

## ***CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: WEBQUEST***

**Essential Question: What were the underlying and immediate causes of the American Civil War?**

**Correlation to Common Core Standards/Student Objectives:** Students will be able to:

1. Accurately research and answer questions about the Causes of the Civil War using Internet sources.
2. Identify underlying and immediate causes of the American Civil War.
3. Organize researched information into a “Causes of the Civil War Graphic Organizer.”

**Evaluation/Assessment:**

You will be based on the accuracy of your answers to the webquest work sheet, the accuracy of the Civil War Graphic Organizer and completion of the flashcards. You will take a quiz on this material.

**Historical Background:** The American Civil War (1861 to 1865) sent our country into a national crisis that will devastate the Nation. The Civil War will threaten to break up the United States of America, will lead to over 500,000 American deaths, and destroy through total war the economy of the South. This War was caused by many underlying social, economic, and political factors that will in the end lead to the attack on Fort Sumter in 1861 and the start of the Civil War. The issue of slavery, rise of cotton production in the South, growth of the abolition movement, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, expansion of slavery into the territories, election of President Lincoln in 1860, and the secession of southern states are some of the major issues that will lead to the outbreak of Civil War at Fort Sumter on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

**Task:**

1. You and your partner will research the questions on the activity sheet by looking up this information on the provided webpages. Both you and your partner will need to record your answers on your answer sheets.
2. With the information that you have learned from the webquest create a graphic organizer for the underlying and Immediate causes of the Civil War.
3. Create flash cards defining at least 3 underlying causes of the Civil War and identifying the immediate cause of the Civil War. You and your partner should use these cards to study for the quiz.
4. You will take a quiz on the causes of the Civil War.

Read the questions and go to the website to find the correct answer. Write the answer in the blank provided.

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1. Define the following terms:

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/underlying>

. Underlying cause-

<http://www.answers.com/topic/immediate-cause>

. Immediate cause-

2. Why was slavery used in the United States?

<http://www.history.com/topics/slavery>

3. What was a Cotton Gin and what effect did it have on slavery in the South?

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/cotton-gin-patent/>

4. As our nation expanded during the 1800s the issue of expanding or limiting slavery in the United States was a key issue. Explain how each of the Compromises listed dealt with the issue of slavery.

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns/politics/es\\_shift.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns/politics/es_shift.html)

o Missouri Compromise 1820-

o Compromise of 1850-

o The Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854-

5. What effect did the Dred Scott Supreme Court case have on Dred Scott's freedom and on the

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Missouri Compromise?

[http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/dred\\_scott/scott03.htm](http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/dred_scott/scott03.htm)

6. What is an Abolitionist?

<http://history1800s.about.com/od/1800sglossary/g/abolitdef.htm>

7. Who was William Lloyd Garrison and what was his newspaper about?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p1561.html>

8. What was the purpose of the Underground Railroad?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2944.html>

9. What contribution did Harriet Tubman make to the Abolitionist movement and how much would be paid for her capture?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p1535.html>

10. What was the new political party that was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 17,

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1856 and what political goals were stated in their platform?

<http://www.ushistory.org/gop/origins.htm>

11. Who said, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this Great War!"

<http://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/hbs/>

Who is the little woman?-

What is the name of the book and how could it be blamed for a war?

12. Who was John Brown and what did he do on October 16th 1859?

[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/reform/jb\\_reform\\_brown\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/reform/jb_reform_brown_1.html)

What happened to John Brown?

13. Presidential elections can have a great effect on our nation.

[http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/research/americanhistory/ap\\_civilwar-lincoln.php](http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/research/americanhistory/ap_civilwar-lincoln.php)

What party and person won the election of 1860?-What was the South's response to the election?-

14. What was the immediate cause of the Civil War?

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm117.html>

15. Define the following terms:

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<http://www.birdseyeviews.org/tr-middle-03.php>

Political-

Economic-

Social-