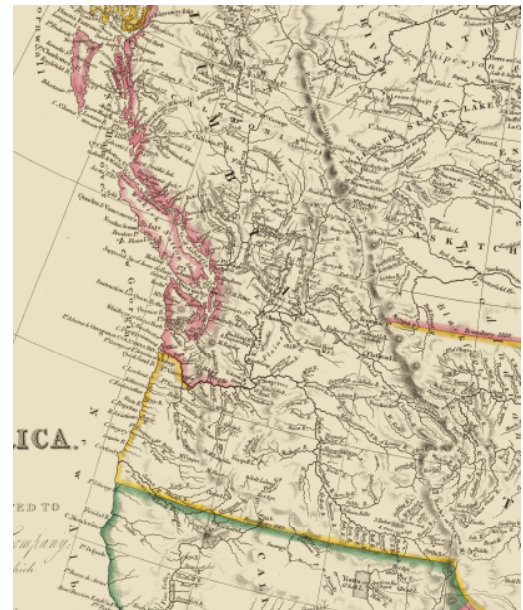
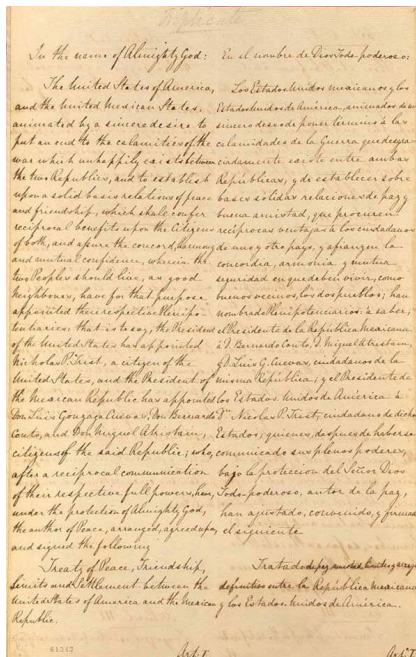


President's Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan: Critical Decisions 1840-1860





President's Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce,
Buchanan:
1840-1860

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GAME TITLE: PRESIDENTIAL SERIES: CRITICAL DECISIONS HARRISON THROUGH PIERCE

Objectives: By playing this game, students will:

1. Students will learn specific critical events that helped shape our country's domestic and international political landscape.
2. Students will learn the major rivers, and bodies of water, and important locations of this time period.
3. Students will understand the various factors that were considered or ignored by past political leaders.
4. Students will develop critical thinking, interpersonal and research skills.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Duplicate the following pages in the quantities indicated:
 - a. ANSWER CARD SHEET, 10-20 copies (cut along lines)
 - b. INFLUENCE CARD SHEET, 30 copies and cut out (laminates for future use)
 - c. MAP SHEET A one set per student
 - d. STUDENT RESEARCH SHEET, one per student
2. Read the GAME SUMMARY. As you read, inspect each game item as it is mentioned.
3. Read the HOW TO PLAY section. Play out an actual turn or two in order to familiarize yourself with the game and procedures.
4. Appropriate pages in the classroom textbook may be assigned for student reading. This will serve as an introduction to the game. The game covers the period 1840-1860.
5. Give each student a copy of MAP A, a day or two before beginning the game. Tell the students they should be familiar with the locations labeled with letters on the map. These locations will be part of the Geo-Point portion of the game, which will be discussed later. This may be assigned as either home or class work assignment.
6. Pass out the STUDENT RESEARCH SHEET a day or two before playing. Researching the terms will be critical for the students' success in the game.

