

Sectionalism: Comparing the North and South

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will research and compare the economies, populations, and cultures of the North and South before the Civil War to understand growing sectional tension.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- poster board or large paper
- ruler
- markers or colored pencils
- internet-connected device or reference book
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Using your ruler, divide your poster board into two columns labeled 'North' and 'South' with a header row for categories.
2. Research and fill in each column for these four categories: main economy/industry, use of enslaved labor, population size (approximate), and major exports or products, using an internet-connected device or reference book.
3. Draw one simple symbol or icon in each cell representing that fact (e.g., a factory for Northern industry, a cotton plant for Southern agriculture).
4. On an index card, write 2-3 sentences explaining how these economic differences might lead to political disagreements, especially around tariffs, new states, and slavery.
5. Circle in red the single difference you think caused the most tension between the regions, and explain your choice in one sentence.

QUESTIONS

1. Name two major economic differences between the North and South before the Civil War.
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2. Why did the North and South often disagree about tariffs (taxes on imported goods)?
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3. Which difference did you circle as causing the most tension, and why?

4. How might population differences between the North and South have affected political power in Congress?
