




# SCHOOL HISTORY



## SCHOOL HISTORY

### The Homestead Act of 1862

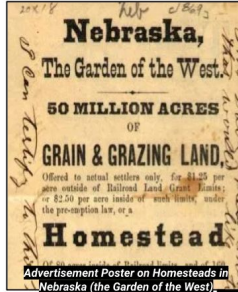
**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Significance of the Civil War and postwar reconstruction
- Reasons for passing the Homestead Act of 1862
- Key features and significance of the Homestead Act of 1862
- The impacts of the Homestead Act of 1862

**FACT FILE**

**OVERVIEW**

The Homestead Act of 1862 was signed by US President Abraham Lincoln on the 20th of May, 1862. It granted African-Americans a 160-acre plot of public land for a small filing fee. Formerly enslaved, women, and even immigrants were allowed to become landowners as a result of this landmark legislation. It also promoted settlement, as well as development of the American West. A total of almost 270 million acres (109 million hectares) of land were distributed under this law.



Advertisement Poster on Homesteads in Nebraska (the Garden of the West)

**THINK ABOUT THIS!** ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 11-14

**1 BUILDING VOCABULARY.** Define the following terms based on your understanding of the historical context. (X marks)

A. HOMESTEAD - \_\_\_\_\_  
B. CIVIL WAR - \_\_\_\_\_  
C. HOMESTEADER - \_\_\_\_\_  
D. SLAVERY - \_\_\_\_\_  
E. TRANSCONTINENTAL - \_\_\_\_\_

**2 COMPLETE THE DIAGRAM.** Fill out the diagram below, showing the events leading to the enactment of the Homestead Act of 1862, its key features and its impact. (X marks)

Events leading to the signing of the Homestead Act	Key features of the Homestead Act of 1862	Impact of the Homestead Act of 1862

**3 DRAW IT.** Draw an editorial cartoon that shows the impact of the Homestead Act of 1862 on the Plains Indians. Then, describe your cartoon in 4-5 sentences. (2 marks)

## SCHOOL HISTORY

### The Homestead Act of 1862

**THINK ABOUT THIS!** ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 11-14

This document contains potential answers to activities provided in each pack. Note that subjective/perspective-type activities may vary in sentence construction and grammar. Nonetheless, objective-type activities are provided with spot-on answers.

**1 BUILDING VOCABULARY.** Define the following terms based on your understanding of the historical context. (X marks)

A. HOMESTEAD - an area of public land granted by the US government to its citizens for them to settle on and to farm  
B. CIVIL WAR - a war between the people within the same country  
C. HOMESTEADER - a person who lawfully settles and farms the land granted by the government  
D. SLAVERY - the practice or system of enslaving people  
E. TRANSCONTINENTAL - the passage or extension of something across a continent

**2 COMPLETE THE DIAGRAM.** Fill out the diagram below, showing the events leading to the enactment of the Homestead Act of 1862, its key features and its impact. (X marks)

Events leading to the signing of the Homestead Act	Key features of the Homestead Act of 1862	Impact of the Homestead Act of 1862

Note: Mark allocation for each activity is at the teacher's discretion.

## Free Sample

### THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING THIS FREE SAMPLE RESOURCE!

Here, you'll find a snippet of the fact file and an activity, which you can use to gauge the quality of our offering, but will also find super useful in the classroom. We offer free samples of ALL of our resources, so take some time to browse our website and categories to see more.

School History is best in its class and offers the most value for its price point. You'll find everything you need to learn or teach a history subject for students aged 11-16 following AQA, Edexcel, OCR, CIE, Eduqas/WJEC specifically, or any other curriculum from around the world.

If you want the more comprehensive and detailed worksheet collection then please upgrade to one of our [Premium plans](#) and support our quest to make education affordable for all. Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter so you don't miss out on the dozens of new resources we release every week!

The School History Team





# SCHOOL HISTORY

## The Homestead Act of 1862



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Significance of the Civil War and postwar reconstruction
- Reasons for passing the Homestead Act of 1862
- Key features and significance of the Homestead Act of 1862
- The impacts of the Homestead Act of 1862



