

The South Secedes

Many people believed the presidential election of 1860 would determine the future of slavery in the United States. When Abraham Lincoln was elected in November 1860, secessionists immediately began calling for withdrawal from the Union. By the time Lincoln became president in March 1861, a number of states had already seceded from the Union. States continued to secede even after the fighting between North and South began.

Use the table below and the map on the following page to complete the Map Activity and answer the questions that follow.

Secession of Southern States, 1860–1861	
State	Date Seceded
Alabama	January 11, 1861
Arkansas	May 6, 1861
Florida	January 10, 1861
Georgia	January 19, 1861
Louisiana	January 26, 1861
Mississippi	January 5, 1861
North Carolina	May 21, 1861
South Carolina	December 1860
Tennessee	May 7, 1861
Texas	February 23, 1861
Virginia	May 23, 1861

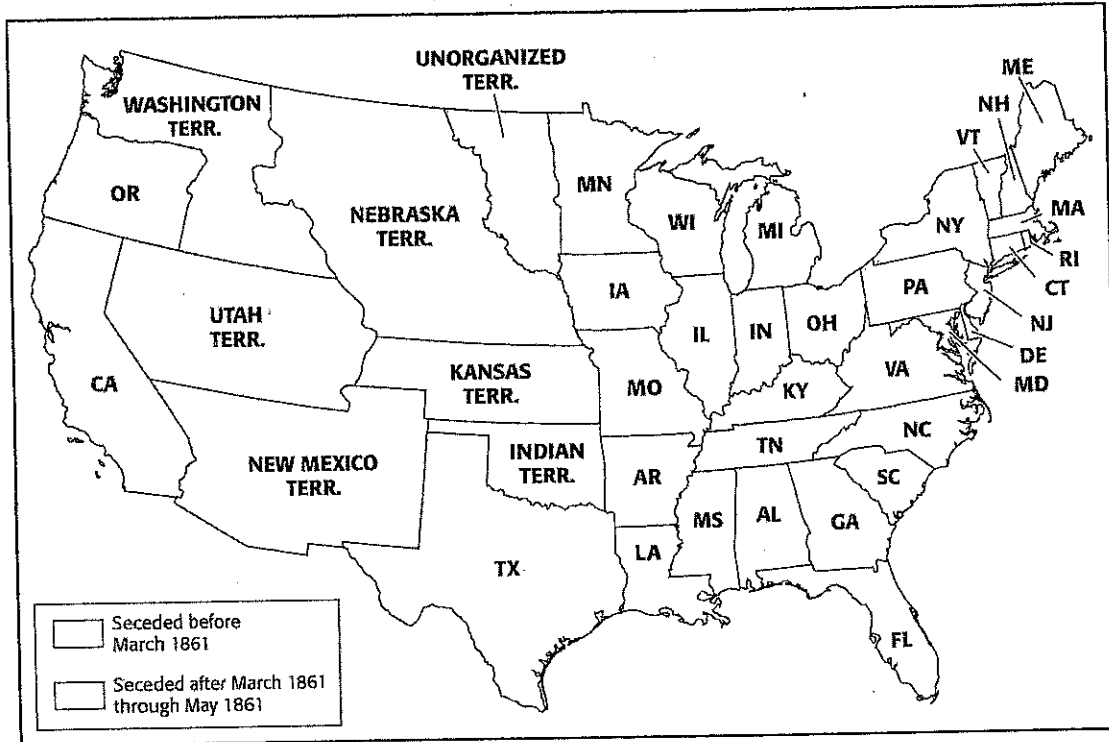
MAP ACTIVITY

1. Using a highlighter or colored pen, shade the states that seceded before March 1861. Use the same color to fill in the appropriate box in the map's key.
2. Using a different color, shade the states that seceded after March 1861 and through May 1861 and fill in the corresponding box in the map's key.
3. Write a number in each state indicating the order in which the states seceded, "1" being first.

The Nation Splits Apart

History and Geography

The South Secedes



ANALYZING MAPS

- Analyze** Which was the first state to secede?

- Analyze** Abraham Lincoln was elected in November 1860 but did not take office until March 1861. List the states that seceded before Lincoln took office.

- Region** Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware were also slave states. Did they secede? Based on what you have learned in your studies, what was this group of states called at the time?

- Analyze** The Civil War began with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Which states seceded after the attack on Fort Sumter?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Slavery was a major issue that led to the secession of the South from the Union. Was it the only issue? Research to determine whether other issues also helped lead to secession. Write a short essay about your findings.