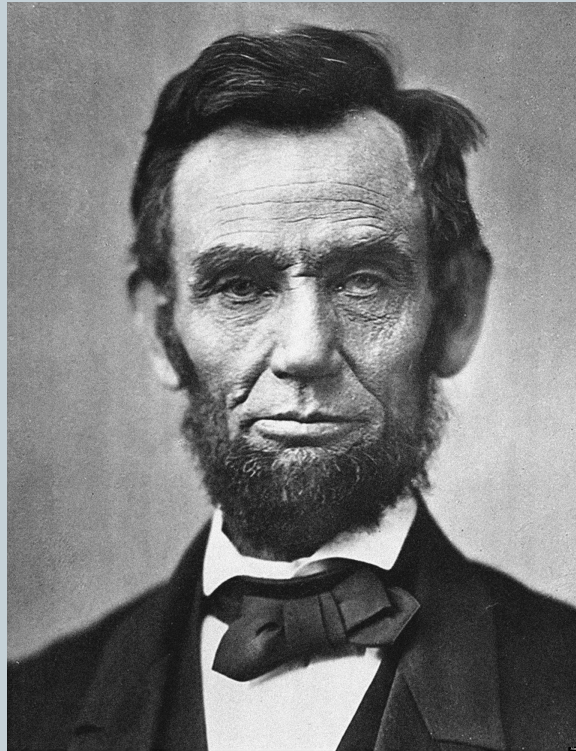
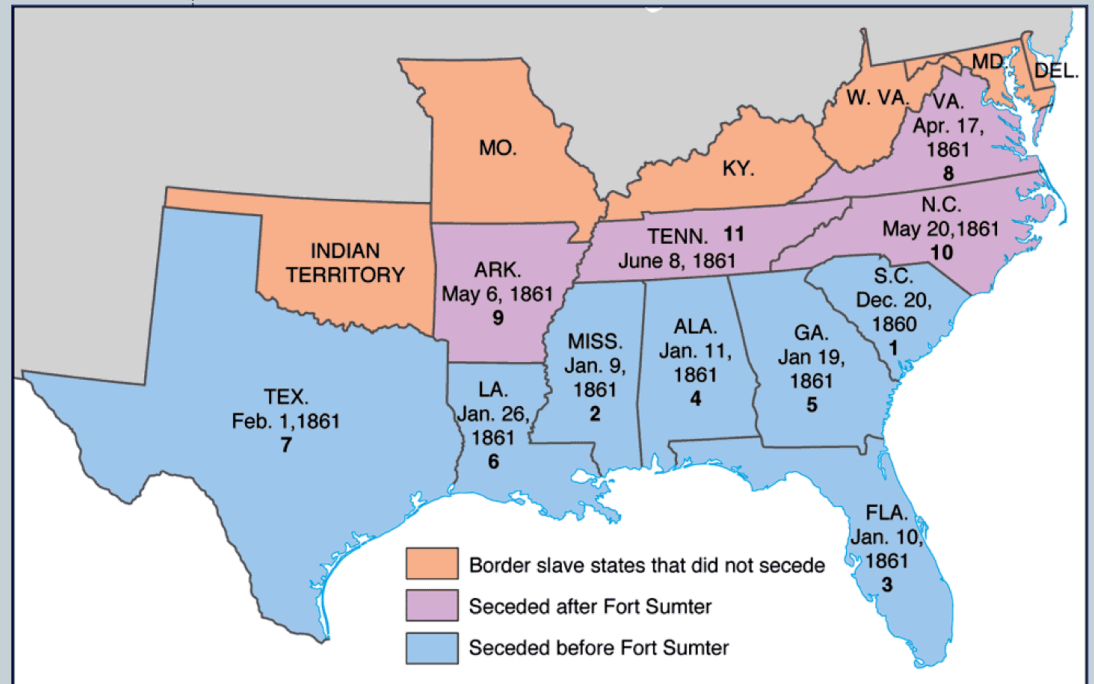


