

THE ELECTION OF 1860

Handout A: The Election of 1860

1. Congress could not outlaw the slave trade until 1808; Southern states could count 3/5ths of their slave population for purposes of taxation and representation in Congress; a fugitive slave clause said states could not harbor escaped slaves.
2. Slave and free states worried that the addition of new states would give the other side more power in the national government.
3. The Court's ruling that personal liberty laws were unconstitutional meant that they were required to uphold a practice they found morally wrong. Further, the *Dred Scott* ruling caused them to fear that the South was trying to impose slavery on an unwilling majority.
4. Accept reasoned answers.
5. South Carolina believed the union was a compact among states that could be withdrawn from if the national government became destructive of the purposes it was established to protect. Further, South Carolina believed that a state could decide on its own if that destructiveness had happened. Lincoln believed that secession was unconstitutional. A portion of the people could not destroy what the whole people had created.

Handout C: Lincoln's First Inaugural Address

1. Perpetuity is implied in all constitutions; One party can break a contract, but all parties' consent is required to lawfully rescind it; The Union is older than the Constitution; The Constitution was written to form a "more perfect union" but if one state can break it, the Union is actually less perfect than before the Constitution; No express provision of the Constitution has been violated.
2. Accept reasoned answers.

Handout D: Two Declarations

1. Independence: declaring that the colonies' relationship to England was dissolved, and to tell the world the reasons why. Secession: announcing that South Carolina was once again a free and independent state, and to tell the world the reasons why.
2. Independence: after a long train of abuses has taken place. Secession: any one of the parties to the agreement.
3. Declaration: to evidence the violations of rights committed by the King. Secession: to evidence the violations of rights committed by the US. 4. Declaration: to point out that the colonists tried petitioning the King to bring an end to the violations. Secession: the future. 5. Declaration: The colonies are now free and independent states, assembled in Congress. Secession: a free and independent state.

THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON

Handout A: The Resignation of President Nixon

1. Ford was appointed by Nixon when Nixon's former Vice President resigned.
2. Accept reasoned answers.
3. It was distressing for many to learn that the President of the United States had known about illegal activities, and had lied to cover them up. Many lost their faith in government.
4. Accept reasoned answers.
5. Sometimes a decision that seems difficult to endure at the time turns out to have been for the best, especially when emotions are high. Students may say that leaders must act with this longer-term vision in mind and that their actions should be judged in terms of their likely long term, and not necessarily immediate, effects.