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Causes of the American Civil War: Webquest and Web

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 12th, 1861.

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

1. Define the following terms:

<http://www.dictionary.com>

- Underlying cause-
- Immediate cause-

2. Why was slavery used in the United States?

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/civil-war-overview/slavery.html>

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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

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 Missouri Compromise? http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/dred_scott/scott03.htm

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6. What is an Abolitionist?

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

7. What was the purpose of the Underground Railroad?

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

8. 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>

9. What was the new political party that was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 1856 and what political goals were stated in their platform?

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

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

http://www.ducksters.com/biography/women_leaders/harriet_beecher_stowe.php

Who is the little woman?

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

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

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/john-brown.html>

What happened to John Brown?

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

<http://www.ushistory.org/us/32d.asp>

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What party and person won the election of 1860?-

What was the South's response to the election?-

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

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

14. Define the following terms:

<http://www.dictionary.com>

- Political-

- Economic-

- Social-