

# Antebellum Era Study Guide

## KNOW THESE TERMS

The **Underground Railroad** was network of abolitionists who helped enslaved people escape to freedom

To **secede** is to leave a membership to a group

**Discrimination** is when equal rights are denied to certain groups of people

**Abolitionist** is a person who wanted to end slavery.

**Cotton Boom** is the era in the mid-1800s South when the cotton industry was growing fast because of inventions like the Cotton Gin; relied on enslaved people

**Artisan** A skilled worker.

**Compromise of 1850**-An agreement over slavery by which California joined the US as a free state and the Fugitive Slave Act was passed.

### **Fugitive Slave Act (1850)**

A law that required all citizens of the US (in the North and South) to help find and capture runaway slaves.

### **The Missouri Compromise (1820)**

Agreement reached to keep the number of “slave states” and the number of “free states” equal.

### **Slave Codes**

Laws that controlled the lives of enslaved African Americans and denied them basic rights.

### **Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)**

A law that created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska that gave the settlers the right to vote on whether each territory would allow slavery or not. This law resulted in raids and fighting between pro and anti-slavery settlers in Kansas known as Bloody Kansas.

## KNOW THESE EVENTS

### **Election of 1860**

- **Republican party** forms in 1850s to keep **slavery** out of **West**
- Democratic party **splits** in two because of the issue of **slavery** (N / S)
- **Constitutional Union Party** created to **oppose war** by avoiding the issue of slavery in the election
- Even though he was **not included** on many southern ballots, **Lincoln won** the election because the **population** in the North was so much **larger**
- **South Carolina secedes** in December 1860 and are followed by **most other southern states** by February 1861

## **Dred Scott**

- John Emerson was the slave owner of Dred Scott and moved to Illinois
- Scott refused to move with Emerson when the man returned to Missouri
- Scott claimed that he was no longer a slave because Illinois did not allow slavery
- Scott cited the 5th Amendment - prevents the unlawful abuse of power undertaken by a governing body
- The Federal Supreme Court ruled against Scott
  - Found that those born into slavery were not considered full citizens of the US
  - The US Constitution did not apply to Scott
  - Scott was forced to return to slavery

## **State's Rights**

**Sectionalism:** Political ideas and beliefs were split between different regions of the country (North, South, West)

- Population in the North was growing
- Population in the South wasn't growing as fast
  - Less representation in the government
  - People felt like the federal government wasn't meeting their needs
- Southerners trusted their state legislatures more than the federal government

## **BE ABLE TO**

Describe what life was like for free blacks in the North. List TWO reasons why northern blacks may have been considered free, and TWO reasons why northern blacks may not have been free (Hint: think education, suffrage, jury duty, jobs, public places, religion etc)

Explain the abolitionist movement. Explain the impact of at least one abolitionist.