

**ELECTION OF 1860
ANSWER KEY**

Questions for Excerpt from “A House Divided”

1. In this speech, Abraham Lincoln said that the country was in its “fifth year, since a policy was initiated with the *avowed* object, and *confident* promise, of putting an end to slavery agitation.” What plan/policy was he referring to?

Lincoln was referring to the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which was passed in 1854.

2. Lincoln argued that not only had this policy on slavery not worked, but it had made the situation worse. What did Lincoln suggest would have to happen to overcome the failure of the policy?

Lincoln suggested that the country must either have slavery in every state or slavery in no states. The country could not continue with this internal opposition.

3. What did Lincoln mean when he said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand”?

Lincoln meant that the country must stick together on the policy it chose in regard to slavery and that if the country remained divided it would fail.

4. Although when he gave the speech Lincoln could not have *known* what would happen, what did Lincoln predict would happen to the Union?

Lincoln stated that the Union could not stay together as half-slave and half-free.

Questions for “Free Speech, Free Soil, Free Men”

1. Describe and identify the people seen in this certificate.

Student should use close visual analysis skills to identify each person and describe them. They should identify Abraham Lincoln and his running mate Hannibal Hamlin specifically, and more generally describe the club members found on either side of the certificate. They could also describe the people assembled in front of the U.S. Capitol.

2. The bottom border of this certificate portrays scenes from across the United States. What elements can you identify? Why might the certificate’s creator have chosen these images?

Student should describe the mix of geographic locations, including a western scene with a locomotive and a more urban, presumably eastern scene.

Student should make a claim and support it with evidence. Answers should point toward what these two scenes say about the Wide-Awake Clubs’ views on the extension of slavery.

3. What does the phrase “free soil” mean in the context of this image?

“Free soil” means preventing the expansion of slavery into the western territories of the United States.

4. Several symbols associated with the U.S. government can be found in this certificate. Name and describe them.

Student should use close visual analysis skills to identify the flag, olive branch, eagle, shield and “e pluribus unum” banner.

Questions for Excerpt from First Inaugural Address

1. Lincoln said that the South's fears that he would interfere with their property rights were misplaced. What property rights, specifically, were southerners most concerned about losing? What evidence did Lincoln use to support his claim?

Southerners most feared Lincoln would interfere with their right to own slaves.

He quoted himself from previous speeches to support his claim that he did not intend to interfere, also noting that he was elected by people who knew he thought this.

2. Lincoln stated that a civil war would occur only if what happened?

A civil war would occur only if the South was the aggressor.

3. What did Lincoln suggest was the true nature of the relationship between the North and South?

The North and the South were friends, not enemies, who were bonded by their shared rebellion against British tyranny in the American Revolution.

4. In what ways did Lincoln's address demonstrate his leadership in facing the crisis of a civil war?

Student must make a claim and support their answer with evidence from the text.

Questions for the Gettysburg Address

1. According to Lincoln, what was the main founding principle for the United States?

The United States was founded on the principle of liberty.

2. What was the “unfinished work” that Lincoln said men fought for at Gettysburg? What was the “task” that remained to be done?

The war was still to be won and freedom guaranteed for all.

3. What was the tone of Lincoln’s speech?

Lincoln’s tone was solemn and respectful. He inspired listeners to stay focused on a task still to be finished.

4. In 1860, Lincoln and the Republican platform resolved to oppose the extension of slavery into western territories. At the end of the Gettysburg Address what did Lincoln indicate that the United States should pursue?

Opposing the extension of slavery was no longer enough. Rather, the United States should have a “new birth of freedom,” and fight for freedom for all.

Questions for Excerpt from Second Inaugural Address

1. According to Lincoln, what was one goal of his first inaugural address, delivered four years earlier?

The goal of his first inaugural address was to save the Union without war.

2. Lincoln describes the North and South this way: "One of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish." Which is which and how do you know?

South: Make war

North: Accept war

Student answers should use evidence from their study of the Civil War about which side attacked first. They can also compare this address with Lincoln's first inaugural about what the North was willing to do to protect the Union.

3. What did Lincoln identify as the cause of the war?

Lincoln identified slavery as the cause of the war.

4. What did the address's final sentence suggest about Lincoln's attitude toward the Confederate states going forward?

Lincoln wished to ensure that no one continued to be punished for the war going forward and that a lasting peace would be formed.