

AP U.S. History – Summer Reading Guide

April 1865 by Jay Winik

Main Characters

James Buchanan
John Brown
Jefferson Davis
Stephen Douglas
U.S. Grant
Charles Sumner
John Wilkes Booth

Robert E. Lee
Abraham Lincoln
George McClellan
Franklin Pierce
William Tecumseh Sherman
Zachary Taylor

Key Terms/Themes

“Bleeding Kansas”
Compromise of 1850
Emancipation Proclamation
Fugitive Slave Act
Lecompton Constitution
Lincoln-Douglas Debates
Uncle Tom’s Cabin
Sectional Loyalty over Party Loyalty
The Election of 1848
Manifest Destiny

“Border Ruffians”
Dred Scott vs. Sanford
Free Soil Party
Harper’s Ferry Raid
Liberty Party
Popular Sovereignty
The Wilmot Proviso
Compromise 1850 = A Northern Victory?
The national slavery debate
Lee, Lincoln, Grant, Davis: Heroes or Villains?

Summary Questions

1. In your opinion, was the Civil War inevitable? Were the North and the South doomed from the beginning to battle each other eventually over the slavery issue?
2. Why were the border states so important to Lincoln?
3. Compare the North and the South in 1860 and then again in 1864. Why did the North win the war?
4. Which side benefited more from the Compromise of 1850, the North or the South?
5. In 1850, most Northerners would never have dreamed they would be fighting a war against the South. Why did Northern public opinion change?
6. Some historians have claimed that the Mexican War was the first battle of the Civil War. Do you agree? Why or why not?
7. What effect did the Bleeding Kansas crisis have on the slavery debate in the years immediately before the war?
8. Compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis as wartime presidents. What challenges did they face and how did they overcome them? Who, in your opinion, was the better leader, and why?
9. What was Britain’s role in the Civil War?
10. What was the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation? What effect did it have on the North and on the South?

For AP US History Summer Reading in addition to *April, 1865*

Students will read in *United States History, Preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam* (an Amsco publication)

1. "Period 1 (1491-1607), pages 1-20 – summer reading test questions will be derived from pages 14-20.
2. "Period 2 (1607-1754), pages 23-62 – summer reading test questions will come from pages 39-44 (Chapter 2) and pages 56-62 (Chapter 3)