GAME SUMMARY (see HOW TO PLAY for details)

The class is divided into teams (3 or 4 students) of "Presidential Advisors" whose task is to suggest specific options to the President on various important American domestic or international issues. The teacher will read one issue at a time (called DECISIONS in the game) along with the three possible solutions (called OPTIONS in the game). Teams must then discuss as a group which OPTION to select, and only **one** OPTION. A student for each team will fill out an ANSWER CARD and present the card to the President (teacher). Each team operates in secret, and seeks not to let the other teams know their score. Teams selecting the correct historical OPTION will receive from the teacher a **10 PT INFLUENCE CARD**. However, a team can earn an additional **10 PT INFLUENCE CARD** if they mark the option ADDRESS CONGRESS on their ANSWER CARD. In this option a person from that team must publicly state the option they choose to the teacher and the class. If the team has chosen the correct OPTION then the teacher will give them the additional **10 PT INFLUENCE CARD**. There is a catch, any team that chooses the option ADDRESS NATION and chooses the wrong OPTION, then those team(s) lose a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**. The final method of gaining an INFLUENCE CARD is to identify, using the Map A, that turn's GEO POINT that the teacher had stated at the start of the turn. This GEO POINT can be any location that has been labeled on Map A. The team will write the

corresponding letter on the ANSWER CARD that matches the location the teacher had stated. A correct answer is worth a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**, which the teacher will give to the team. The goal is to finish with the greatest value of INFLUENCE CARDS at the end of the game (TURN 25).

Optional Rule: Teams can try to initiate a White House “Scandal” upon another team. This option costs the issuing team a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**, whether that team succeeds or fails in its attempt. The team must first circle the “Y” on their ANSWER CARD and turn it as normal. The teacher will then ask each team that has opted this feature the team they are targeting. If the team that had selected this option has given the correct **OPTION** for that turn’s **DECISION** **and** the targeted team fails to select the right **OPTION** for that turn’s **DECISION**, then the targeted team loses a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD** to the teacher. This strategy allows a team(s) to either pull away in points or keep teams within reach. A team may only target one opposing team per turn.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. ORGANIZATION

- A. Organize teams of three to four students.
- B. Allow the students to create their own nickname, such as in history “Kitchen Cabinet”. This name will be needed on the Answer Sheet to identify each team.
- C. Distribute the following game materials to each team in the quantities indicated:
 1. ANSWER CARDS 25 to each team
 2. DECISIONS PAGES, two or more sets per team
 3. MAP A (if students don’t have theirs)
 4. INFLUENCE CARDS, two of the **five** point value (per team)

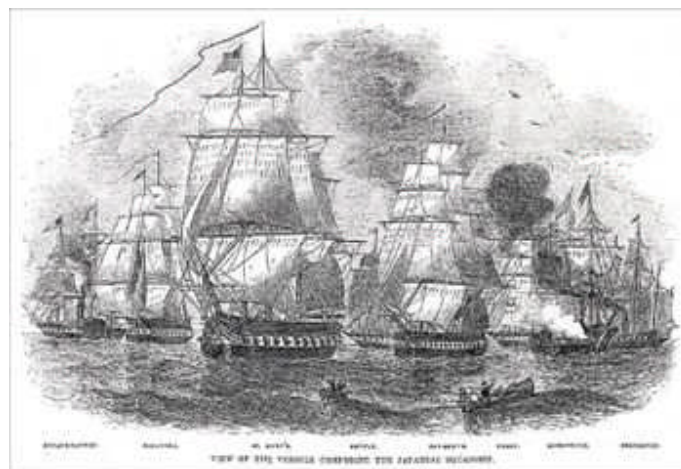
Important Note: The game comes with the following sheets for assessment purposes;

- a. (2) Map Sheets
- b. (1) Student Work Sheet (define terms and short essays)
- c. (1) Final Assessment Test Sheet

