

Timeline Challenge

The Union Challenged

1854

Kansas-Nebraska Act

This act opens up the Great Plains to settlement and nullifies the Missouri Compromise by allowing the territory to choose whether to allow slavery. Eventually, it results in violence throughout Kansas as antislavery and proslavery settlers battle for control of the territory.



1857

Dred Scott Decision

After Dred Scott, a slave, sues for his freedom, the Supreme Court declares that blacks have no rights as citizens and that Congress cannot make laws concerning slavery in the territories.



1861–1865

The Civil War

A Southern attack on Fort Sumter ignites the Civil War. Major battles in such places as Antietam and Vicksburg bring the death toll to over 620,000 by the war's end.



1863

Gettysburg

The last Confederate invasion of the North results in a major battle and a Southern defeat near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Four months later, President Lincoln travels to the site and gives the Gettysburg Address, encouraging Americans to stay strong in the fight to preserve the Union and the principles of the Declaration of Independence.



1865

The Confederacy Surrenders

General Lee and his Confederate forces surrender to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, bringing an end to the Civil War.



1820

1825

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1835

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1860

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1820

Missouri Compromise

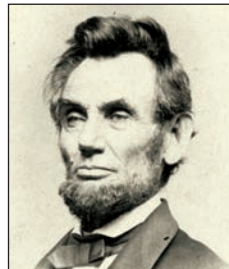
Congress defines where slavery is permitted in the territories west of the Mississippi River. By making this compromise, Missouri is admitted to the Union as a slave state.



1850

Compromise of 1850

When California applies for statehood as a free state, some Southerners threaten to secede. Congress resolves the crisis by redefining where slavery is permitted in the territories and enacting a stronger fugitive slave law.



1860

Lincoln Becomes President

Abraham Lincoln is elected president of the United States, prompting 11 states to secede from the Union.



1863

Emancipation Proclamation

President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation frees the slaves in the Confederate states.



1865

Thirteenth Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment is ratified. It outlaws slavery in the United States.



1868

Fourteenth Amendment

The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and former slaves.



1870

Fifteenth Amendment

The ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment ensures that no citizen will be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous enslavement.