

CRISIS, CIVIL WAR, AND RECONSTRUCTION

Geography and History

The economy of the southern states depended upon cotton and the slave labor that produced it. Attempts by Congress to limit slavery threatened the South's economy, and many southerners believed secession from the Union would protect it. The table below shows the amount of cotton and the number of slaves in each southern state in 1850 and 1860 along with the date of each state's secession. ♦ Use the information from the table below and the Focus on Geography feature in your text to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Slavery and Secession

Geographic Area	State	Cotton, Number of 400-lb. Bales		Number of Slaves		Date of Secession
		1850	1860	1850	1860	
Lower South	South Carolina	300,901	353,412	384,984	402,406	12/20/1860
	Mississippi	484,292	1,202,507	309,878	436,631	01/09/1861
	Florida	45,131	65,153	39,310	61,745	01/10/1861
	Alabama	564,429	989,955	342,844	435,080	01/11/1861
	Georgia	499,091	701,840	381,682	462,198	01/19/1861
	Louisiana	178,737	777,738	244,809	331,726	01/26/1861
	Texas	58,072	431,463	58,161	182,566	02/01/1861
Upper South	Virginia	3,947	12,727	472,528	490,865	04/17/1861
	Arkansas	65,344	367,393	47,100	111,115	05/06/1861
	Tennessee	194,532	296,464	239,459	275,719	05/07/1861
	North Carolina	50,545	145,514	288,548	331,059	05/20/1861
Border States	Delaware	--	--	2,290	1,798	--
	Kentucky	--	--	210,981	225,483	--
	Maryland	--	--	90,368	87,189	--
	Missouri	--	41,188	87,422	114,931	--

Questions to Think About

- In 1860, which five states produced the most cotton? List these states in order, from largest cotton producer to smallest, and indicate their dates of secession.
- In 1860, which five states had the largest slave populations? List these states in order, from largest slave population to smallest, and indicate their dates of secession.
- Draw Inferences** Why do you think states from the lower south were the first to secede from the Union?