### FACT FILE

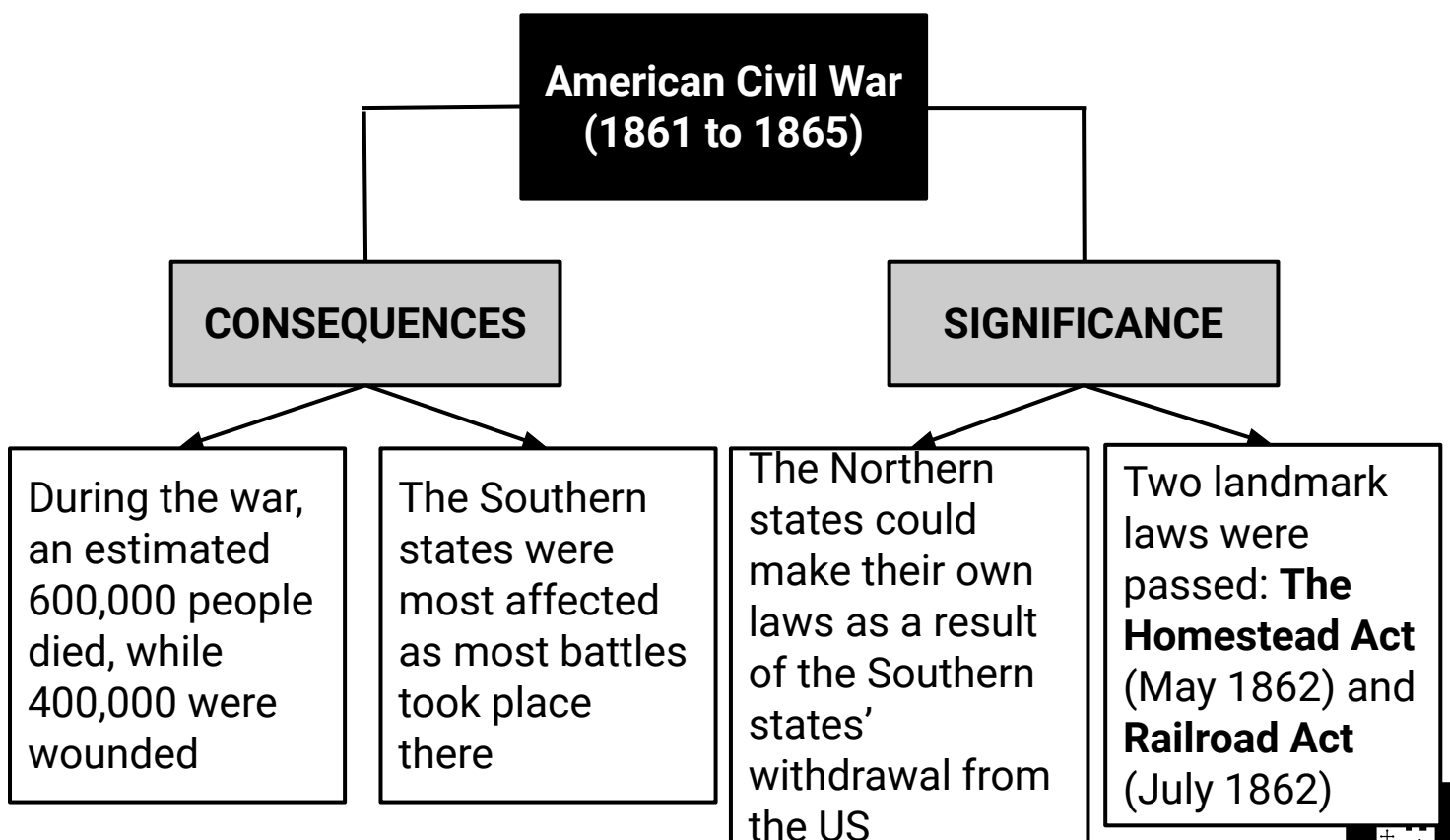
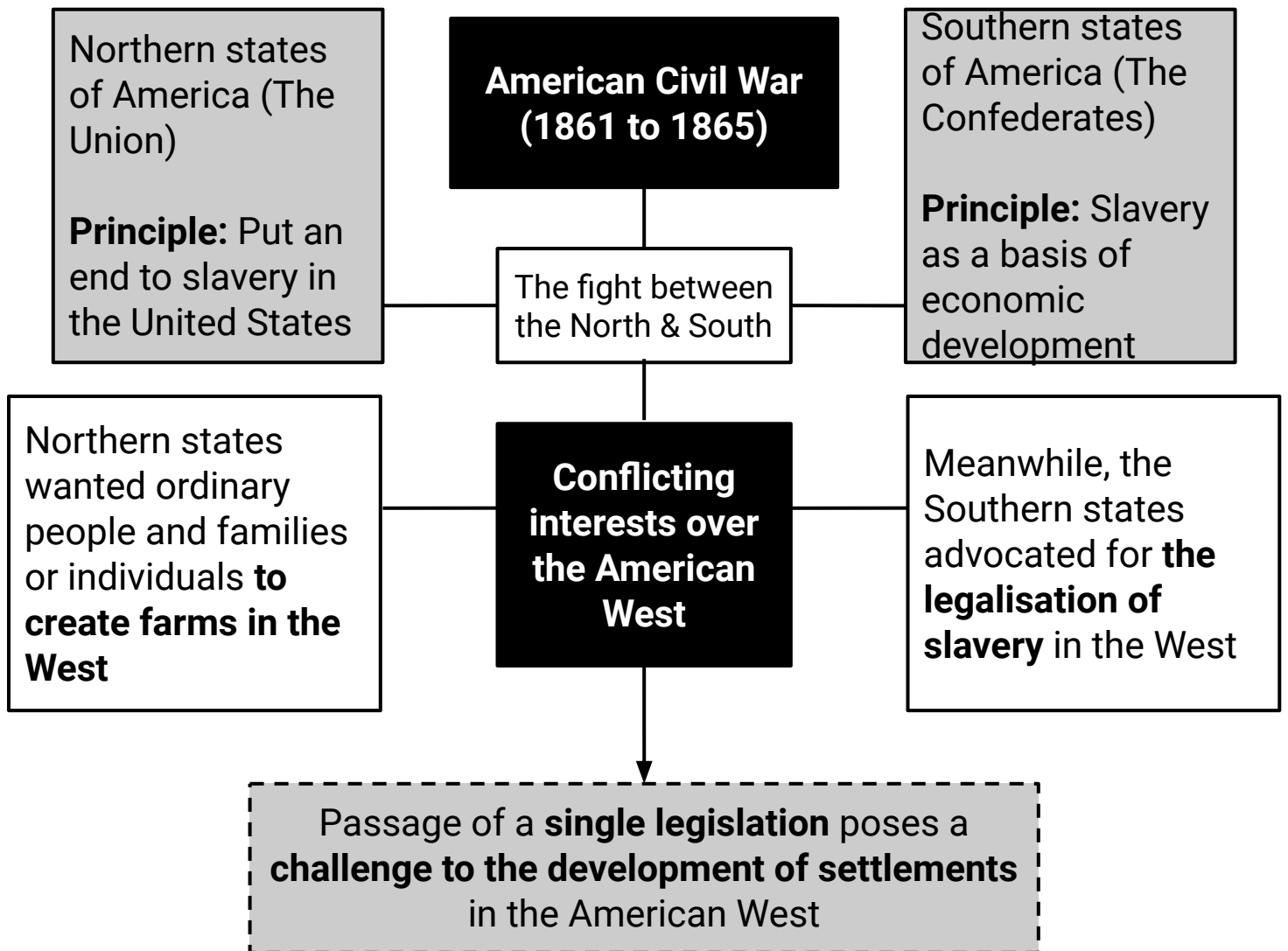
## OVERVIEW

