

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction to Kansas-Nebraska Act

A cartoonist is an artist who creates cartoons by hand or on a computer. Cartoonists often work for newspapers, magazines, television studios, and gaming companies.

Today, you will create a cartoon that shows how people had different views on whether slavery should be allowed in Kansas and Nebraska after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. Follow the steps below.



## Step 1: Learn About the Kansas-Nebraska Act

Read the passage below. Then, answer the questions.

In the early and mid 1800s, the United States changed a lot. One way that the U.S. changed was that it grew in size! The United States bought a giant piece of land from France. Historians refer to this purchase as the Louisiana Purchase.

Stephen Douglas, a senator from Illinois, wanted to take land from the Louisiana Purchase and create two new territories. Douglas wanted one territory to be called the Nebraska Territory and the other the Kansas Territory. Douglas hoped people would move to these territories!

Some people were not excited about the idea of creating the Kansas and Nebraska territories. In particular, people who were pro-slavery were worried that the territories would make slavery illegal! If slavery was illegal, they could not own slaves in those territories.

Stephen Douglas needed more people to support the Kansas and Nebraska territories. He came up with an idea to let people choose whether slavery would be illegal or legal in the territories. His idea was a law called the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The law said that people who lived in the Kansas and Nebraska territories could vote on whether slavery should be legal or illegal. The Kansas-Nebraska Act finally became a law in 1854! This law was important for many reasons.

First, this law replaced an older law called the Missouri Compromise. The Missouri Compromise said that some states would allow slavery and others wouldn't.

Second, a lot of people moved to Kansas and Nebraska after the law was passed. People moved to the territories so that they could vote on whether slavery would be legal or illegal. People who wanted slavery to be illegal were known as abolitionists. "To abolish" something means to remove or put an end to something.

Third, the law caused a lot of fighting to occur. In Kansas, people began fighting because they could not agree on whether slavery should be legal or illegal. Kansas became known as "Bleeding Kansas" because people were killed while fighting.

### What is a territory?

A territory is a large piece of land that is not yet an official state. Territories have to accomplish certain tasks, like writing a constitution, before they can become states. Even though it is not an official state, a territory still has to follow the laws in the United States.

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Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

1. What is one way that the United States changed during the 1800s?

2. How was the Kansas-Nebraska Act different from the Missouri Compromise?

3. Why did people move to Kansas and Nebraska after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed?

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## Step 2: Design a Cartoon

You will create a cartoon that shows how people had different views on whether slavery should be allowed in Kansas and Nebraska after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed.

Cartoonists can use drawings to show how people are feeling or describe a situation or event. In this cartoon, you will use a tug-of-war to show how people had very different views on slavery. A tug-of-war is a game where people hold a rope and pull in opposite directions.



Design your cartoon in the box below. You can also design your cartoon on a separate sheet of paper or on a computer. Your cartoon should include the following information:

- Title for the cartoon.
- Drawing of a tug-of-war happening between abolitionists and supporters of slavery.
- Underneath the tug-of-war, write 2-3 sentences that explain the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Then, explain the views of abolitionists and supporters of slavery and how they were different.