

Study Guide: Sunshine State Standards



Chapter 15, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 436–439

SLAVERY AND THE WEST

KEY TERMS

sectionalism	Exaggerated loyalty to a particular region of the country (page 437)
fugitive	Someone who runs away from the law (page 438)
secede	To separate or leave the Union (page 438)
abstain	To not cast a vote (page 439)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever had to give up something to get something you wanted more? How did you decide which item was more important? What were some times when you would not compromise?

This section focuses on how the Northern states and the Southern states debated and compromised over the issue of slavery in new states.

Sunshine State Standards

SS.B.1.3.3:
Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the proposals presented to Congress in the mid-1800s concerning slavery.

Successful Proposals to Congress	Unsuccessful Proposals to Congress

Study Guide: Sunshine State Standards



Chapter 15, Section 1 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **The Missouri Compromise** (pages 436–437)

When Missouri asked to join the United States in 1817, it caused a debate around the country. Many settlers to Missouri had brought their enslaved workers with them. They applied to the United States as a slave state. Up to this point, the country had an even number of slave states and free states. To allow Missouri into the United States would upset that balance in the Senate.

The North and the South were also divided over the land in the West. Many Northerners wanted to limit or eliminate slavery completely. Even the Southerners that were against slavery were opposed to the interference from the North. This division between the states created *sectionalism*. Sectionalism occurs when people are overly loyal to their section of the country.

The Senate suggested a compromise. The idea was to admit Missouri into the country as a slave state. Maine would also be added to the country, but as a free state. This compromise also restricted slavery in any land, except Missouri, north of the 36°30'N latitude that was gained in the Louisiana Purchase. Speaker of the House Henry Clay led efforts in the House to pass this agreement in 1820, called the Missouri Compromise.

1. Why was there controversy in admitting Missouri into the United States?

- **New Western Lands** (pages 437–438)

The controversy between the Southern states and the Northern states arose again in the 1840s. Slavery was already established in Texas, and the Southern states strongly supported its admission to the country. They also wanted to take over New Mexico and California, which were still part of Mexico. David Wilmot of Pennsylvania introduced the Wilmot Proviso to Congress. The Wilmot Proviso declared that slavery should not be allowed in any land obtained from Mexico. An opposing proposal was created by John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. It said that Congress had no right to eliminate or limit slavery in a territory. Neither proposal passed in Congress.

In the election of 1848, a new political party was formed. The Whigs chose Zachary Taylor, a Southerner, for their candidate. The Democrats chose Senator Lewis Cass from Michigan. Neither candidate took a strong stance on slavery. Members from both parties that were against slavery joined together to create a new political party, the Free-Soil Party. The Free-Soil Party agreed with the Wilmot Proviso and selected Martin Van Buren as their candidate. Zachary Taylor won the election, but the Free-Soil Party gained several seats in Congress.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

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Chapter 15, Section 1 (continued)

President Zachary Taylor believed that as New Mexico and California became states, the citizens could decide whether to allow slavery or not. Other issues came up in Congress. Many people wanted to do away with slavery in Washington D.C. Southerners wanted a law that required states to send *fugitive*, or runaway, enslaved African Americans back to their slaveholders. Southerners were most concerned that California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah would be admitted to the country as free states. This would give the South no power in Congress. The people of the South started discussing *seceding*, or leaving, the United States.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

2. What stance did each candidate of the election of 1848 take on slavery?

- **A New Compromise** (pages 438–439)

In 1850 Henry Clay wrote a plan to settle the issues in Congress. His plan contained several parts.

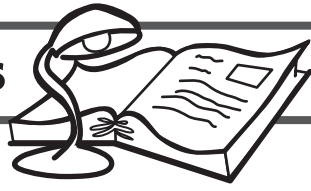
1. California would be admitted as a free state.
2. The New Mexico territory would have no slavery restrictions.
3. The New Mexico-Texas border would favor New Mexico.
4. Slave trade, not slavery, would be eliminated in Washington D.C.
5. Stronger fugitive slave laws would be created.

Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina was against Clay’s plan. He thought that the limitations on slavery would destroy the Union. Southern states would need to leave. Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts agreed with Clay. He felt the compromise was the only way to save the Union.