Lincoln Background

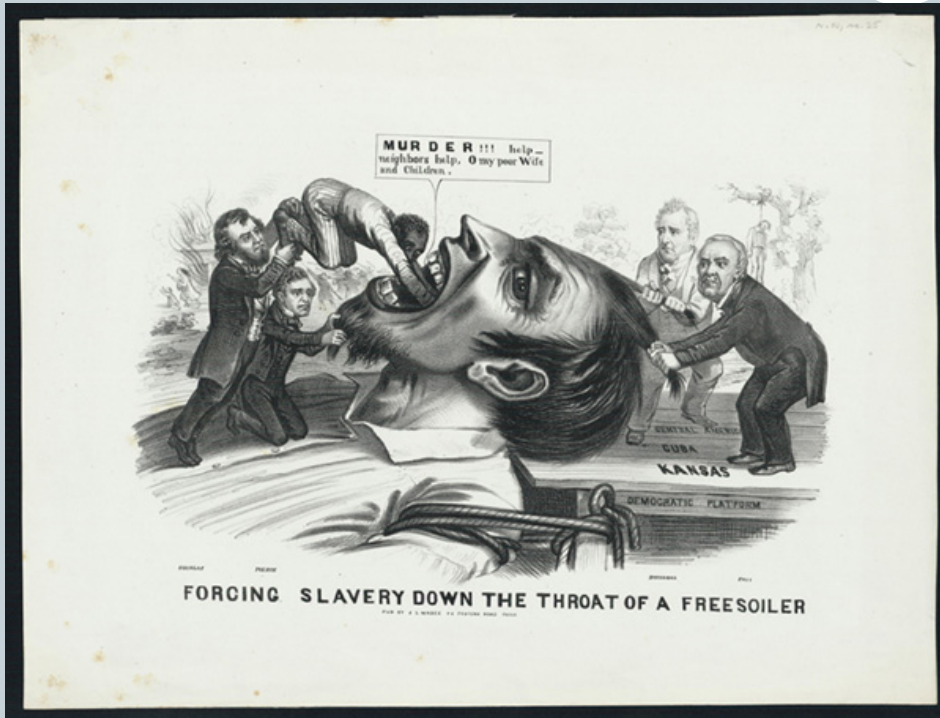


First Inaugural

- Speech delivered March 4, 1861
- Nation on the brink of war
- 7 states have already declared secession (between Lincoln's election in November 1860 and his first inaugural speech)

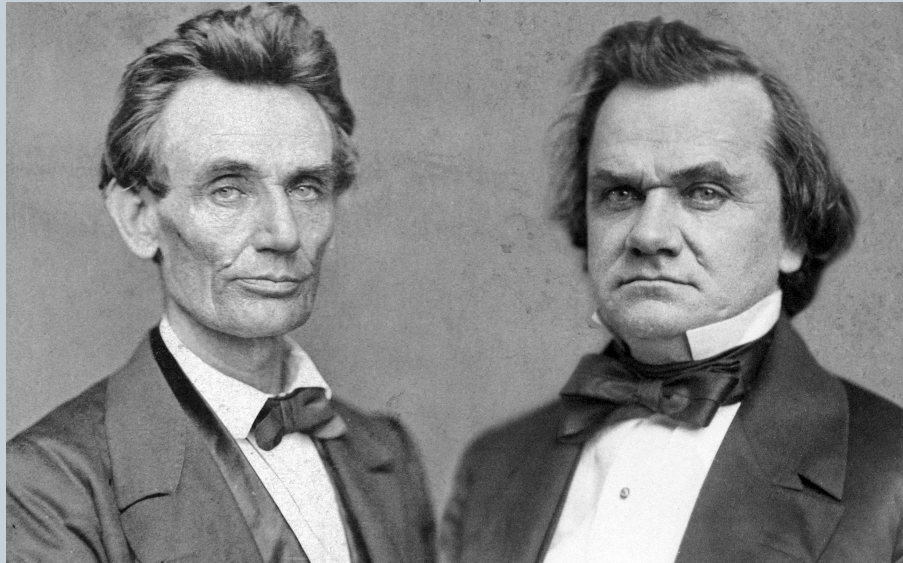


Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)



- Created territories of Kansas and Nebraska
- Allowed settlers themselves to determine if they would allow slavery within their borders
- Seen as a concession to the South
- New Republican Party created in opposition to the act

Lincoln/Douglas Debates



- Lincoln debated Stephen Douglas over the act
- Douglas was the main sponsor of the bill.
- Lincoln argued against it.

