

THE Civil War Curriculum

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

GOAL 2 | LESSON PLAN | ELEMENTARY

1861: The Country Goes to War

GRADES: Elementary

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 55 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to describe the state of the nation and sequence the first events of the Civil War.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to create a timeline of events from the election of Lincoln to the First Battle of Manassas.
2. Students will be able to complete a map identifying the Southern states, Northern states, and border states.
3. Students will be able to read and summarize portions of Abraham Lincoln's and Jefferson Davis's first inaugural addresses.

MATERIALS:

1. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint
2. Timeline Activity Sheet
3. Blank Map of the U.S. in 1860
4. Labeled Map of U.S. in 1860 (for teacher use)
5. Presidential Inaugural Addresses
6. Exit Passes

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. Using *The Country Goes to War PowerPoint*, review events leading up to the bombardment of Fort Sumter.

2. Have students complete the *Timeline Activity Sheet*, filling in events as they appear in the PowerPoint.

Activity 2

1. Using the *Blank Map of the U.S. in 1860*, create an overhead or project the blank map for classroom viewing.
2. Hand out the *Blank Map of U.S. in 1860*.
3. As a group, color the Union states blue, the Confederate states grey, and the border states green.
4. Draw in or highlight major physical features such as the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountain Range.

Activity 3

1. Hand out the *Presidential Inaugural Addresses* to each student.
2. Read through the excerpts as a class.
3. Go over the questions as a group, and have students answer independently or as a group.

CLOSURE:

1. On an *Exit Pass*, have students write how they think citizens felt as the country approached going to war.






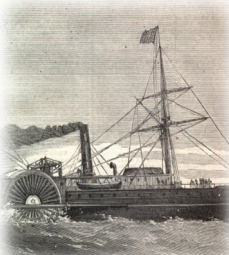
ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. A completed timeline of the events leading up to the Civil War.
2. The presidential inaugural addresses have been read and summarized and the related questions are answered.
3. An *Exit Pass* discussing how citizens felt about the approaching war has been completed.



Timeline Activity Sheet

Cut out the pictures and text. Then glue the pictures and text in the correct order on the timeline of events leading up to the Civil War.

		
		
South Carolina secedes		
Lincoln elected president of the United States		
Shots fired at Fort Sumter		
Shots fired at the <i>Star of the West</i>		
Jefferson Davis chosen as president of the Confederate States of America		
The Confederate Constitution is approved		



Presidential Inaugural Addresses

Excerpt from the Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America



In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect, and defend it."

Excerpt from the Inaugural Address of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America



I enter upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen with the hope that the beginning of our career as a Confederacy may not be obstructed by hostile opposition to our enjoyment of the separate existence and independence which we have asserted, and, with the blessing of Providence, intend to maintain. Our present condition, achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations, illustrates the American idea that governments rest upon the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish governments whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.



Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The war has not yet started when both of these men speak. Do you think people are aware that a war is coming?

2. What do both men seem to want? Peace or War?



1860 US Map Worksheet

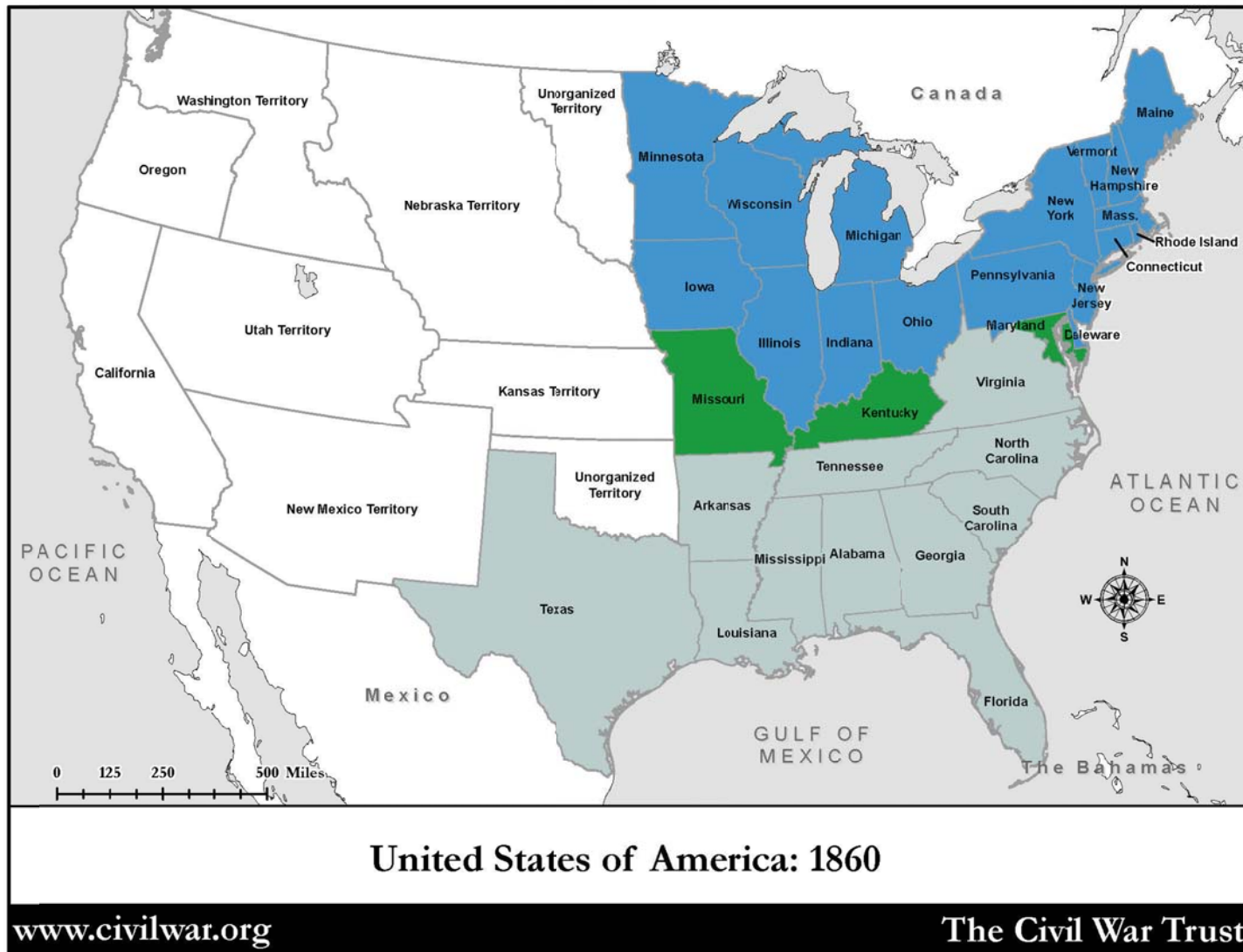
Name: _____

Date: _____





1860 Labeled US Map Worksheet





Name: _____

Date: _____

Exit Pass

How did many citizens feel
as the war was about to
begin?

How did many citizens feel
as the war was about to
begin?

How did many citizens feel
as the war was about to
begin?

How did many citizens
feel as the war was about to
begin?