US History: Causes of the Civil War

Cause and Effect: What happens as a result of something else happening? There were many causes of the American Civil War (1860 – 1865).

**Part I: A House Dividing**

Complete the chart about sectionalism to understand how regions differed before the war.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sectionalism in Antebellum America** | | | | |
|  | | North | South | West |
|  | **Population**  (social structure/key groups/impact) |  |  |  |
| **Economics**  (essential “industries”; factors that promoted this “industry”) |  |  |  |
| **Culture**  (what’s it like there?) |  |  |  |

**Part II: Road to Secession**

Use the Road to Secession PowerPoint under Unit 4 to complete the following.

1. Missouri Compromise
   1. Why was it drafted?
   2. What did it say?
   3. What was the consequence?
2. Tariff of Abominations
   1. What did it do?
   2. What was the consequence?
3. Abolitionist Movement
   1. How was it viewed in the North?
   2. How was it viewed in the South?
4. The Wilmot Proviso
   1. What did it say?
   2. Was it passed?
   3. What was the consequence?
5. Compromise of 1850
   1. What were the terms?
   2. Why was it controversial?
   3. What was the consequence?
6. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
   1. What was it about?
   2. Why did it upset Southerners?
   3. Why did it rile Northerners?
7. Kansas-Nebraska Act
   1. Why was it drafted?
   2. What did it say?
   3. What were the consequences?
8. *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1858)
   1. Who was Dred Scott?
   2. What did he want?
   3. What was the court’s ruling?
9. Lincoln/Douglass Debates (1856)
   1. Who were Lincoln and Douglass?
   2. What was the election?
   3. What position did each take on slavery?
      1. Douglass –
      2. Lincoln -
10. Harper’s Ferry, VA (now WV)
    1. Who was John Brown?
    2. What did he do?
    3. How did this change the thoughts of Northerners?
11. Presidential Election of 1860
    1. Who ran?
    2. Who won?
    3. What was the consequence?

**Part III: Organize all of these causes from Parts I & II using the following chart (list).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Political Causes | Economic Causes | Social (or cultural) Causes |
|  |  |  |

**Part IV: In your opinion, what was the most significant cause or causes of the Civil War? Why? (complete sentences please)**