There was much disagreement about Clay’s compromise. People agreed with some parts, but opposed other parts. Stephen A. Douglas, from Illinois, solved the problem by dividing Clay’s plan. Each section would be voted on separately. President Fillmore, who became president after Zachary Taylor’s death, convinced members of the Whig party not to cast a vote, to *abstain*, on the issues they opposed. The multi-part plan finally passed and became known as the Compromise of 1850.

3. Why was Henry Clay’s plan divided into five separate bills?

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Chapter 15, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 441–444

A NATION DIVIDING

KEY TERMS

- popular sovereignty** The idea that allows the people to make their own decisions about the area in which they live (page 442)
- border ruffians** Armed groups from another state that cross a border solely to vote (page 443)
- civil war** A conflict between citizens of the same country (page 444)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever been part of one group that split into two smaller groups because of a disagreement? Did you or anyone try to bring the group back together? Could the disagreement be resolved?

In the last section, you read how Western states were added to the Union with compromises from the North and the South. This section focuses on how the issue of slavery further divided the North and South.

Sunshine State Standards

SS.B.1.3.3:
Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the different reactions of the North and the South as a result of the Fugitive Slave Act.

The Fugitive Slave Act	
The Northern Reaction	The Southern Reaction

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Chapter 15, Section 2 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **The Fugitive Slave Act** (pages 441–442)

In 1850 Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act. This law required that every citizen help return runaway enslaved African Americans. Anyone that helped a runaway would either pay a fine or go to jail. Southerners thought this law would force Northerners to help them. They tried to capture African Americans living in the North, whether they were runaways or not.

Many Northerners refused to obey this law. The Underground Railroad was developed. It was a system where groups of people, white and African American, helped runaways escape to freedom. Other antislavery groups collected money to help buy the freedom of enslaved African Americans. Northern juries would not convict anyone accused of breaking the Fugitive Slave Act.

1. What was the Fugitive Slave Act?

- **The Kansas-Nebraska Act** (pages 442–443)

Stephen A. Douglas wanted to expand the nation to include Kansas and Nebraska. According to the Missouri Compromise, the two territories were destined to become free states. The Southerners in Congress would not accept two more free states. That would upset the balance of free states and slaves states. In order to promote expansion, Douglas suggested that the Missouri Compromise be abandoned. He wanted to let the settlers in the territory decide if they would allow slavery. This was called *popular sovereignty*.

Northerners were strongly against this plan. It would allow slavery on lands that had been free for a long time. Southerners, however, were strongly in favor of the plan. Many slaveholders from Missouri would settle in Kansas and vote to bring slavery to the state. Northern Democrats and President Franklin Pierce also supported this proposal. The Kansas-Nebraska Act passed in 1854. The division within the country grew stronger.

2. Why did Douglas want to abandon the Missouri Compromise?

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

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Chapter 15, Section 2 (continued)

- **Conflict in Kansas** (pages 443–444)

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act passed, both sides sent people to vote. About 1,500 voters lived in the Kansas territory, yet more than 6,000 people voted in the elections. Many of the voters came from Missouri. Armed groups traveled into Kansas solely to vote in support of slavery. They became known as *border ruffians*. The elections resulted in a proslavery legislature. The Kansas legislature began passing laws in support of slavery. Antislavery groups opposed these laws. They held their own elections and started a new constitution that outlawed slavery. The state was split. Both sides wanted a voice in Congress.

The disagreement over slavery turned violent. Supporters of slavery attacked the town of Lawrence. Lawrence was the antislavery capital. John Brown was committed to ending slavery. He and others grabbed and killed five supporters of slavery for revenge. More violence continued. Kansas became known as “Bleeding Kansas.” People also called it “the *Civil War* in Kansas.” A civil war happens when citizens within the same country fight. Not until October of 1856 did John Geary, the newly appointed territorial governor, stop the bloodshed in Kansas.

The violence from the state of Kansas spilled into Congress. Charles Sumner, from Massachusetts, gave a speech called “The Crime Against Kansas.” He spoke strongly against the slavery in Kansas. He also spoke against the senators who supported slavery. He especially criticized the senator from South Carolina, Andrew C. Butler. A relative of Butler’s attacked Sumner in the Senate chamber a few days later. Sumner was bleeding and knocked unconscious. His injuries were so bad that he could not return to the Senate for years.

