



Social Studies Virtual Learning

8th Grade American History

Lesson #20

April 17, 2020



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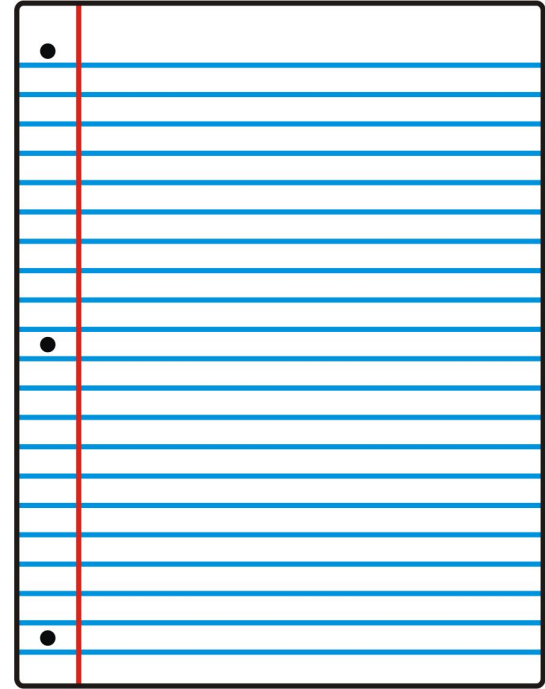
Lesson: April 17, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: I can explain the impact of the Dred Scott Decision.

Make sure you have a piece of paper and a pencil available to complete this lesson:

During this lesson you will be asked to complete the tasks below - make sure you record your thinking on a piece a paper so you can review it later.

- Warm up
- Lesson Activity
- Practice
- Reflection



Warm Up

Quickwrite- Write for as long as you can and give as many facts as you can on a given topic.

1. Set a timer for 2 minutes or use [this timer](#)
2. Write for the entire time, answering the following question...

What do you know the Supreme Court and how it works?



Warm Up

This infographic breaks down what the Supreme Court is and how it works. How many facts did you mention in your quickwrite?

Today, we are going to learn about a Supreme Court case that had a strong impact in leading to the Civil War. Throughout this lesson, refer back to this infographic to understand the steps this Supreme Court case went through.

If you need to see the infographic in larger print, [click here](#)

HOW THE SUPREME COURT WORKS

The U.S. Supreme Court is:

- The highest court in the country
- Located in Washington, DC
- The head of the judicial branch of the federal government
- Responsible for deciding whether laws violate the Constitution
- In session from early October until late June or early July

How a Case Gets to the Supreme Court

Most cases reach the Court on appeal. An appeal is a request for a higher court to reverse the decision of a lower court.

Most appeals come from federal courts. They can come from state courts if a case deals with federal law.

Rarely, the Court hears a new case, such as one between states.

State Trial Court → State Court of Appeals → State Supreme Court → U.S. Supreme Court

Federal Trial Court → U.S. Court of Appeals → U.S. Supreme Court

1. Dissatisfied parties petition the Court for review

Parties may appeal their case to the Supreme Court, petitioning the Court to review the decision of the lower court.

2. Justices study documents

The Justices examine the petition and supporting materials.

3. Justices vote

Four Justices must vote in favor for a case to be granted review.

What Happens Once a Case is Selected for Review?

1. Parties make arguments

The Justices review the briefs (written arguments) and hear oral arguments. In oral arguments, each side usually has 30 minutes to present its case. The Justices typically ask many questions during this time.

2. Justices write opinions

The Justices vote on the case and write their opinions.

- The majority opinion shared by more than half of the Justices becomes the Court's decision.
- Justices who disagree with the majority opinion write dissenting or minority opinions.

3. The Court issues its decision

Justices may change their vote after reading first drafts of the opinions. Once the opinions are completed and all of the Justices have cast a final vote, the Court "hands down" its decision. All cases are heard and decided before summer recess. It can take up to nine months to announce a decision.

Every year:

The Court receives 7,000-8,000 requests for review and grants 70-80 for oral argument. Other requests are granted and decided without argument.

About the Justices

There are nine Justices:

- A Chief Justice, who sits in the middle and is the head of the judicial branch.
- Eight Associate Justices

When a new Justice is needed:

- The President nominates a candidate, usually a federal judge.
- The Senate votes to confirm the nominee.
- The Court can continue deciding cases with less than nine Justices, but if there is a tie, the lower court's decision stands.

Justices are appointed for life, though they may resign or retire.

- They serve an average of 16 years.

Lesson Activity

Watch the video about the Dred Scott vs. Sandford case. While watching the video, answer the following questions to complete your notes.

1. Review: What was the Missouri Compromise?
2. Who was Dred Scott?
3. Who was Roger Taney?
4. What was the Supreme Court's decision?
5. What was the impact of the Dred Scott vs. Sandford case?

Click on this link when you are ready to watch the video and take notes.

[Dred Scott vs. Sandford](#)



Practice

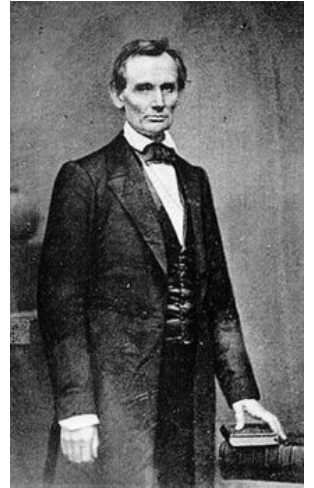
Now, we will analyze some of the responses by other leaders about the Dred Scott vs. Sandford ruling. To do this, you will listen to an audio file and answer the two questions for each. Click on each link to listen to the audio file and answer the questions on your own sheet of paper.

1. [Frederick Douglass](#)- a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York
 - What was his view on the ruling? How do you know? (Use a quote)
2. [Stephen Douglas](#)- United States Senator from Illinois
 - What was his view on the ruling? How do you know? (Use a quote)
3. [Lucy Stone](#)- a prominent U.S. orator, abolitionist, and suffragist, and a vocal advocate and organizer promoting rights for women
 - What was her view on the ruling? How do you know? (Use a quote)
4. [Charleston Mercury](#)- The Charleston Mercury was a secessionist newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina, founded by Henry L. Pinckney in 1819
 - What was their view on the ruling? How do you know? (Use a quote)

Practice

Read the following excerpt of Abraham Lincoln's speech on the Dred Scott decision (June 26, 1857, before becoming President) and answer the two accompanying questions.

“How differently the respective courses of the Democratic and Republican parties incidentally bear on the question of forming a will-a public sentiment-for colonization, is easy to see. The Republicans inculcate, with whatever of ability they can, that the negro is a man; that his bondage is cruelly wrong, and that the field of his oppression ought not to be enlarged. The Democrats deny his manhood; deny, or dwarf to insignificance, the wrong of his bondage; so far as possible, crush all sympathy for him, and cultivate and excite hatred and disgust against him; compliment themselves as Union-savers for doing so; and call the indefinite outspreading of his bondage “a sacred right of self-government.”



1. What was his view on the ruling? How do you know? (Use a quote)
2. What does Lincoln say the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties are?

Reflection

Using what you have learned about tension between the North and South, and the viewpoints on the Dred Scott case, reflect on the following question...

What other outcome could this case have had? Would a different ruling have avoided the Civil War?

