

# Summary: Conflict Grows

## Abraham Lincoln

After 1860, some southerners believed the only way to protect their states' rights and be able to continue to own slaves was secession. Some northerners formed the Republican Party to keep slavery out of the territories.

Abraham Lincoln became an important leader in the Republican Party. He was a lawyer and a lawmaker in both the Illinois legislature and the United States Congress. Lincoln argued against allowing slavery in the new territories.

## Lincoln's Campaigns

While running for the Senate in Illinois, Lincoln argued against slavery during seven debates with Stephen Douglas. Douglas believed that the United States could have both free and slave states. Lincoln, however, argued that the United States could not be divided by slavery forever.

Lincoln and other Republicans did not believe the government had the power to end slavery. They did want to stop slavery from spreading, though, because they thought it would eventually die out on its own. Lincoln lost the election to Douglas, but the debates made him famous.

In 1860, Lincoln was elected president. He had many supporters in the North, but he did not win any southern state. The southerners did not like him because they thought he would make the federal government too strong and would try to end slavery.

## Secession Begins

South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas all voted to withdraw from the United States and form the Confederacy. They elected Jefferson Davis as the president.

President Lincoln wanted to keep the Union together. The Confederate government wanted control of Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Lincoln refused to give it up. The Confederates fired on the fort until the soldiers inside surrendered. The Civil War had begun. Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia all chose to join the Confederacy rather than fight on Lincoln's side.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**secession** *noun*, when part of a country leaves or breaks off from the rest

**Confederacy** *noun*, another name for the Confederate States of America, or the states that voted to secede from the United States and form a confederation



### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why did some southerners want their states to leave the Union?

Highlight the sentence that explains why some southerners wanted their states to leave the Union.

**REVIEW** Why did southerners see Lincoln as an enemy? Draw a box around the sentence that explains why southerners did not like Lincoln.

**REVIEW** What event began the Civil War? Circle the event that began the Civil War.