

West Virginia Studies Resource Development

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| Title of Lesson: The Presidential Election of 1860 in Virginia |
| Grade level: 8th Grade |
| Summary: Through this lesson, students will learn the impact of the Presidential Election of 1860. Students will analyze election results, political cartoons, and other primary source documents to learn about the national implications of the election, as well as the impact of the election on politics in eastern and western Virginia. Students will gain an understanding of how the election pushed southern states towards secession, and eventually pushed western Virginia into the formation of a new state. |
| WV CCR Social Studies Standards: SS.8.22: Demonstrate an understanding of the American Civil War including its causes, effects and the major events that led to West Virginia statehood. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the effect of key events leading to western Virginia's separation from Virginia after secession (e.g., First and Second Wheeling Conventions and John Brown's Raid).• Describe the moral, ethical and legal tensions that led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia and how these tensions were resolved (e.g., Virginia vs. West Virginia 1871).• Compare and contrast the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in West Virginia (e.g., the Battle of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Droop Mountain, Battle of Scary Creek and Battle of Carnifex Ferry).• Identify significant contributions of men and women of West Virginia during the Civil War and identify the roles of ethnic and racial minorities. |
| Essential Question (content): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Who were the candidates for president in the 1860 presidential election?- What were the results of the 1860 presidential election in eastern and western Virginia?- How did the 1860 presidential election push the southern states towards secession?- What issues were the focus of the platforms for candidates in the 1860 election? |
| Students will be able to do (skills): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Students will analyze election results to determine the outcome of the 1860 presidential election in Virginia, and the entire United States.- Students will complete primary source analysis of political cartoons from the period of the 1860 election.- Students will understand the divisions which existed between northern and southern states, and how the results of the presidential election pushed southern states to secession. |
| Materials & Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1860 Presidential Election Results for Virginia, County by County http://archive.wvculture.org/hiStory/statehood/1860presidentialvote.html- Presidential Election of 1860 Political Cartoons- National Archives Political Cartoon Analysis Worksheet https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/cartoon_analysis_worksheet_for_mer.pdf |

- **Blank Graph Paper**
<https://mathbits.com/MathBits/StudentResources/GraphPaper/full%20page.pdf>
- **Colored Pencils**
- **Calculators**
- **Laptop Computers/Computer Lab**

Learning Plan:

1. Students will begin the class by viewing 2 political cartoons detailing the Presidential Election of 1860. The political cartoons may either be distributed to students as a worksheet, or projected for the entire classroom.
2. Students will complete a primary source analysis of the political cartoons utilizing an analysis worksheet provided by the National Archives. After completing the worksheet, students will participate in a class discussion on the cartoons and the four candidates for president.
3. Students will review material from prior class discussions and textbook material to understand the platforms of the four candidates in the 1860 Presidential Election.
4. Students will analyze the results of the election in Virginia. Students will view the county results, available from the WV Department of Arts, Culture, and History to understand the results in the counties of both eastern and western Virginia.
5. Students will utilize graph paper to graph the results for each of the 4 candidates in eastern and western Virginia, as well as for the entire state of Virginia.
6. After completing the graphing exercise, students will participate in a class discussion to analyze the data of the 1860 presidential election in Virginia.
7. Students will complete the accompanying analysis questions for the graphing exercise, which will require them to look deeper into the material and draw conclusions based on the available information.
8. Students will conclude the lesson by discussing the results of the election on a national level. Additionally, students will consider in their participation in the class discussion how the election of Abraham Lincoln convinced southern states to secede from the Union.

Checking for Understanding:

Student comprehension of the Election of 1860 will be gauged a number of ways. Student participation in discussions throughout the class period will provide the instructor with an idea of the student level of understanding of the various topics addressed in class. Additionally, students will complete a data analysis exercise by completing a graphing exercise and accompanying questions to show comprehension of the statistical data of the results of the Election of 1860.

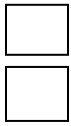
Accommodations:

Accommodations for this lesson may include providing students with the data figures for the graphing exercise, rather than instructing them to analyze the data provided and calculating these figures. Additionally, students may also be divided into groups to complete the data analysis and political cartoon analysis activities instead of working independently. For higher level students, additional activities to analyze the election results data on a national level could be implemented, and students could also be asked to provide a more thorough analysis of the political cartoons than just completing the analysis worksheet from the National Archives.

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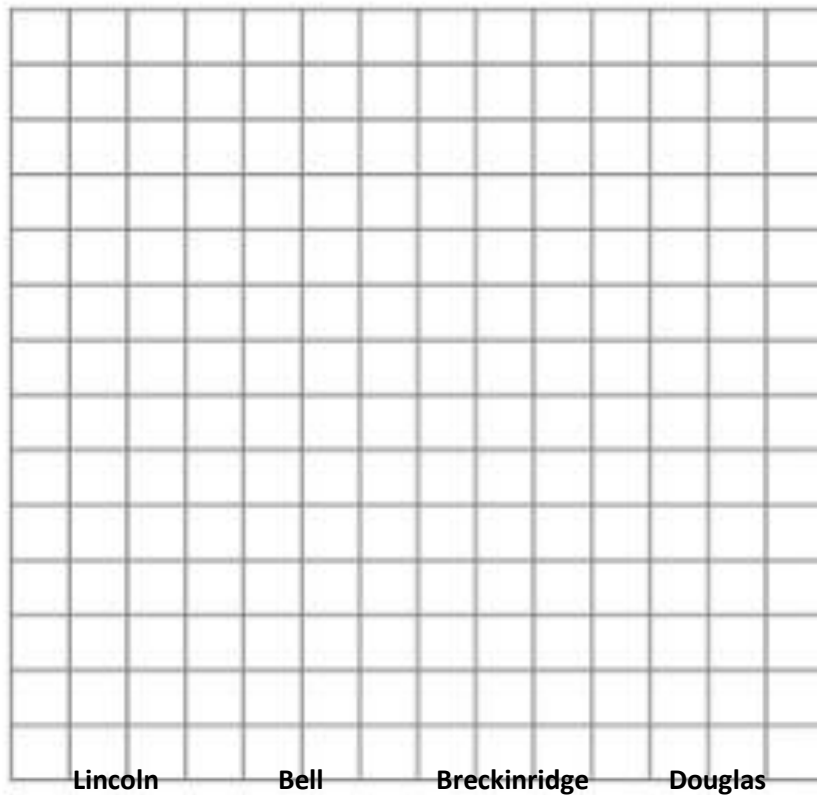
Presidential Election of 1860 Results – Virginia

Directions: Using the data from the WV Culture page on the State of Convenience, graph the results of the presidential election of 1860 for eastern and western Virginia and then answer the analysis questions below in complete sentences.



Eastern VA

Western VA



Analysis Questions

1. What do the results of the election tell you about politics in eastern and western Virginia?
2. In what region did Abraham Lincoln receive the most votes?
3. Which candidate received the most total votes in Virginia? Why do you think this candidate was so successful in Virginia?
4. Which 2 candidates received the fewest number of votes in Virginia? Why were they not successful in the election?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Election of 1860 Political Cartoon Analysis

Cartoons from <http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/cartoon/election.html>

