

The Union in Peril**Section 1****The Divisive Politics of Slavery****Terms and Names****secession** Decision by a state to leave the Union**popular sovereignty** The right to vote for or against slavery**Underground Railroad** Secret network of people who hid fugitive slaves who went north to freedom**Harriet Tubman** Famous “conductor” on the Underground Railroad**Harriet Beecher Stowe** Author of the antislavery novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin***Franklin Pierce** 14th president**Dred Scott** Slave who was briefly taken by his owner into free territory**Abraham Lincoln** President during the Civil War**Confederacy** The Confederate States of America**Jefferson Davis** President of the Confederate States of America**Before You Read**

In the last section, you saw how some people began a movement to abolish slavery. In this section, you will see how slavery divided the nation.

As You Read

Create a time line showing events that heightened tensions between the North and the South.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH; SLAVERY IN THE TERRITORIES (Pages 156-158)**How was a temporary slavery compromise reached?**

The North and the South had developed into very separate regions. The plantation economy in the South depended on slavery. Northern industry did not need slavery and opposition to slavery grew in the region.

In 1849, California asked to enter the Union as a free state. Southerners were angry because much of California was south of the Missouri Compromise line. Southerners thought that any move to ban

slavery was an attack on their way of life. They threatened **secession**, the decision by a state to leave the Union.

Henry Clay presented the Compromise of 1850. To please the North, it said that California would be admitted as a free state. For the South, it included the Fugitive Slave Act. This law required Northerners to return fugitive, or escaped, slaves to their masters. The Compromise called for **popular sovereignty** in New Mexico and Utah territories.

Congress turned down the Compromise. But Senator Stephen Douglas took up the leadership and managed to get the Compromise passed.