**TAYLOR, FILLMORE, PIERCE, AND BUCHANAN**

Directions: Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan were the Presidents of the United States between 1849 and 1861. Read the summaries of the major national and foreign events which occurred during their administrations. Underline or highlight the most important words, terms, names, and ideas.

**Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)**

1848: When resident James K. Polk decided not to run for a second term, the Democrats chose Lewis Cass as their candidate. Delegates at the Whig Party convention nominated General Zachary Taylor, the hero of the Mexican War. Antislavery groups organized the Free Soil Party, in order to oppose the expansion of slavery into newly acquired territories. Their candidate was former President Martin Van Buren. The results of the Election of 1848 were:

Popular Votes Electoral Votes

Zachary Taylor (Whig) 1,362,101 163

Lewis Cass (Democrat) 1,222,674 127

Martin Van Buren (Free Soil) 291,616 0

Although Van Buren failed to win any electoral votes, he drew many popular votes away from Cass, helping Taylor win the election.

1849: People from all parts of the United States poured into California during the “gold rush.” Close to 100,000 “forty-niners” were at the “diggings” by the end of the year.

1850: The new Overland Mail Service carried mail by wagon from Independence, Missouri, to cities and towns in the Far West.

1850: The census showed that the population of the United States had reached 23 million.

1850: California asked to be admitted to the Union as a free state. At this time, there were 15 slave states and 15 free states. The South felt threatened because the addition of California would give the free states an advantage of two senators in Congress. There was talk of secession. President Taylor, even though he owned slaves, supported the admission of California. He promised to crush any Southern attempt to secede. With tensions high, Senator Henry Clay – the “Great Compromiser” – suggested that: (1) California be admitted to the Union as a free state (2) the rest of the Mexican Cession be divided into the New Mexico Territory and Utah Territory; people there would decided whether they wanted slavery by the principle of “popular sovereignty” (3) slaves no longer could be bought or sold in the District of Columbia (4) a tough Fugitive Slave Law would be passed. After what has been the greatest debate in the Senate’s history, Congress passed the Compromise of 1850. As the compromise was being debated, President Taylor became ill and died.

**Millard Fillmore (1850-1853)**

1850: After the death of President Zachary Taylor, Vice President Millard Fillmore became the Chief Executive. Fillmore’s most important action as President was his signing of the Compromise of 1850. It helped delay the outbreak of the Civil War.

1852: Massachusetts became the first state to pass a law requiring children to attend school.

1850s: Clipper ships, the world’s fastest sailing ships moved freight and passengers between the United States and other parts of the world. They were eventually put out of business by steamships and the transcontinental railroad.

1852: The period of calm which followed the Compromise of 1850 was shattered by the publication of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, a book by Harriet Beecher Stowe. This sad story of the slave Uncle Tom touched the hearts of Northerners. Complaints by Southerners about the book’s fairness could not stop a rising tide of antislavery feelings.

**Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)**

1852: The Democratic national convention chose Franklin Pierce as its candidate for President. He had served two terms in the House of Representatives, and one term in the Senate. The Whig Party nominated General Winfield Scott. Both sides tried to avoid the slavery issue during the campaign, but many Southerners came to believe that General Scott opposed slavery. They threw their support to Pierce, who won an easy victory.

Popular votes electoral votes

Franklin Pierce (D) 1,609,038 254

Winfield Scott (W) 1,386,629 42

1853: Congress voted to spend $10 million for the Gadsden Purchase, a small strip of Mexican territory at the southern end of the Rocky Mountains. The area provided a level route for a transcontinental railroad to the Pacific coast. The Gadsden Purchase, not part of southern Arizona and New Mexico, completed the acquisition of land that today makes up the continental United States.

1854: Commodore Matthew C. Perry negotiated a treaty opening U.S. trade with Japan. For many years, the Japanese had followed a policy of isolation from the West.

1854: 400,000 immigrants arrived in the United States during a time of mounting prejudice against newcomers. Many Americans were faced with competition for jobs from immigrants willing to work for low wages. President Pierce lost popularity when he protected the rights of the immigrants.

1854: Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois proposed a law establishing the Kansas Territory and Nebraska Territory in the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase. This law, called the Kansas-Nebraska Act, repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which prohibited slavery in territories above the 36°30’ line. Settlers in Kansas and Nebraska could now decide the question of slavery by popular sovereignty. The Kansas-Nebraska Act renewed bitter feelings between the North and South over the issue of slavery in the territories. Violence broke out between proslavery and antislavery forces in Kansas. Dozens of people were killed. Newspapers carried the latest reports from “Bleeding Kansas,’ in what came to be a preview of the Civil War. Eventually, the free staters took control of the area.

1854: The Republican Party was formed to oppose the extension of slavery in to the territories. The party wanted to: (1) repeal the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Fugitive Slave Law, and (2) do away with slavery in the District of Columbia. But the Republicans did not call for the abolition of slavery in the Southern states where it already existed.

1850s: Working separately, William Kelly of the United States and Henry Bessemer of Great Britain developed a new method of converting iron into steel. Huge quantities of low-cost steel were soon being used in making rails, trains, machinery, buildings, and a variety of consumer goods.

