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VOCABULARY GLOSSARY	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Unit Narrative

Unit 9 examines the political, economic, and social issues that contributed to growing divisions within the United States and ultimately led to the Civil War. The unit begins by exploring early national debates over the expansion of slavery, including the Missouri Compromise, which attempted to maintain a balance between free and slave states. Students evaluate how sectionalism developed as regions grew apart in their economic systems, political priorities, and interpretations of federal authority. Through analysis of primary sources, maps, and legislation such as the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act, students trace how disagreements intensified over several decades. These lessons illustrate that the Civil War emerged gradually as the result of unresolved conflicts about state and federal power, territorial expansion, and differing economic and social structures.

The middle of the unit highlights several key events that accelerated the nation toward war. Students examine the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, which addressed questions of citizenship and congressional authority over the territories. They also study John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry, which heightened tensions and influenced public opinion in both the North and South. The Election of 1860 provides insight into the political landscape of the time, showing how regional voting patterns revealed deep national divisions. By reading secession documents and political speeches, students explore the stated reasons Southern states gave for leaving the Union and how debates over constitutional interpretation and states’ rights shaped their decisions.

As the unit progresses into the military phase of the Civil War, students analyze major battles, strategic turning points, and the evolving goals of the conflict. Lessons on Fort Sumter, Bull Run, and Antietam show how expectations for a quick conflict changed as the war unfolded. Students also examine the Emancipation Proclamation, learning how it shifted the Union’s aims and influenced both domestic and international perceptions of the war. By studying the Gettysburg Address, students consider Lincoln’s emphasis on national unity, shared sacrifice, and the broader purpose of the conflict. In addition, students learn about the contributions of African Americans—enslaved and free—who supported the Union through military service, labor, and other forms of involvement. Lessons on the Battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg emphasize how Union victories helped change the momentum of the war.

The unit concludes with the closing stages of the conflict and its immediate aftermath. Students study the collapse of the Confederacy, the significance of the surrender at Appomattox Court House, and the impact of Lincoln’s assassination on the nation. By analyzing the human costs of the war and its constitutional implications, students develop an understanding of the Civil War as a pivotal event that

reshaped the United States politically, socially, and economically. Throughout Unit 9, students consider themes of loyalty, freedom, national identity, and civic responsibility, laying the foundation for Unit 10's examination of Reconstruction and the long-term challenges of rebuilding and redefining the nation after the war.

CONTENT STANDARDS -

Below are the standards **taught** and **assessed** in this unit.

Civil War		Connected Knowledge and Skills 8.17, 8.18, 8.22, 8.23, 8.26
<p>8.7 History. The student understands how political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War.</p> <p>8.8 History. The student understands individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War.</p>		
STAAR	Readiness Standards	Supporting Standards
3-4 items	8.1(A)^ identify the major eras in U.S. history through 1877, including ... sectionalism, Civil War, ... and describe their causes and effects	8.1(B)^ explain the significance of the following dates: ... 1861–1865, Civil War
	8.7(C) analyze the impact of slavery on different sections of the United States	8.7(A) analyze the impact of tariff policies on sections of the United States before the Civil War
	8.8(B) explain the central role of the expansion of slavery in causing sectionalism, disagreement over states' rights, and the Civil War	8.7(B) compare the effects of political, economic, and social factors on slaves and free blacks
	8.8(C) explain significant events of the Civil War, including the firing on Fort Sumter; the battles of Antietam, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg; the Emancipation Proclamation; Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House; and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln	8.7(D) identify the provisions and compare the effects of congressional conflicts and compromises prior to the Civil War ...
	8.10(B)^ compare places and regions of the United States in terms of physical and human characteristics	8.8(A) explain the roles played by significant individuals during the Civil War, including Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Abraham Lincoln, and heroes such as congressional Medal of Honor recipients William Carney and Philip Bazaar
	8.10(C)^ analyze the effects of physical and human geographic factors such as weather, landforms, waterways, transportation, and communication on major historical events in the United States	8.8(D) analyze Abraham Lincoln's ideas about liberty, equality, union, and government as contained in his first and second inaugural addresses and the Gettysburg Address and contrast them with the ideas contained in Jefferson Davis's inaugural address
	8.12(C)^ analyze the causes and effects of economic differences among different regions of the United States at selected times	8.10(A)^ locate places and regions directly related to major eras and turning points in the United States during the ... 19th centuries
	8.15(D)^ analyze how the U.S. Constitution reflects the principles of limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights	8.12(A)^ identify economic differences among different regions of the United States
	8.17(B) explain constitutional issues arising over the issue of states' rights, including the Nullification Crisis and the Civil War	8.18(C) evaluate the impact of landmark Supreme Court decision Dred Scott v. Sandford on life in the United States
		8.21(C)^ summarize historical events in which compromise resulted in a resolution such as the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, and Kansas-Nebraska Act
		8.22(A) analyze the leadership qualities of elected and appointed leaders of the United States such as ... Abraham Lincoln
		8.22(B) describe the contributions of significant political, social, and military leaders of the United States such as Frederick Douglass ...
		8.23(B) explain how urbanization contributed to conflicts resulting from differences in religion, social class, and political beliefs
		8.23(C)^ identify ways conflicts between people from various racial, ethnic, and religious groups were addressed
		8.23(E)^ identify the political, social, and economic contributions of women to American society
		8.26(A)^ identify examples of American ... music ... that reflect society in different eras such as ... the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," ...
		8.28(A)^ compare the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations that have influenced daily life in different periods in U.S. history

UNDERSTANDINGS, QUESTIONS

Enduring Understanding	Vocabulary of the Topic	
<p>A nation facing irresolvable conflict between two internal factions may turn to violent civil war as a solution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Secede ✓ Union ✓ Confederacy ✓ Antebellum ✓ Abolitionist ✓ Total War ✓ Fugitive ✓ Turning point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Border state ✓ Retreat ✓ Skirmish ✓ Blockade ✓ Sectionalism ✓ Tariff ✓ Slave/free state ✓ Emancipate
Key Questions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the government try to keep the Civil War from happening? • How did issues related to slavery, including states' rights, sectionalism and tariffs, help cause of the Civil War? • What were the major turning points of the Civil War? • How did the Civil War change our nation? • How was writing important to leaders before, during, and after the Civil War? 		

Unit 9 At-A-Glance (Daily Lesson View)	
Lesson 01	The Missouri Compromise
Lesson 02	Sectionalism Intensifies
Lesson 03	Compromise of 1850_Day 1
Lesson 04	Compromise of 1850_Day 2
Lesson 05	The Kansas-Nebraska Act and John Brown
Lesson 06	<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i> and the Election of 1860
Lesson 07	Causes of the Civil War and Advantages and Disadvantages of the North and South
Lesson 08	Battles: Ft. Sumter, Bull Run, Antietam
Lesson 09	Emancipation Proclamation and African Americans in the War
Lesson 10	Battles: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, and Appomattox Courthouse
Lesson 11	Lincoln's Words and Assassination: Primary Source Lesson
Unit 9 Assessment	

