

Terms

Republican Party
Third Party System
Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)
“Little Giant”
“Slave Power”
Election of 1852
nativism
Know-Nothing Party (American Party)
“Bleeding Kansas”
Caning of Charles Sumner (1856)
Election of 1856
“Black Republicans”
Dred Scott Case
mass production
interchangeable parts

Panic of 1857
sectionalism
free labor ideology
Lincoln-Douglas debates
Freeport Doctrine
John Brown's Raid (Harper's Ferry)

Questions

1. Why was the Kansas-Nebraska Act so controversial? Why did it contribute greatly to the collapse of the Whig Party?
2. From what nations or regions did most immigrants to the U.S. originate during the 1840s and 1850s? Why were immigration levels so high during those decades?
3. For the most part, which party did the masses of antebellum immigrants support? Why? During the 1840s and 1850s, which parties were most opposed to immigrants?
4. Identify two (2) reasons why the Know-Nothing Party faded in strength and the Republican Party eventually gained the support of many Know-Nothing Party's supporters by 1856.

5. How did the territory of Kansas end up with two different territorial governments by 1856? Which government was more legitimate (i.e., better reflected the opinions of the territory's residents)? Did Kansas become a slave state under the Lecompton constitution?
6. Identify two (2) major components of the Dred Scott decision. (1857)
7. Briefly indicate how economic growth in the North and West during the 1840s and 1850s increased sectional divisions (between North and South)?
8. Briefly indicate two ways that the differences between Northern and Southern literacy rates and educational systems reflect cultural differences (e.g., differences in beliefs, practices, etc.) between the regions? *[Note: this question calls for you to apply prior knowledge and to do some interpretation. You won't find an explicit answer in the book.]*
9. During the 1840s and 1850s, some white leaders in the South argued that the South needed more economic development—especially banks, railroads, textile mills, etc.—and other insisted that it didn't. What arguments did each group make, for and against economic development?
10. According to James McPherson (author of chapter 14), Northern wage laborers were materially better off than southern slaves. Briefly indicate two items of evidence he presents to support that claim.

11. Besides opposition to the westward extension of slavery, what did Republicans want or support (especially in terms of their economic agenda)?

12. Many struggling or poor whites in the North and South did not necessarily benefit from the dominant economic style in their regions. Why did they nonetheless overwhelmingly support those systems and societies?

13. Identify 2-3 of the main issues at stake in the Lincoln-Douglass debates (during their Senate race of 1858 in Illinois).

14. How did John Brown's Raid on the Harper's Ferry arsenal heighten sectional tensions?