Unit 4: Sectionalism and the Seeds of the American Civil War

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP U.S. History**
Time Period: **December**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Sectional and regional differences helped bring the slavery crisis to a boiling point.

The calls for social and religious change were a major part of antebellum America.

The causes of the Civil War are both numerous and complex in nature.

Lincoln was determined to save the Union at all costs.

The American Civil War left a bloody and painful legacy that still endures today.

Reconstruction was a painful government failure that resonated into the Civil Rights movement of the 60s.

The Federal government's sponsorship of westward expansion has reaped huge bounties both economically and geographically.

Essential Questions

How did geography affect an American's beliefs and values?

Why were the reform movements of the 1830s the grandparents of the social unrest of the 1960s?

What might be the causes of this period's religious fervor?

Why were slave rebellions not more frequent?

How much did popular culture move the nation closer to war?

How did Lincoln bend the Constitution in order to save it?

What caused the North to win and the South to lose?

What did Reconstruction cost and did it fail?

How was the West "won"? Who were the losers?

Content

Vocabulary and Key terms

Antebellum

13th, 14th,15th Amend.

KKK

Reconstruction

Homestead Act

Dawes Act

Skills

Trace the effects of geography on key period figures.

Highlight the regional differences between North and South.

Explore the social changes of Antebellum America and identify their lasting effects.

Develop a thesis that contains the key causes of the American Civil War.

Examine the man behind the myth that is Lincoln.

Employ different features of a wartime map to analyze and interpret and analyze events.

Evaluate the cost of the American Civil War on the national narrative.

Asses the successes and failures of the Reconstruction governments.

Evaluate key primary sources from the period.

Resources

Standards

SOC.6.1.12.A.1.a	Explain how British North American colonies adapted the British governance structure to fit their ideas of individual rights, economic growth, and participatory government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b	Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.c	Compare and contrast the arguments of Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates, and assess their continuing relevance.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.d	Explain how judicial review made the Supreme Court an influential branch of government, and assess the continuing impact of the Supreme Court today.