2. GAME RULES

- A. Teams sit together.
- B. Teacher reads the first **DECISION** and the following **OPTIONS** to the class. Then state the **GEO-POINT** for that turn. It is the teacher’s discretion which **GEO-POINTS** are chosen, as there are more **GEO-POINTS** than **DECISIONS** in the game.
- C. Teams discuss the **OPTIONS** and select the one they feel was the actual historical choice made at the time. **Not** what they feel would have been the correct **OPTION**
- D. Teams fill in the **ANSWER CARD** as follows:
 - a. Team Name (very important)
 - b. **DECISION** number (#1, #2, etc.)
 - c. **OPTION** letter chosen.
 - d. **ADDRESS CONGRESS** option circle “Y” (Yes) or “N” (No)
 - e. W.H. “Scandal” option (if allowed) circle “Y” (Yes) or “N” (No)
 1. If “Y” then write the targeted team name on the back of the **ANSWER CARD**
 2. Turn in a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**
 - f. The letter from Map A that identifies the **GEO-POINT** stated by the teacher

- E. Teams give their completed ANSWER CARDS to the teacher.
- F. Those teams that opted to the ADDRESS CONGRESS will then state which OPTION they had chosen, and the teacher will confirm their ANSWER CARD is the same. Teams that were correct earn two **10 PT INFLUENCE CARDS**, while those teams incorrect lose a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**.
- G. Teacher will announce the correct OPTION and the correct letter for the GEO-POINT.
- H. Teacher will score the remaining ANSWER CARDS, using the TEACHERS CONFIDENTIAL SHEET. If any teams have circled “Y” in W.H. “Scandal”, that team must have the correct OPTION, and the targeted team (written on the back of the ANSWER CARD) must not have the correct OPTION for the targeted team to lose a **5 PT INFLUENCE CARD**, which would be given to the teacher.
- I. The teacher then will award all teams that had selected the correct OPTION a **10 PT INFLUENCE CARD**. The following is an outline of how INFLUENCE CARDS are awarded or lost:
 - a. If a team selects the correct OPTION, and opts to ADDRESS CONGRESS
(2) 10 PT INFLUENCE CARDS
 - b. If a team selects the correct OPTION, but without ADDRESSING CONGRESS
10 PT INFLUENCE CARD
 - c. If the team selects the correct letter for the GEO-POINT
5 PT INFLUENCE CARD
 - d. If the class is using the White House “Scandal” optional rule, than if the issuing team chose the correct OPTION and the targeted team chose an incorrect OPTION, then the targeted teams losses
5 PT INFLUENCE CARD
- J. The turn is complete when the all the INFLUENCE CARDS are distributed by the teacher. The teacher may opt to explain the reasons why the other options were incorrect. Start a new turn by beginning at “2 B” in the Game Rules section.
- K. On the end of the 25th turn the students will add up the value of their INFLUENCE CARDS and a winner is declared and the game is complete.

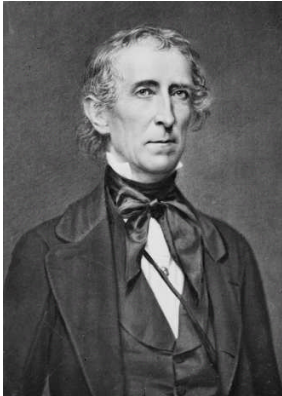


Presidential Series (Harrison – Pierce)

Tyler assumes the Presidency (1841) President Tyler

Decision #1

President William Henry Harrison has died and now President John Tyler has assumed the Presidency. Although a fellow Whig, President Tyler shares very few of the same beliefs as the more nationalistic, northern members and leaders of the party. As the new president he has the right and precedent to replace the executive cabinet with men that are loyal and more to his views, but doing so will risk angering the Whigs in Congress who control both Houses. How shall we advise the president? **Options**




- A. Remove all the existing Cabinet members and replace them with men that are loyal to you and your views. You are the President and you are entitled to this right. Your fellow Whigs will accept this decision and recognize for the administration to function effectively that a strong Cabinet is essential.
- B. Remove only the Secretary of War and Secretary of State, as these two positions are the only ones of any consequence. Besides it will show the necessary respect to those who supported the late President Harrison, while enabling your presidency the ability to carry out policies and actions that you feel are important.
- C. Remove none of the Cabinet members. There is no need as we are all members of the Whig party and it would be seen as disrespectful to those in the party that were devoted to President Harrison. Any issues in policies or executive

action can be easily worked out between President Tyler and these cabinet members.