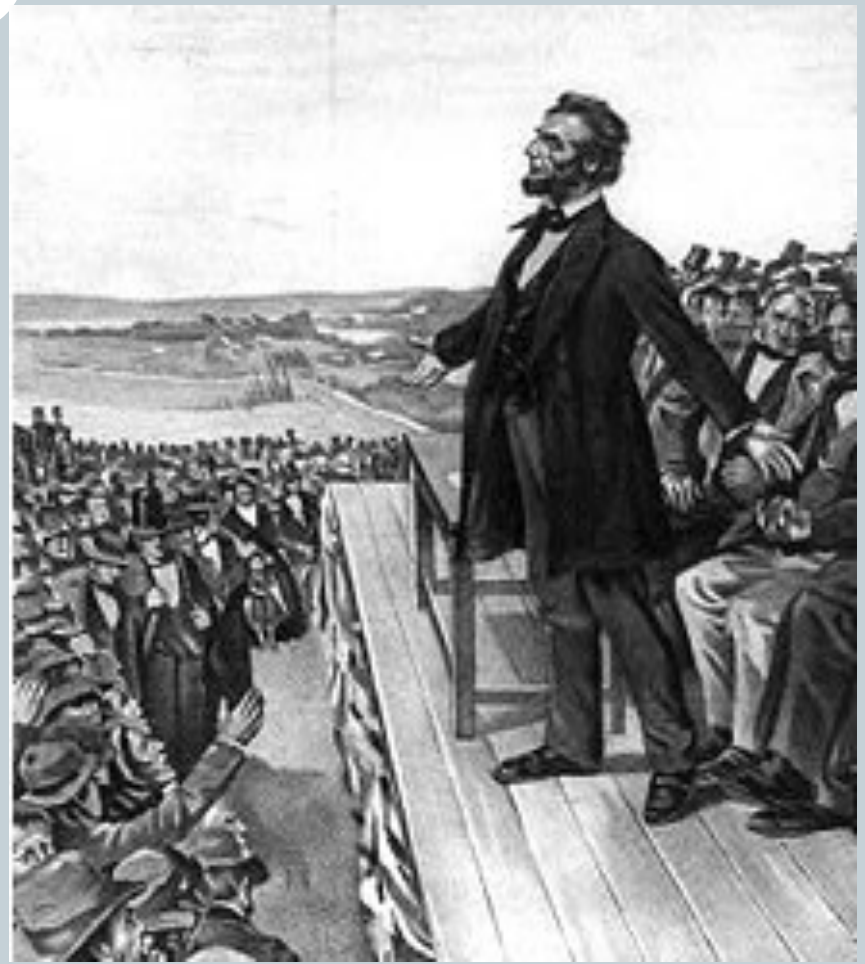
First Inaugural



- Lincoln trying to reassure the South, which bitterly opposed his presidency
- Yet, lays down the law about preserving the Union
- Uses the language of legal contracts
- Secession, for him, is anarchy

Gettysburg Address

- Delivered November 19, 1863 at the Cemetery of Gettysburg
- Thousands and thousands of wounded and killed during the bloody battle
- Lincoln's attempt to reunite the nation



To Look for as You Read



- References to a shared past
 - Biblical language
 - Revered American documents from the Revolutionary Period
- Move from past to present to future
- Rhythmic, poetic language

Comparisons to Past Thinkers



- How do Lincoln's views of anarchy relate to those of Socrates?
- What does Lincoln say about majority rule? How does this compare to Thoreau?
- What about his interest in the "better angels of our nature"? Is this comparable to the "voice" Socrates hears within himself? To Emerson's ideas about "intuition"? To Thoreau's notion of the individual conscience?