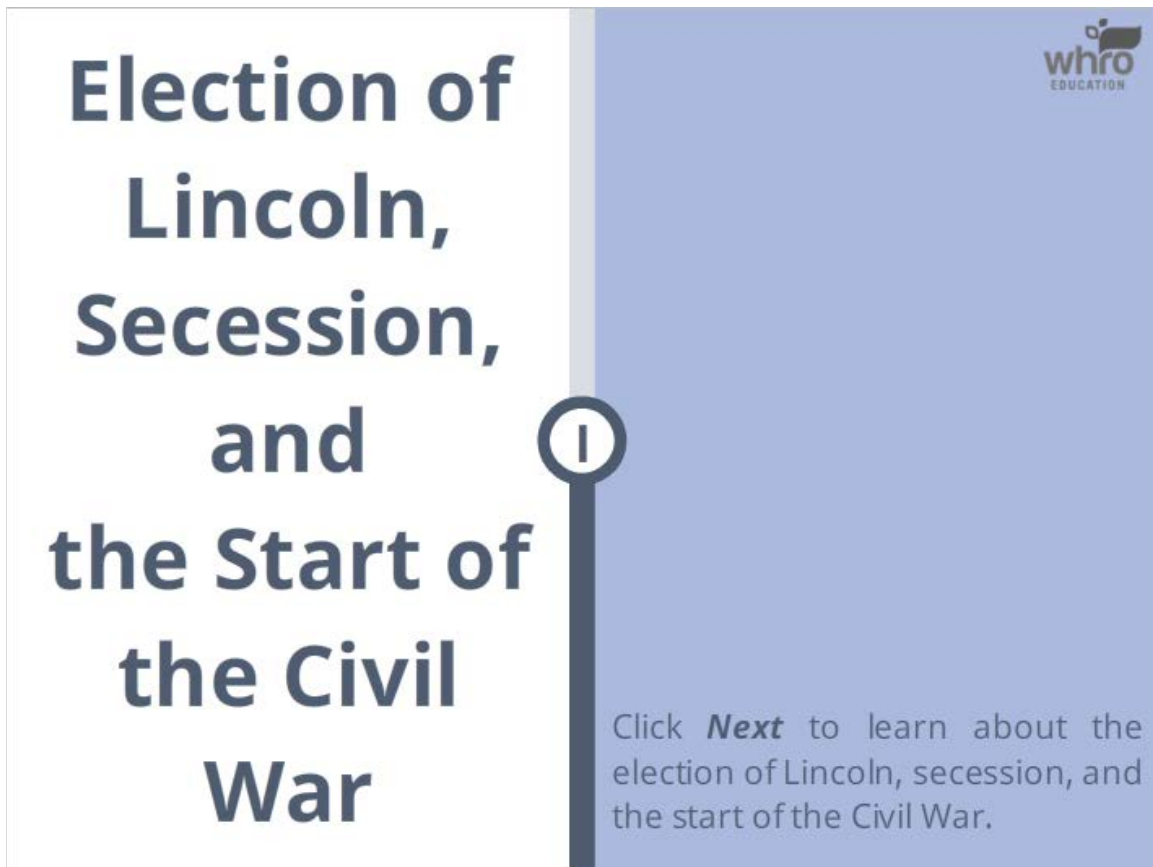


Introduction



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Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War

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Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

The Election



1

The Election of 1860

- The Republican candidate was Abraham Lincoln.
- The Democratic candidates were Stephen Douglas and John Breckinridge.
- The Constitutional Union Party candidate was John Bell.

In the election of 1860, relatively unknown Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln competed against Democrats Stephen Douglas and John C. Breckinridge, and John Bell, who was supported by former Know-Nothings and Whigs from the South. Lincoln emerged as the winner, even though he received less than half of the popular vote and no electoral votes from Southern states. Lincoln's victory was attributed to the support he received from the voters of the Northern and free states. His inauguration was scheduled for March 4th of the following year.

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

Secession

- Southerners felt they had no voice in Congress and that Lincoln would abolish slavery.
- Seven slave states seceded beginning with South Carolina on December 20, 1860.

Secession

2




To many Southerners, Lincoln's election affirmed that the South would no longer have an equal voice in government. They believed that once in office, Lincoln would abolish slavery, and the demise of the Southern economy and way of life would soon follow. The Southern states decided to act by seceding from the Union. South Carolina was the first state to secede, on December 20, 1860. Before Lincoln's inauguration, six additional states also seceded: Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

The Confederacy



3

The Confederacy

- Southern delegates met in Montgomery, Alabama and formed the Confederate States of America.
- The Confederate Constitution protected slavery in new territories.
- United States Senator Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederacy.

On February 4, 1861, delegates from all of the seceding Southern states met in Montgomery, Alabama and formed the Confederate States of America, also known as the Confederacy. The delegates drafted a constitution, which was very similar to the US Constitution. The one major difference, however, was that the constitution of the Confederacy protected the practice of slavery and emphasized the importance of each state's independence and sovereignty. The Confederacy elected United States Senator Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as its president.

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877
Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

Buchanan's Response

- President Buchanan was in the final months when the Southern states began to secede.
- President Buchanan made secession illegal, but it was illegal for him to do anything about a state seceding.

President Buchanan's Response

4



President Buchanan was in the final months of his term when the Southern states began to secede. He responded by declaring that secession was illegal. He also stated, however, that it was illegal for him to take any action against it. His failure to act further escalated the tension between the North and the South and created quite a situation for incoming president Abraham Lincoln.

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877
Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

The Civil War Begins



5

The Civil War Begins

- Confederate President Jefferson Davis instructed the Confederate soldiers to attack Fort Sumter beginning the Civil War on April 12, 1860.
- The Union surrendered Fort Sumter.

Once the Confederacy formed, Confederate soldiers began taking over federal buildings located in the South, namely forts. Only two forts remained under federal control by the time of Lincoln's inauguration: Fort Pickens in Pensacola Harbor in Florida and Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. The battle that would officially start the Civil War took place at Fort Sumter.

On the day following his inauguration, President Lincoln received word that Confederate forces had surrounded Fort Sumter and were interrupting the arrival of needed food and supplies. The Confederate forces demanded the fort's commander to surrender or face an attack. President Lincoln was left with a difficult decision. If he sent additional troops and weapons to reinforce Fort Sumter, he would be responsible initiating the war. However, if he took no action, he would be essentially abandoning the fort.

President Lincoln decided to send only food in order to sustain the Union forces, and in doing so he placed the decision to officially start the war in Jefferson Davis' hands. Davis gave the order to attack Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, officially starting the Civil War. The Union forces surrendered the fort the following day.

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 2 Content: The Election of Lincoln, Secession, and the Start of the Civil War Notes

Lincoln Calls for Federal Troops

- President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to join the Union Army.
- Virginia seceded from the Union followed by Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
- Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri remained in the Union.

President Lincoln Calls for Federal Troops

6



Replay

Exit

After the surrender of Fort Sumter, Lincoln called for 75,000 men to join the Union Army. Northerners responded to the request by volunteering in overwhelmingly large numbers. In the South, however, Lincoln's request led to more secession. Virginia seceded from the Union on April 17, 1861. Over the next two months, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee also seceded. The remaining slave states of Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri remained a part of the Union. Many of the residents of these four remaining states, however, fought in the Confederate Army.