



Why was there a civil war in America in 1861?

Aim:

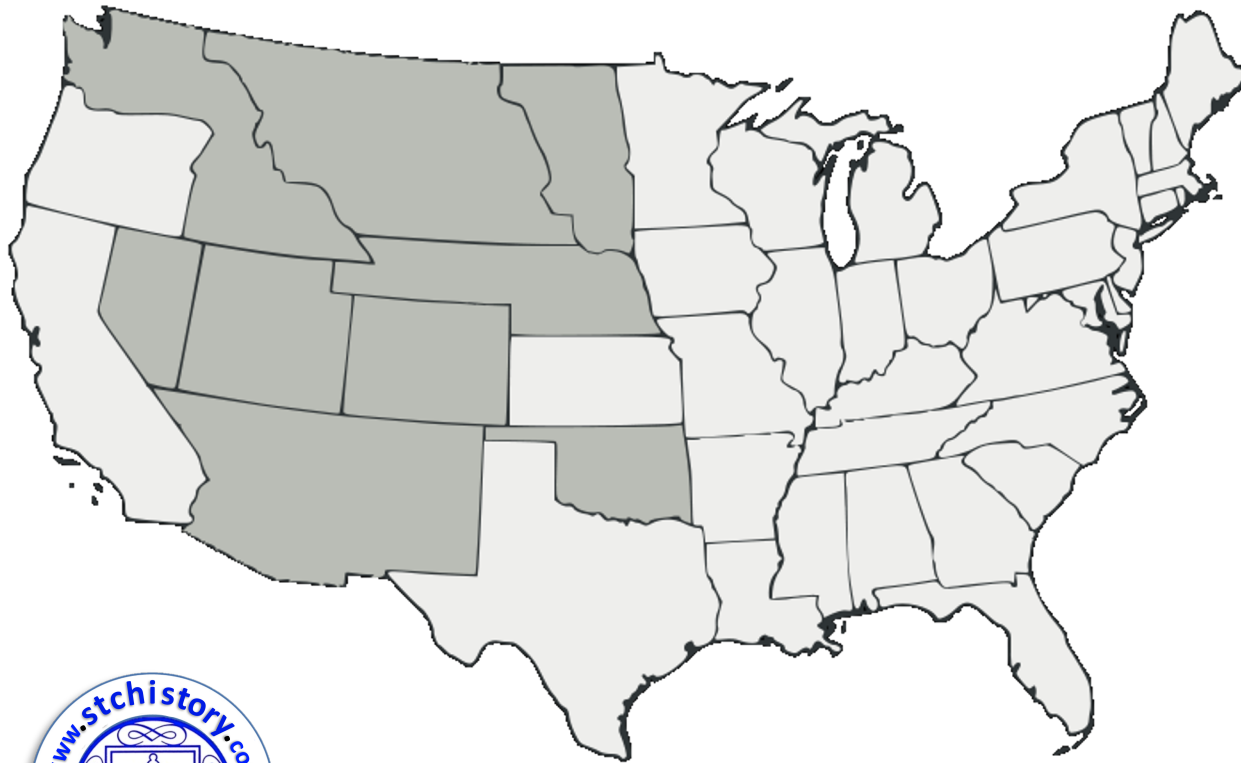
- To give reasons for the civil war
- To identify the sides in the civil war

Civil War: a war between citizens (people) of the same country

State: America is divided up into states, there are 50 states today.

Federal: The central government rather than parts of a country.

America is divided into different areas, called states. In 1861, there were 34 states. The grey area of the map represents areas that are not states yet, some are territories. Lots of this grey was inhabited by Native Americans and was regarded as 'the Great American Desert'. States ran their own affairs and could have different laws, but certain powers were federal - where all states had to work together. For example declaring war on another country is a federal power. The balance between the power of the state and federal power was fragile at times.



Write in full sentences:

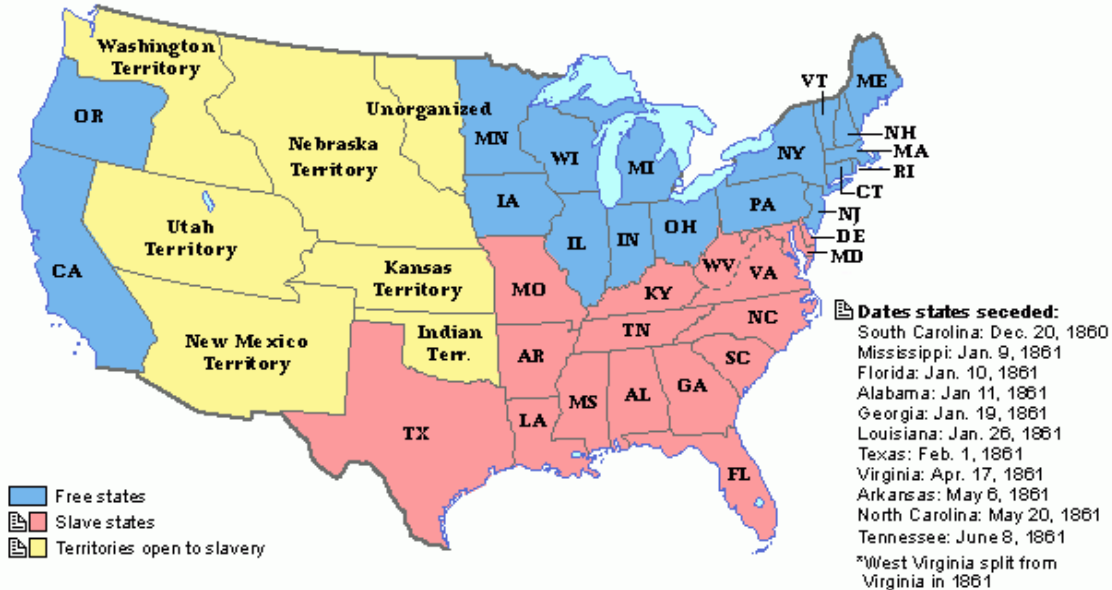
1. What is a state and how many were there in 1861?
2. What does federal mean?
3. What does the name 'Great American Desert' imply about the area?

Slavery

At the heart of much of the South's issues was slavery. The South relied on slavery for labour to work the fields. Many people in the North believed that slavery was wrong and evil. These people were called abolitionists. They wanted slavery made illegal throughout the United States. Abolitionists such as John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Harriet Beecher Stowe began to convince more and more people of the evil of slavery. This made the South fearful that their way of life would come to an end.

On your own copy of the map:
Use a key to create a map which shows which states were 'slave states' and which were 'free states'.

What do you notice about the distribution (the pattern) of slave and free states.

