The Civil War

The Country Divides
By the 1860s, states in the North and South disagreed about states’ rights and slavery. Most people in the northern states supported a strong national government. Most southerners wanted states to have more power. States in the Northeast, such as New York, had ended slavery. Cities and factories were growing there. In the South, farming was more important. Farm workers were often enslaved Africans. Many plantation owners worried that ending slavery would harm the economy of the South. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln, who had spoken out against slavery, was elected President. After his election, eleven southern states seceded from the Union.

New York During the War
Soon after the Civil War began, thousands of New Yorkers joined the Union army. However, the Union needed more soldiers. The Union drafted men, or forced them to join the army. About 50,000 people protested during the Draft Riots in New York City. In 1863, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which ordered that slaves living in areas that were fighting the Union be freed. Afterward, many former slaves joined the Union army. While men were away at war, women ran businesses or served as volunteers. In 1865, the Union won the war, and the Constitution was changed to outlaw slavery.

Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.

secede verb, to leave the nation to which a state belongs

volunteer noun, someone who chooses to do work without pay

Why did southern plantation owners not want slavery to end? Circle the sentences that tell the answer.

How did women help the Union during the war? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

SKILL Reading Maps
Which slave states stayed in the Union? Highlight the border states that stayed in the Union.