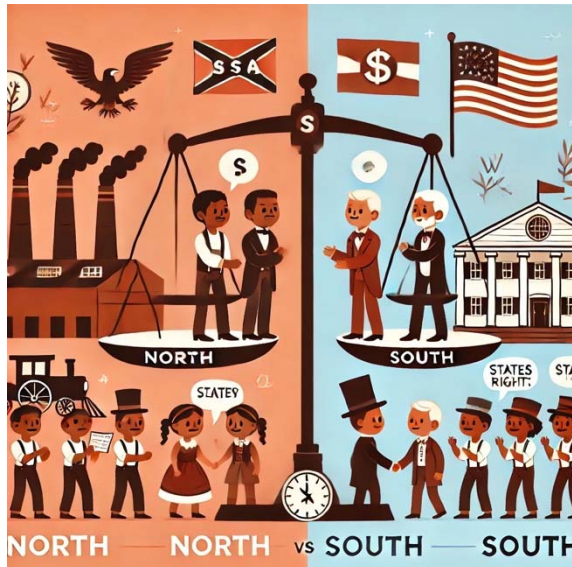


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## North vs. South

Before the American Civil War, the United States was deeply divided. The North and the South had different ways of life, economies, and beliefs about slavery. These differences led to growing tensions, and eventually, the country broke into war.

### The North and the South: Different Worlds

In the early 1800s, the North was becoming more industrialized. People in the North worked in factories, businesses, and farms, but they did not rely on enslaved labor. Many Northerners believed that slavery was wrong and unfair.

Over time, more and more people in the North wanted to abolish (end) slavery.

The South, however, depended on plantations that grew crops like cotton, tobacco, and sugar. These crops made a lot of money, but the work was very hard. Southern plantation owners forced enslaved people to do the work without pay and without freedom. The Southern economy relied on slavery, and many Southerners wanted to keep it legal.

### New States, New Problems

As the U.S. expanded, new states were added to the country. But a big question arose: Would these new states allow slavery or not? The North wanted new states to be free states, while the South wanted them to allow slavery. This debate led to fierce arguments in Congress and created deep divisions between the North and South.

The Missouri Compromise (1820) and the Compromise of 1850 were created to try to keep the peace, but they did not solve the problem. When the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) let people vote on whether their states would have slavery, violence broke out. This event, called "Bleeding Kansas," showed how deeply Americans disagreed about slavery.

### The Growing Divide

Abolitionists in the North, like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe, worked hard to expose the evils of slavery. Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, made many Northerners even more determined to end slavery.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. He did not want slavery to spread, which made Southern states angry. Soon, Southern states decided to secede (break away) from the United States. This led to the Civil War, the deadliest war in American history.

The fight over slavery was at the heart of the war. It was not just about the economy or states' rights—it was about freedom, justice, and what kind of country America would be.