**James Buchanan (1857-1861)**

1856: The two major political parties in the United States were now the Democrats and the Republicans. At the Republican national convention, the delegates chose former senator John C. Fremont of California to be their presidential candidate. The Democrats picked James Buchanan, who had served terms in the House of Representatives and the Senate. During the campaign, the Republicans proposed a protective tariff, and opposed the extension of slavery into the territories. The Democratic platform supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the principle of popular sovereignty. The results of the Election of 1856 were:

Popular votes electoral votes

James Buchanan (D) 1,839,237 174

John C. Fremont (Whig/R) 1,341,038 114

1857: Dred Scott, a slave who had been taken into free territory by his master, asked to be declared a free man. But the Supreme Court ruled that slavery were property, and could be taken into any territory. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney declared that Congress had no right to forbid slavery in the United States. This meant the Missouri Compromise, which had been repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, had been unconstitutional. The Dred Scott decisions was good news for the South, but caused an angry reaction in the North.

1858: A series of debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln once again focused attention on the issue of slavery in the territories. The debates were held in Illinois, where Democratic candidate Douglas was running for reelection to the U.S. Senate. Lincoln, the Republican challenger, was a relative unknown outside of Illinois. In accepting his party’s nomination for the Senate, Lincoln said: “A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free.” Lincoln regarded slavery as “a moral, social, and political evil.” Douglas believed that the country could continue with both free and slave areas. He thought the question of slavery in the territories should be decided by popular sovereignty. Douglas won the election, but Lincoln gained national attention because of the widespread newspaper coverage of the debates.

1858: Minnesota entered the Union as a free state. The Senate now had 34 members from free states, and only 30 from slave states.

1859: John Brown, an abolitionist who had fought against slave-owners in “Bleeding Kansas,” attacked the government arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Brown and his followers planned to arm the slaves, but were captured by federal troops. He was convicted of treason and hanged. Southerners thought John Brown’s raid was part of a plan by abolitionists and Northerner republicans to destroy the Southern way of life.

1859: Edwin L Drake drilled the world’s first successful oil well in Pennsylvania.

1859: Oregon joined the Union, giving the free states an advantage of 36 to 30 in the Senate. The populous North also had more members in the House of Representatives. The lawmaking Congress was under Northern control.

1860: Pony Express riders began carrying the mail over a 2,000-mile route from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. The service lasted for only 18 months before telegraph crews linked the East to the West by wire.

1860: Southern leaders threatened to secede if a Republican was elected President. When Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party candidate, won the Election of 1860, South Carolina and six other states withdrew from the Union. They formed the Confederate States of America. While serving the last months of his term, President Buchanan refused to use force to end the secession crisis. He hoped the seven slave states would decide to peacefully rejoin the Union.

**People, Words, and Terms**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term a person running for office.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the principle whereby people of a territory decide for

themselves if they want slavery.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ President who had been the hero of the Mexican War.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ votes cast by the people in a presidential election.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term meaning “the United States.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a state where slavery is not allowed.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups of people with different ideas on how the government

should be run; they try to get their candidates elected to office.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people who come to the United States from other countries.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a high crime against the government of the United States.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he opened Japan to American trade.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to withdraw from the Union.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fastest sailing ships of the mid-1800s.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an agreement between the North and South which created

the Utah and New Mexico territories, ended the sale of slaves in the District of Columbia, enacted a stricter Fugitive Slave Law, and admitted California to the Union as a free state.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the lawmaking body which came under Northern control.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, and

denied freedom to Dred Scott.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ new nation established by seven states that seceded.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he proposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and defeated

Abraham Lincoln in the Illinois Senate race in 1858.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a meeting at which delegates choose their party’s

presidential and vice presidential candidates.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a person who wanted to do away with slavery.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ votes given to the presidential candidate who wins the most

popular votes in a state.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zachary Taylor’s political party.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term meaning “against slavery.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term meaning “for slavery.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a mail delivery service that carried letters and packages to

the west coast in wagons.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ political party in the Election of 1848 which opposed the

extension of slavery into the territories.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term for a state which permitted slavery.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people who hurried to California during the gold rush.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a railroad that linked the East and West.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ land which has not yet been organized into states.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term for the period of time when candidates make speeches

and try to get themselves elected to office.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an official count of the population of the United states, taken

every 10 years.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it required Northerners to cooperate in returning runaway

slaves.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term for “the President.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lawmaking body in the North had a 36 to 30 advantage over

the South in 1860.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ house of Congress dominated by the North, because of its

greater population.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ South Carolina and six other states seceded after he was

elected President in 1860.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the “Great Compromiser.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ political office held by Millard Fillmore prior to becoming

President.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nickname for the Western territory that was the scene of

violence between proslavery and antislavery groups.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the first Southern state to secede.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ party formed after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act;

it wanted to keep slavery out of the territories.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he took part in the violence in “Bleeding Kansas,” and later

attacked the government arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ high-speed mail delivery system between St. Joseph,

Missouri, and Sacramento, California.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term for a slave owner.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ British citizen who developed a new way of converting iron

into steel.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Confederate States of America was organized during his

administration.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the last territory added to the continental United States.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a statement of ideas or plan of action of a political party.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ President who lost popularity for defending the rights of

immigrants.