3. Why were there two constitutions in Kansas?

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

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Chapter 15, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 445–448

CHALLENGES TO SLAVERY


KEY TERMS

- arsenal** A storage place for weapons and ammunition (page 448)
martyr A person who dies for a great cause (page 448)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever taken an argument to someone else to settle? Were you pleased or disappointed with the result? Did you think the decision was fair?

In the last section, you read about the growing division of the country over slavery. This section focuses on decisions and beliefs about slavery that drive the North and South even further apart.

Sunshine State Standards 

SS.A.4.3.3: Understands the impact of significant people, events and ideas on the development of the United States.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the decisions made in the *Dred Scott* case affected the country.

Rulings Within the *Dred Scott* Decision

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	
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Study Guide: Sunshine State Standards



Chapter 15, Section 3 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **A New Political Party** (pages 445–446)

In the 1850s the political parties were changing. The Democratic Party was split between the North and South. Northern Democrats left the Party. Whigs, Northern Democrats, and Free-Soilers joined together to form the Republican Party. They were strongly against slavery. The Republicans believed it was the duty of the government to stop slavery from spreading. In 1854 the Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives.


In the election of 1856, the Republicans chose John C. Frémont as their presidential candidate. He had been a Western explorer and did not have any political record. Republicans hoped voters would be impressed with his life. The Democrats did not choose Franklin Pierce this time because he had too much involvement with the Kansas controversy. They chose James Buchanan as their candidate instead. Buchanan had been overseas and had not been involved in the disagreements. The Democrats supported popular sovereignty. A third party called the American Party nominated Millard Fillmore, a former president. The American Party was against immigration. They did not take a strong stance on slavery. Buchanan won the election with the help of the Southern votes. After the election, some members of the American Party joined the Republican Party.

1. Why were there almost no Southerners in the Republican Party?

- **The Dred Scott Decision** (pages 446–448)

In 1857 the Supreme Court sent a strong message in favor of slavery. An African American named Dred Scott had been purchased in Missouri, a slave state. The family who bought him moved to Illinois and then Wisconsin. Both states were free. The family returned to Missouri and the owner of Dred Scott died. Scott sued for his freedom. He believed that, because he had lived on free soil at one time, he should be free. It took 11 years for the case to reach the Supreme Court.

The Court ruled that Dred Scott was enslaved no matter where he lived. He was considered property that could not be taken away from someone without a legal process. The Court said Scott could not file a lawsuit because he was an enslaved person, not a citizen. The Court also declared that Congress had no right to limit slavery in any way. That meant that the Missouri Compromise and popular sovereignty were unconstitutional. Southerners were pleased by the decision, but Northerners were angry.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.A.4.3.3: Understands the impact of significant people, events and ideas on the development of the United States.

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Chapter 15, Section 3 (continued)

In the election of 1858, everyone in the country was watching the Senate race in Illinois. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were the candidates. Douglas had established a reputation during his time as Senator. He was called “the Little Giant” because he was short but powerful. He thought that the growth of the nation was more important than the issue of slavery. He believed that popular sovereignty would solve the slavery debates. Abraham Lincoln was not well-known at the time. He was a lawyer but had little formal education. He believed that slavery was wrong. He knew it may be too difficult to eliminate slavery, but he felt it should not spread.

The two candidates debated seven times throughout Illinois. In Freeport Lincoln asked Douglas about his views on popular sovereignty. How could people outlaw slavery in a territory that had not yet become a state? Douglas said they could refuse to make laws that protect the rights of the slaveholders. Southerners were not pleased with Douglas’s answer. His answer became known as the Freeport Doctrine. Douglas wanted to show Lincoln as extreme in his antislavery views. Lincoln said the issue was that some people did not see slavery as wrong. Other people, such as Republicans, did see it as wrong.

The Republican Party was gaining strength. Abolitionist John Brown led an attack on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His goal was to get the *arsenal*. An arsenal is a storage place for weapons and ammunition. He was quickly defeated and local citizens and federal troops captured John Brown and his followers. Brown was found guilty of treason and murder and was sentenced to death. Some Republican leaders publicly criticized Brown for his violent acts, while other Northerners praised him. To his supporters, Brown became a *martyr*, someone who dies for a great cause.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.A.4.3.3: Understands the impact of significant people, events and ideas on the development of the United States.

