**Gifted Georgia Studies: Primary Source Mini-Project**

Research Question: How did the events on the Causes of the Civil War web increase sectional tensions?

Method: Use the following websites to compare and contrast reactions to the events on your web.

[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

[www.teachingamericanhistory.org](http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org) (speeches and writings)

[www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org)

Task: For each of the following you should use two primary sources to compare and/or contrast both Northern and Southern reactions.

1. Missouri Compromise
   1. Suggestions:
      1. Thomas Jefferson to John Holmes (any part not given in class)
      2. John C. Calhoun, *Speech Against Clay’s Measures*
2. Compromise of 1850
   1. Suggestions
      1. Fugitive Slave Law and William Lloyd Garrison
      2. Popular Sovereignty (arguments for and against)
3. Kansas-Nebraska Act
   1. Suggestions
      1. Lincoln’s speeches (he gave several in protest)
      2. Popular Sovereignty (arguments for and against)
      3. Also consider searching for “repeal of the Missouri Compromise” or “repeal of the 1820 compromise”
4. Dred Scott Decision
   1. Suggestion
      1. Lincoln’s Speech at Springfield, June 26, 1857
      2. Chief Justice Roger Taney’s Opinion (if you use this, see Ms. Fielder for direction)

Delivery: You may give a Google Slides Presentation or turn in a written report.

Concluding Question: After Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860 without a single vote in the southern United States and without the majority of popular votes, South Carolina seceded from the union. By the time he took office in March, 1841, seven states, including Georgia, also had seceded. In arguing for secession, Senator Robert Toombs said:

*We are said to be a happy and prosperous people. We have been, because we have hitherto maintained our ancient rights and liberties - we will be until we surrender them. They are in danger; come, freemen, to the rescue. If we are prosperous, it is due to God, ourselves, and the wisdom of our State government. We have an executive, legislative, and judicial department at home, possessing and entitled to the confidence of the people. I have already vainly asked for the law of the Federal Government that promotes our prosperity. I have shown you many that retard that prosperity - many that drain our coffers for the benefit of our bitterest foes. I say bitterest foes - show me the nation in the world that hates, despises, villifies, or plunders us like our abolition "brethren" in the North. There is none. I can go to England or France, or any other country in Europe with my slave, without molestation or violating any law. I can go anywhere except in my own country, whilom called "the glorious Union;" here alone am I stigmatized as a felon; here alone am I an outlaw; here alone am I under the ban of the empire; here alone I have neither security nor tranquillity; here alone are organized governments ready to protect the incendiary, the assassin who burns my dwelling or takes my life or those of my wife and children; here alone are hired emissaries paid by brethren to glide through the domestic circle and intrigue insurrection with all of its nameless horrors. My countrymen, "if you have nature in you, bear it not." Withdraw yourselves from such a confederacy; it is your right to do so - your duty to do so. I know not why the abolitionists should object to it, unless they want to torture and plunder you. If they resist this great sovereign right, make another war of independence, for that then will be the question; fight its battles over again - reconquer liberty and independence. As for me, I will take any place in the great conflict for rights which you may assign. I will take none in the Federal Government during Mr. Lincoln's administration.*

**Based on your research, do you think these states were justified in leaving the Union? Is Toombs right?**

**Evaluation:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Event | 4=Students have used a Northern and Southern perspective and have connected the sources to the research question. | 3=One of the criteria for a “4” is missing. | 2=Two of the criteria for a “4” is missing | 1=Event is included but there is no evidence of research. |
| Missouri Compromise |  |  |  |  |
| Compromise of 1850 |  |  |  |  |
| Kansas-Nebraska Act |  |  |  |  |
| Dred Scott Decision |  |  |  |  |