that broke the agreement that South Carolina had made in order to be part of the Union. They also felt that Lincoln was not going to support the slaveholding states.

What does South Carolina want other Southern states to do? _____Secede as well_____ _____

Why would the other states want to do this? ____Because they agree with South Carolina's reason for leaving the Union._____

Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy? <u>The people</u>

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace? <u>Peace, students should provide a quote to</u>

<u>support this.</u>

Does Abraham Lincoln want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that? Peace, students should provide a quote to support this.

Who fired at Fort Sumter?

◯
Union

⬤
Confederacy

Why? <u>The Confederacy wanted the Union to surrender the federal fort located just off the</u>

<u>coast of South Carolina.</u>

Who occupied (was located in) Fort Sumter?

⬤
Union

◯
Confederacy

Who were the aggressors in this situation? The US or the Confederacy? Explain your answer.

<u>The students will have to decide and use what they have learned to support their answer.</u>

<u>Some may say the Confederacy was the aggressor because they fired the shots. Some may say</u>

the United States was the aggressor because they refused to leave Fort Sumter after South

Carolina seceded.

How did the citizens of Richmond Virginia feel about the action at Fort Sumter? The people

were excited and celebrated in the streets. _____

Who called for troops right after the firing on Fort Sumter?

_____Both the Confederacy and the United States _____

Virginia joined the Confederacy April   17, 1861.

In April of 1861, Virginia joined the Confederacy. After Virginia joined, what city became the

Confederate Capital? _____Richmond_____

Following the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run), the governor of New York does what?

___Called for more troops and for a longer volunteer period. _____

What does this tell you about what people thought of the war? _____People realized after the

devastation of Manassas that the war would be much longer and cost more men then they had

previously predicted. _____

The first land battle of the Civil War took place near <u> Manassas </u>, Virginia, on July 21, 1861.

At this battle, the Union Army <u> lost </u> to the Confederate Army.

What did citizens of both the Confederacy and the United States realize at this time? <u>   That</u>

<u>the war was not going to be easy or end quickly. </u>

1860 U.S. Map Worksheet

Washington Territory

Oregon

California

PACIFIC OCEAN

Nebraska Territory

Utah Territory

New Mexico Territory

Unorganized Territory

Minnesota

Wisconsin

Iowa

Kansas Territory

Unorganized Territory

Texas

Missouri

Arkansas

Louisiana

Mexico

Canada

Michigan

Illinois Indiana

Ohio

Kentucky

Tennessee

Mississippi Alabama

Georgia

North Carolina

South Carolina

Florida

Pennsylvania

Maryland

Virginia

Maine

Vermont
New Hampshire
New York Mass.
Rhode Island
Connecticut
New Jersey
Deleware

ATLANTIC OCEAN

GULF OF MEXICO

The Bahamas

0   125   250   500 Miles

United States of America: 1860

www.civilwar.org

The Civil War Trust

In James McPherson's article, An Overview of the American Civil War he states:

The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states. When Abraham Lincoln won election in 1860 as the first Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave states in the deep South seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.

Based on your map and what McPherson says above, why do you think some of the slave holding states decided not to join the Confederacy?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Labeled U.S. 1860 Map

Name: _____

Date: _____

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

The United States of America
at the Outbreak of the Civil War

Battlefields.org

Washington Territory

Dakota Territory

OR

Nevada Territory

Utah Territory

Colorado Territory

Nebraska Territory

MN

WI

MI

IA

IL

IN

OH

MI

MI

NY

PA

VT

NH

MA

CT

RI

ME

NJ

MD

DC

DE

CA

New Mexico Territory

Indian Territory

KS

MO

KY

VA

NC

TN

AR

SC

TX

LA

MS

AL

GA

FL

Atlantic Ocean

LEGEND

/\/ Boundary of Confederacy

Union Free State

Union Slave State (Border State)

Confederate State (Before April 12, 1861)

Confederate State (After April 12, 1861)

Territory

Other Country

Map prepared by Jon Mitchell
Created on March 25, 2019

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

CIVIL WAR TRUST   REVOLUTIONARY WAR TRUST

N   W   E   S

0   130   260   390   520

Miles