2. What did the Supreme Court rule in the *Dred Scott* case?

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Chapter 15, Section 4

SECESSION AND WAR

KEY TERMS

secession	Withdrawal from the Union (page 451)
states' rights	The rights of the state overrule the rights of the federal government (page 451)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever had to make a difficult decision? Did it affect other people? What kind of difficult decisions do you think your parents have to make? What difficult decisions do your teachers, police, or the president of the United States have to make?

In the last section, you read about the decisions on slavery that caused growing division in the United States. This section focuses on how the Southern states separated from the Union.

Sunshine State Standards

SS.B.1.3.3:
Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the election of 1860 affected the country.

Presidential Election of 1860		
Political Party	Candidate	Main Issue
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Study Guide: Sunshine State Standards



Chapter 15, Section 4 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **The Election of 1860** (pages 449–450)

There were four political parties that nominated candidates for the election of 1860. The Democrats had split into a Northern and a Southern section. The Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas. He supported popular sovereignty. The Southern Democrats wanted to maintain slavery. They chose John C. Breckinridge. He supported the *Dred Scott* decision. A group called the Constitutional Party did not have a position on slavery. They chose John Bell from Tennessee. The Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln as their candidate. The Republicans said slavery could remain in place, but it should not spread to new territories. Lincoln won the election because all the Northern states supported him.

1. What was Republican position on slavery?

- **The South Secedes** (pages 451–452)

The Southern states did not trust the Republican stance. With Abraham Lincoln as president, Southerners thought their rights would not be protected. A special meeting was held in South Carolina. They voted to leave the Union on December 20, 1860. Many people wanted the Union to stay together. Kentucky Senator John Crittenden proposed a compromise after South Carolina’s *secession*, or withdrawal, from the Union. He suggested bringing back the guidelines of the Missouri Compromise. Any states or land gained south of the 36°30’ N line would uphold and protect slavery. He wanted this compromise added to the Constitution. The Republicans were strongly against this plan. It would mean some free land would become slave land. It would be a step backward. Southerners were also unwilling to compromise.

In 1861 Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia all voted to secede from the Union. Representatives from these states and from South Carolina met to form a new nation. The new country was called the Confederate States of America. They chose Jefferson Davis as their president. The Southern states felt they had the right to leave the United States due to *states’ rights* because the states entered the Union voluntarily. As independent states they made an agreement or contract with the Union when they entered. They felt that the United States did not fulfill its side of the agreement. Therefore, the contract was not valid anymore. The Southern states felt free to leave the Union.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

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Chapter 15, Section 4 (continued)

Many Southerners celebrated their secession from the United States. Other Southerners, such as Robert E. Lee, were deeply saddened by the direction the South had taken. Some of the more extreme Northerners were pleased that the Southern states had left the country, but most Northerners wanted the Union to remain together. Lincoln had not taken the presidential office yet. President Buchanan believed he was powerless to stop the Southern states from leaving the country. Lincoln disagreed. He felt it was the duty of the president to maintain the Union and the laws that had been established. In his Inaugural Address, Lincoln did attempt to win back the South. He also made it clear that secession was not an option. Federal property would be held and laws of the United States would be enforced in the South.

Sunshine State Standards 
SS.B.1.3.3: Knows ways the social, political, and economic divisions of the United States have changed over time.

2. How did Senator John Crittenden attempt to keep the South from seceding from the Union?

• **Fort Sumter** (page 453)

Confederate soldiers began to claim forts in the South that belonged to the United States. The commander of Fort Sumter sent a message to Lincoln on the day after Inauguration Day. The fort was low on supplies. The Confederates were expecting the fort to surrender.

Lincoln sent a message back to the governor of South Carolina. Unarmed groups would be bringing only supplies to the men at Fort Sumter. The United States would fire no shots unless the Confederates fired upon them. Jefferson Davis ordered the Confederate troops to attack Fort Sumter before the supplies arrived. Due to high water, the Union troops could not relieve the men at Fort Sumter. They fought for 33 hours. Though there was much gunfire, nobody on either side was killed.

The attack caused Lincoln to order troops to war to save the Union. Many volunteered. The remaining Southern states joined the Confederacy. The Civil War had started.

3. Why did the Confederates attack Fort Sumter?