*The Homestead Act of 1862 was signed by US President Abraham Lincoln on the 20th of May, 1862. It granted African-Americans a 160-acre plot of public land for a small filing fee. Formerly enslaved, women, and even immigrants were allowed to become landowners as a result of this landmark legislation. It also promoted settlement, as well as development of the American West. A total of almost 270 million acres (109 million hectares) of land were distributed under this law.*



Advertisement Poster on Homesteads in Nebraska (the Garden of the West)

# SIGNIFICANCE OF CIVIL WAR AND POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION





THINK ABOUT THIS!

ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 11-14



**1 BUILDING VOCABULARY.** Define the following terms based on your understanding of the historical context. (X marks)

- A. HOMESTEAD - \_\_\_\_\_
- B. CIVIL WAR - \_\_\_\_\_
- C. HOMESTEADER - \_\_\_\_\_
- D. SLAVERY - \_\_\_\_\_
- E. TRANSCONTINENTAL - \_\_\_\_\_



**THINK ABOUT THIS!****ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 14-16**

- 1** **SOURCE ANALYSIS.** Critically analyse **Source A**. Based on the document, what was the purpose of the Homestead Act of 1862? (X marks)

**SOURCE A:** The Homestead Act of 1862, enacted 20th May, 1862

Be it enacted, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter-section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a preemption claim. . . . Provided, that any person owning or residing on land may, under the provision of the act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.





# SCHOOL HISTORY

This resource is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) license.

You are free to:

- **Share** — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- **Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material

Under the following terms:

- **Attribution** — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

For more information on this license, visit the following link:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Thank you!



# Thank you

Thank you so much for downloading this resource.

We hope it has been useful for you in the classroom and that your students enjoy the activities.

For more teaching resources like this, don't forget to [come back](#) and download the new material we add every week!

Thanks for supporting **School History**. We can provide teachers with low-cost, high-quality teaching resources because of our loyal subscribers and hope to serve you for many years to come.

- The Entire School History Team :)

