

# Unit 10: Toward Civil War

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies 8**  
Time Period: **Quarter 4**  
Length: **15 Days**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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### 6.1 U.S. History: America in the World by the End of 8th Grade

- 6.1.8.HistoryCC.4.b: Explain the growing resistance to slavery and New Jersey's role in the Underground Railroad
- 6.1.8.CivicsHR.3.b: Evaluate the impact of the institution of slavery on the political and economic expansion of the United States.
- 6.1.8.HistoryCC.5.a: Prioritize the causes and events that led to the Civil War from different perspectives.
- 6.1.8.HistoryUP.5.b: Examine the roles of women, African Americans, and Native Americans in the Civil War.

### 6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century by the End of 8th Grade

## Unit Summary

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This unit looks at the deepening divide between the North and South following the election of 1860. Students learn about the important legislation of the period, including the Fugitive Slave Act and Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Supreme Court decision in the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case is studied. Important events including John Brown's Raid at Harper's Ferry, the Election of 1860, and Southern Secession are analyzed.

## Student Learning Objectives

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- Students will learn about the deepening division between the North and South due to slavery.
- Students will learn how the Supreme Court reinforced the legality of slavery.
- Students will learn about specific challenges to slavery leading up to the Civil War.
- Students will learn about Abraham Lincoln's political views and his determination to save the Union.

## Essential Questions

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- What events deepened the divide between the North and South?
- How did the Supreme Court justify the constitutionality of slavery?
- Why was the election of Lincoln a catalyst for Southern secession?

## Enduring Understandings

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- Students will understand that the practice of slavery was the issue that caused the Civil War.
- Students will understand that resistance to slavery took many forms.
- Students will understand that the election of Abraham Lincoln led to Southern secession.

## Application

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Independently respond to a documentary featuring the events leading up to the Civil War.
- Analyze the song *John Brown's Body* and either defend or condemn the actions of the famous abolitionist.

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at:

- Reading the student textbook and identifying the main points for their notes.
- Analyzing different perspectives on an historical event.
- Viewing and responding to a documentary film using direct evidence and examples.