

Section

1

Slavery and States' Rights

Main Ideas

1. The United States divided along sectional lines because of regional economic differences.
2. Many Texans supported secession because of states' rights.

Why It Matters Today

Northerners and southerners disagreed about many issues. Use current events sources to learn about an issue that is important to a particular region today.



TEKS: 1B, 1C, 5A, 5B, 8A, 16B, 17A, 17C, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 21F, 21H, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on how slavery and the issue of states' rights affected Texans.

Key Terms

- states' rights
- Kansas-Nebraska Act
- *Dred Scott* decision
- secede
- Unionists
- Confederate States of America
- sovereignty

The Story Continues

After years of living as slaves, Dred and Harriet Scott faced a decision. They had lived in free territory for several years, and had recently been returned to the slave state of Missouri. White friends of the Scotts urged them to sue for their freedom. The Scotts decided to do so, believing that their residence in free territory had made them free. Dred Scott's case led to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling.



Growing National Divisions

Slavery was one of the issues that divided the nation along sectional, or regional, lines. The North's population was growing as immigrants came to work in its factories. In contrast to the North's increasingly industrial economy, the South's agricultural economy was dominated by slave-based cotton production. Sectionalism was the result of growing economic and social differences between the North and the South. For example, the North wanted tariffs to protect its industries, while the South opposed tariffs because they increased the cost of imported items. During the tariff dispute, some southerners argued that states had a right to ignore tariffs and other federal laws. Under this **states' rights** argument, state power was greater than federal power.

As the United States expanded westward, Congress debated whether territories would enter the Union as free or slave states. This would affect the balance of power in Congress. After much debate, Texas



entered the Union in 1845 as a slave state. Then, under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, the United States gained vast stretches of land from Mexico. In the Compromise of 1850, Congress created a way for the new territories to become states. The compromise included a Fugitive Slave Act, which made it a crime to assist runaway slaves. The act angered northerners and—along with Harriet Beecher Stowe’s 1852 antislavery novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*—greatly increased support for the abolition movement.

In 1854 Congress passed the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. This act allowed the Kansas and Nebraska Territories to decide whether to be free or slave states. Many northern members of the Whig Party were angry because this violated the 1820 Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery north of the 36°30' N line. They helped form the Republican Party in 1854 to stop the spread of slavery. Sam Houston, then serving in the U.S. Senate, was one of the few southerners who opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Houston’s stance on the issue was unpopular in Texas.

In 1857 the U.S. Supreme Court dealt antislavery forces a blow with the **Dred Scott decision**. The Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens and therefore could not sue in federal court. The Court also ruled that Congress could not ban slavery in any federal territory. The ruling shocked many northerners. Sectional tensions increased in 1859 when an abolitionist named John Brown led a raid on a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, intending to provoke a slave revolt. He and his followers were hanged for treason.

Reading Check Summarizing Explain why divisions arose between the North and the South.

Interpreting Visuals

Slavery in the South. Slaves spent many hours working in fields to produce cotton and other cash crops. **What characteristics of slave life does this image show?**

an ordinance, or order, of secession on February 1. The delegates voted 166 to 8 to leave the Union. They then scheduled a statewide vote on the issue. On February 23, 1861, Texans voted for secession by 46,153 to 14,747. A majority of people voted against it in only a few counties. On March 2, 1861, Texas became the seventh state to secede from the United States.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Describe the actions taken by the state's pro-secession leaders to have Texas join the Confederacy.



Serving during the War

On the brink of the Civil War, Texans had to decide where their civic duty lay—with their state or with their country. Thousands of Texans served in the Confederate army. Others joined the Union army. Those who were neutral sometimes provided aid to the wounded of both sides. After the war, veterans of both armies assumed leadership positions in the state. Edmund J. Davis, who had organized a Union cavalry unit and eventually became a brigadier general, won election as governor in 1869. Today Texans fulfill their civic duties in many ways.

How do people in your community serve Texas and the nation?

★ The Confederacy

In February 1861 Texas sent seven delegates to Montgomery, Alabama. There representatives from the seceding states formed a government called the **Confederate States of America**, or the Confederacy. The representatives wrote a constitution that was similar to the U.S. Constitution. It differed in several ways, however. The Confederate constitution emphasized the **sovereignty**, or supremacy, of the states and the right of people to hold slaves. The delegates elected a president, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, and other officials to run the Confederacy. They chose Texan John H. Reagan as postmaster general.

On March 5, 1861, the Texas Secession Convention reassembled to write a new state constitution. The new document was basically the 1845 constitution with references to the Confederacy replacing references to the United States. When Governor Houston refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, the delegates removed him from office. He was replaced with Lieutenant Governor Edward Clark. Sam and Margaret Houston left Austin and retired to Huntsville, where he died on July 26, 1863.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why was Sam Houston removed from the governor's office in 1861?

★ Section 1 Review hmsocialstudies.com ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- states' rights
- secede
- sovereignty

2. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- Kansas-Nebraska Act
- *Dred Scott* decision
- Unionists
- Confederate States of America

3. Sequencing

Copy the time line below. List in order the events of 1861 that led to the secession of Texas.

Jan 28	+
Feb 1	+
Feb 23	+
Mar 2	+

4. Finding the Main Idea

- Why was the United States divided along sectional lines?
- Explain the reasons for Texas' secession and its involvement in the Civil War.

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Identifying Points of View Imagine that you live in Texas in the 1850s. Write a letter to a friend explaining how Texans are reacting to sectional tensions. Consider the following:

- the Texas economy
- Texans' support of slavery