

Summary: Worlds Apart

Slavery in the United States

All 13 colonies had allowed slavery, but it was more common in the South. Some northern states made slavery illegal after the War for Independence. Some delegates to the Constitutional Convention tried to end slavery. They failed.

The cotton gin was invented in 1793. It made producing cotton easier. Southern planters bought more land and enslaved more people to do the work. By 1860, there were nearly 4 million enslaved African Americans in the South. Cotton became the South's most important crop. Textile mills in the North and Britain needed more cotton. The price for cotton went up.

Some enslaved people fought against slavery. In 1831, Nat Turner led a rebellion. New laws were passed to control all African Americans. By the 1850s, they had fewer rights than ever. In the South, many people thought slavery was necessary. In the North, some people thought slavery was wrong.

North and South

In the South, farming was the most important business. Huge plantations had many enslaved workers. Small farmers grew food and crops. The North also had farms, but many people moved to cities. They worked in factories, making textiles, shoes, tools, and other things. By 1860, more than half of northerners worked in factories.

Congress passed tariffs on imported goods. These tariffs helped factories in the North. There were few factories in the South. Prices for manufactured goods were high. People blamed high prices on the tariffs and on the North.

Vice President John Calhoun said the tariffs were unfair. He argued for states' rights. He said the Constitution did not let the federal government set tariffs. People in the North and South continued to argue about tariffs and slavery. This increased sectionalism throughout the country.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

tariff *noun*, a tax on imported goods

states' rights *noun*, the idea that states, not the federal government, should make decisions about matters that affect them

sectionalism *noun*, loyalty to one part of the country

After You Read

REVIEW What led to the growth of slavery in the early 1800s? Circle the new invention that changed the South. Then highlight the sentence that tells the effect of this invention on slavery in the South.

REVIEW What was the most important crop in the South? Underline the sentence that tells the answer.

REVIEW Why did southerners dislike tariffs? Underline the sentence that tells who the tariffs helped. Circle the sentence that tells you what people blamed on the tariffs.