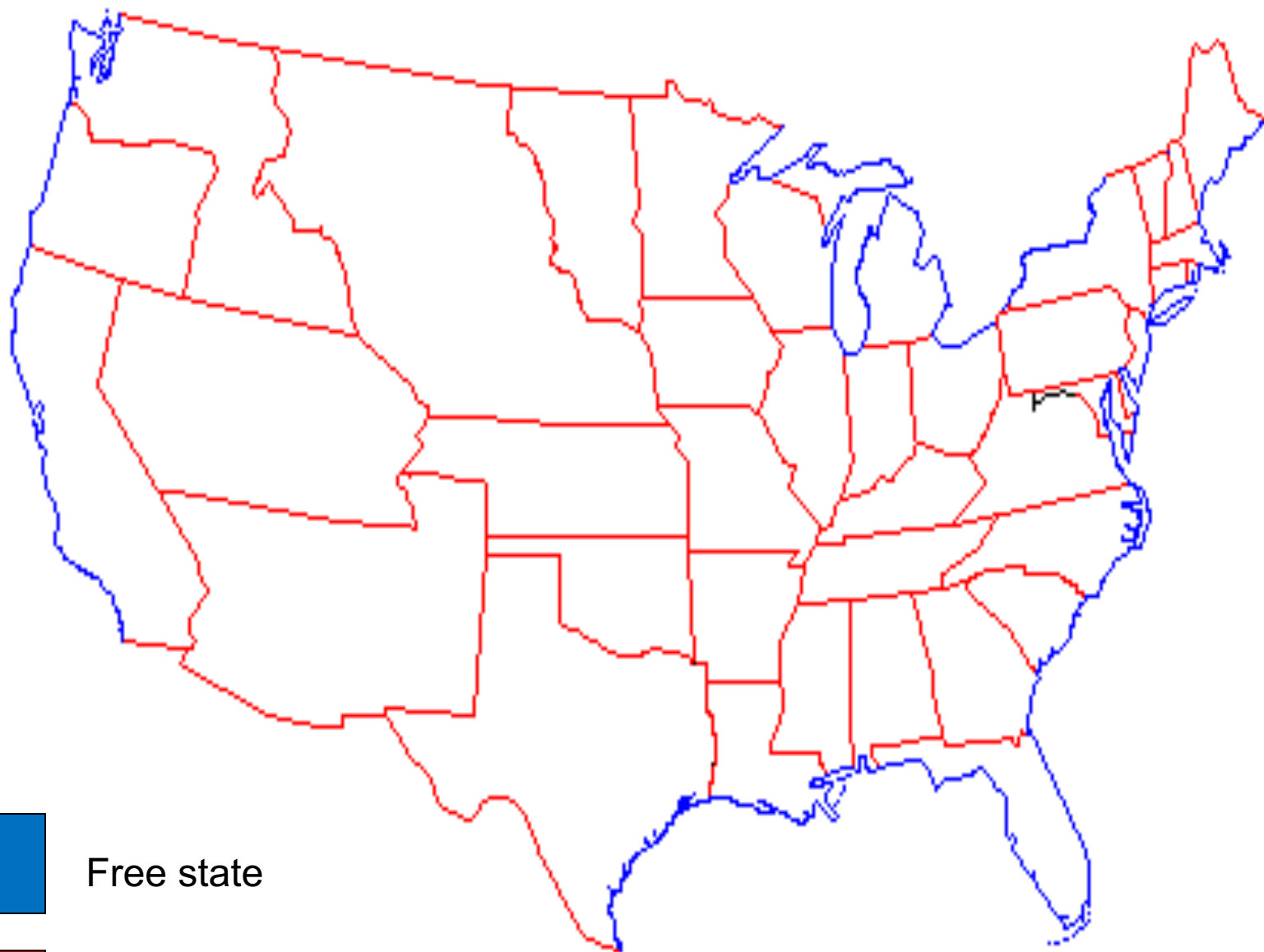


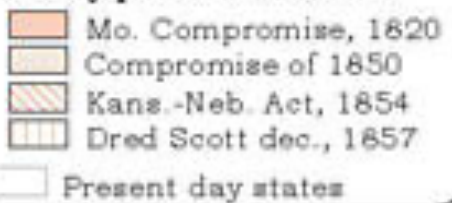


Free state



Slave state





Causes of the Civil War:

There are many causes that led to the American Civil War. While **slavery** is often given as the main cause for the war, other differences between the North and the South certainly contributed.

Industry vs. Farming

In the mid-1800s, the economies of many northern states had moved away from farming to industry. A lot of people in the North worked and lived in large cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. The southern states, however, had maintained a large farming economy and this economy was based on slave labour. While the North no longer needed slaves, the South relied heavily upon slaves for their way of life.

States' Rights

The idea of states' rights was not new to the Civil War. Since the Constitution was first written there had been arguments about how much power the states should have versus how much power the federal government should have. The southern states felt that the federal government was taking away their rights and powers.

Draw a picture to represent the areas of tension above, write a sentence next to it to explain your idea.

Expansion

As the United States continued to expand westward, each new state added to the country shifted the power between the North and the South. Southern states began to fear they would lose so much power that they would lose all their rights. Each new state became a battleground between the two sides for power.

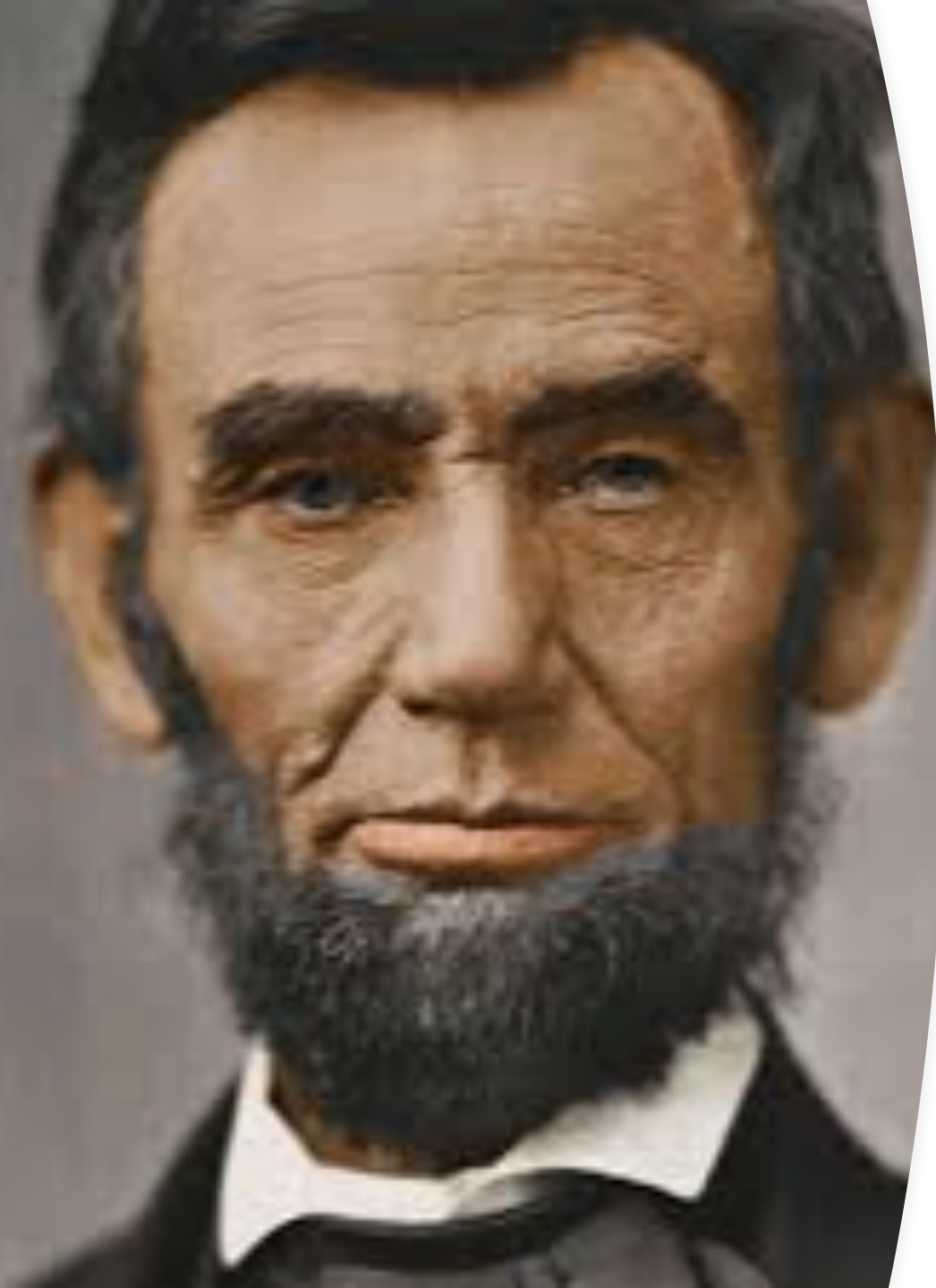
Draw a picture to represent the three areas of tension above, write a sentence next to it to explain your idea.

