**American Civil War**

• Civil War refers to the fighting that occurs between opposing sides in the same country

• American Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865

• Fighting was between the Union (Northern part of the United States) and the Confederacy (Southern part of United States)

• Was over issues of State’s Rights and Slavery and Economics

States’ Rights

• This is the belief that the power of the Federal government is given to them by the Individual States (In other words the Federal Government can only do that which the States allow them to do.)

• If the Federal Gov’t tries to overstep its authority and enact laws contrary to what the States agree to, then the States can declare that law Null and Void (Nullification) and do not have to obey it

• This causes problems because then some states agree to new laws and some do not.

**Slavery**

• First Slaves arrived in United States in 1619

• Both North and South used slaves but the South used many more than the north for agricultural purposes.

• Slavery was NOT illegal in the U.S. but slave trade or importation of slaves from other countries had been made illegal by this time period.

• Most northern States began to oppose slavery while the South saw it as a “necessary evil”

• Questions arose over how to count slaves for representation in Congress (3/5 Compromise)

• More Questions were raised on whether to allow slavery to spread to new U.S. territories as they were acquired.

• In answer to these questions, several more compromises were written, voted upon, and passed by Congress

**Missouri Compromise**

• In 1819, there 11 Free States ( ones that did not allow slavery) and 11 Slave States (ones that did allow slavery) so the votes in the Senate were equal 22-22 between slave and free states.

• 1820 Missouri applied for statehood which would upset the balance in the Senate. In a compromise, Congress agreed to allow Missouri in as a Slave state while admitting Maine as a Free State. Also, all new territory above the 36 20 latitude line could NOT have slavery.

• This compromise ended the slave state verses free state issue BUT only for a short time.

**Dred Scott Decision**

• Dred Scott Information

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2932.html>

\* In1834, a slave by the name of Dred Scott was taken from the slave state of Missouri into the the free state of Illinois then to Wisconsin which was another free State before they returned to Missouri.

• Dred Scot maintained that he had lived in a Free State and therefore must be considered free. He filed a lawsuit with the help of Northern Abolitionists (people against slavery) and the case was heard by the Supreme Court.

• The Court decided that since he was a slave and NOT a citizen, then he NO legal rights to even bring a lawsuit against his owner.

• The Court also ruled that Congress COULD NOT stop slavery within the territories which upset the earlier Missouri Compromise.

**Compromise of 1850**

• Gold was discovered in the U.S. territory of California in 1849. Immediately people moved to California and the population grew enough for California to ask for admittance as a state.

• There were 15 free States and 15 Free states at this time and California’s constitution did not allow slavery. If California became a state, then the balance in the Senate would again be upset.

• These following compromises were made (Compromise of 1850)

– California became a free state and territories of New Mexico and Utah could decide on their own if they wanted slavery or not.

– Slave trading in the District of Columbia stopped but people living there could keep their slaves.

– Fugitive Slave Law passed which said slaves that ran away to free states MUST be returned to the owners.

**Georgia Platform**

• Many Georgians did not like the Compromise of 1850 and were not not to cast votes to approve its passage but 3 men, Cobb, Stephens, and Toombs, asked Georgians to accept it. Their alliance was called the Georgia platform and they campaigned for passage of the Compromise of 1850 as the ONLY way to save the United States and keep from tearing it apart into two countries. North and South

**Kansas Nebraska Act**

• The Slavery issue just would not die and as new territories opened up there was a bitter argument over where they should be Free or Slave.

• Stephen Douglas proposed that Kansas and Nebraska both be admitted as states and instead of going with previous compromises, he suggested that the people living in the territories should just vote on what they wanted to be. The majority vote would decide. ( This idea is known as Popular Sovereignty.)

• Both sides (anti slavery and proslavery) shipped people in by trainloads in order to win the votes. There were bitter fights between sides in which sometimes entire towns were burnt and the people killed. It was so bad that Kansas became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

• When Kansas applied for statehood, they were going to allow slavery but the Northern Senators voted against admittance as a state.

• There was an uneven number of votes in the Senate at this time with more Northern states that were against slavery and fewer southern states that were proslavery.

• Therefore when it came time to vote on slavery issues, the North was always going to win.

• This really made the Southern states mad.