

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Frederick and Abraham

*Use the text to answer each question below.*

1. Anyone living in America during the 1800s could tell you that at that time, the nation was divided politically and ideologically. The division was between the North and the South, and while it was chiefly over the issue of slavery, it was also about power and economics.

The North wanted more free states (states where slavery had been abolished) so they could control more elections. The South wanted more slave states for the same reason. Furthermore, wage paying Northern businesses didn't like being forced to compete against slave labor in the South. Slavery supported not only the Southern economy, but Southern society as well.

There were only a few voices in America at the time that dared to make slavery a moral question. Among them were Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass, who were all prominent abolitionists.

The division between the North and the South in the 1800s can best be described as

- |                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| A. moral       | B. political and economic |
| C. superficial | D. geographic only        |

2. The majority of slave owners in America prohibited their slaves from learning to read or write because they feared slaves would use these skills to resist or escape oppression. One of the most extraordinary figures in history proved them right: Frederick Douglass, who was born a slave and would go on to become America's leading abolitionist.

After making an amazing escape from slavery, Douglass settled in Massachusetts, where his improvised speeches on the evils of slavery caught the ear of local abolitionists. William Lloyd Garrison, a prominent New England abolitionist, hired Douglass to give a series of talks that led to Douglass becoming a well-known and respected figure in the anti-slavery movement. Douglass would go on to counsel Abraham Lincoln during the war while also recruiting African-American soldiers to fight for the Union.

William Lloyd Garrison would most likely agree with which of these statements?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Frederick Douglass should be jailed for fleeing the South.  | B. Frederick Douglass was proof that slaves should not be taught to read or write.                     |
| C. While Frederick Douglass's escape was amazing, he played no role in the larger abolitionist movement. | D. Frederick Douglass was an impressive man who could play a crucial role in the fight to end slavery. |

3. As the debate over slavery continued, Andrew Jackson's Democratic Party grew in power and became the voice of the South. Northerners organized themselves to form the Republican Party, taking on the name of Jefferson's old party. Today, it sounds weird to have a Democratic majority in the South and a Republican majority in the North, but that just shows how the names of parties have shifted over the years.

With the tension between pro-slavery Democrats and mostly anti-slavery Republicans growing, the nation turned its attention to a Senate race in Illinois between Stephen Douglas and an unknown lawyer named Abraham Lincoln.

Which of the following best describes the difference between the Democratic and Republican parties during the 1800s?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Democrats were mostly anti-slavery while Republicans were pro-slavery.         | B. Democrats were pro-slavery while Republicans were mostly anti-slavery.         |
| C. Democrats were popular in the North and Republicans were popular in the South. | D. Democrats wanted to have Senate races while Republicans wanted to cancel them. |

4. Lincoln ended up losing the seat to Douglas in 1858, but through a series of succinct and moving speeches that he gave during the race, he captured the attention of America. The "house divided" speech is Lincoln's first famous speech. He compared the nation to a house—a simple but powerful metaphor—and said the house "will become all one thing or all the other," meaning that slavery would either be abolished completely in both the North and South, or would become completely legal. Two years later, in 1860, Lincoln would become president.

When Lincoln said the house "will become all one thing or all the other," he meant that

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. America would eventually choose between him and Stephen Douglas for president.         | B. all citizens either needed to become Democrats or Republicans for the country to be united. |
| C. slavery would either be abolished throughout America or would become legal everywhere. | D. America should remain divided because the North and South did not want the same things.     |