Bleeding Kansas

The first fighting over the slavery issue took place in Kansas. In 1854, the government passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act allowing the residents of Kansas to vote on whether they would be a slave state or a free state. The region was flooded with supporters from both sides. They fought over the issue for years. Several people were killed in small skirmishes giving the confrontation the name Bleeding Kansas. Eventually Kansas entered the Union as a free state in 1861.

Write in full sentences:

Why did the vote to decide if Kansas should have slavery earn the name 'Bleeding Kansas'?



Abraham Lincoln

The final straw for the South was election of Abraham Lincoln to President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln was a member of the new anti-slavery Republican Party.

He managed to get elected without even being on the ballot in ten of the southern states. The southern states felt that Lincoln was against slavery and also against the South.



Secession

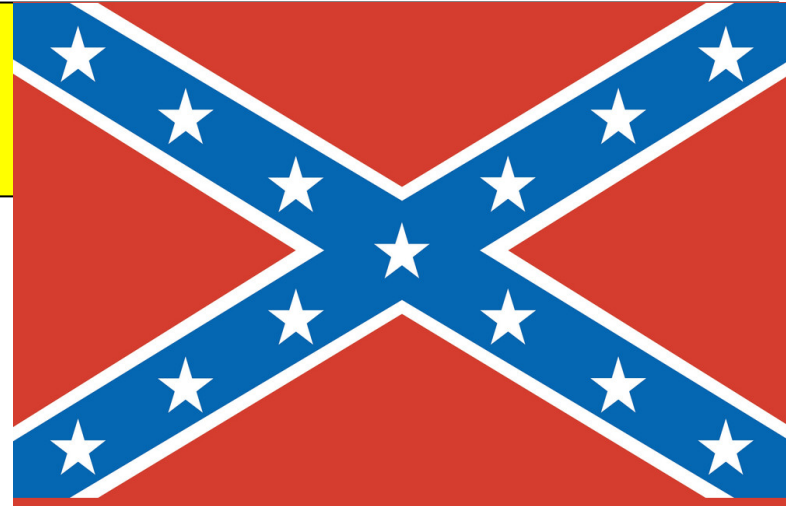
When Lincoln was elected, many of the southern states decided they no longer wanted to be a part of the United States. They felt that they had every right to leave. Starting with South Carolina, eleven states would eventually leave the United States and form a new country called the Confederate States of America.

Abraham Lincoln said they did not have the right to leave the United States and sent in troops to stop the South from leaving. The Civil War had begun

Write in full sentences:

Why did eleven states decide to leave the union?

What name did these eleven states give themselves?



Confederate Flag

Draw the different flags and write the key facts underneath them.

The South

Confederates

Tended to be slave states

The North

Union or Yankees

Tended to be free states.