Tyler's and the National Bank(1841) President Tyler

Decision #2

The Whig controlled Congress has just sent to the President a bill to re-establish a National Bank of the United States. The purpose of this bank would be to hold our government's money, and make loans available to other banks and large companies. Its efforts would be to aid industrial and commercial growth, especially in the North and Northwest, but at the cost of expanding the power and reach of the national government? How shall we advise the president? **Options**

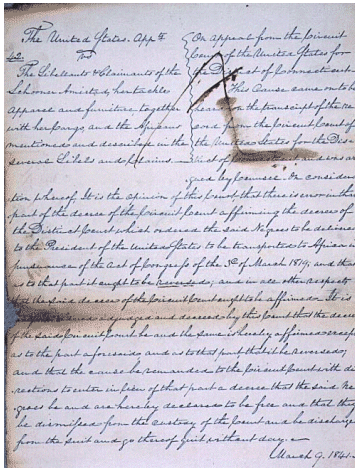
- A. Veto the bill; they lack the votes for a veto over-ride. The bill expands the role of the government too far. The country has begun to grow well enough since the Panic of 1837 it is a risk that is unnecessary. There must be a limit on these nationalistic policies that the Whigs are pursuing.
- B. Call for a meeting between President Tyler, his Cabinet and the leaders of the Whigs to discuss a possible compromise bill that President Tyler could support. Neither President Tyler nor the Whigs in Congress will gain from a conflict over this issue, besides the Whigs lack the votes to over-ride his veto.
- C. Sign the bill into law. Although the president has serious misgivings about the goal and scope of the national bank, it will anger his fellow members of the Whig Party. He risks the chance that they may toss him out of the party, and thus become a president without a party.
- 



Amistad Case(1841) President Tyler

Decision #3

The case concerning the African “would be slaves” that took over the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad* has been decided in favor of the Africans slaves of the ship. This is an important victory for the abolitionists. The previous Van Buren administration’s attempt to overturn the case has failed. The Supreme Court has ordered that the United States government return the Africans to their native Africa. However, spending government funds on such a task will most certainly anger many politicians, especially of the South. How should we advise the president? **Options**



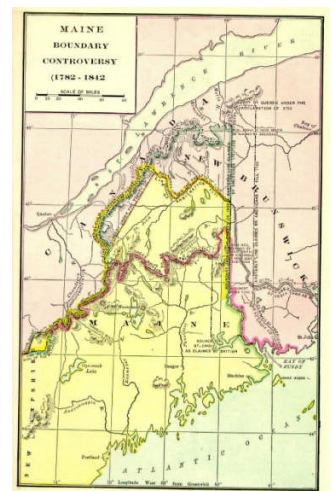
- A. The president must publicly refuse to comply with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is over-reaching its powers and putting unnecessary burden on the Executive branch. Let the abolitionists pay for the Africans return trip home.
- B. The president must simply refuse to pay for the transportation of the Africans. Although still an act of defiance to the Supreme Court, it doesn't challenge the court's right or stir public anger. The abolitionists will be unwilling to fight the administration and will simply raise the money themselves.
- C. The president must comply with the orders of the Supreme Court. As president he has sworn an oath to uphold the integrity of the Constitution and the laws of this nation. The Supreme Court is the supreme law of this country. The public will not tolerate a president that defies the Supreme Court.

Maine Border Dispute(1842) President Tyler

Decision #4

The border between the State of Maine and the British colony of New Brunswick continues to fuel the risk of war between our two countries. Residents of both Maine and New Brunswick have been waging a mini-war locally known as the Aroostook War, and the governor of Maine has activated their state militia and seized control of some of the disputed land with the claim of protecting property rights. Unfortunately, when our country gained independence the maps used to determine our common border in this region were inaccurate. British and American settlement has lead to the groups competing for the valuable fur and lumber resources. In addition, various extremist groups are launching far-fetched military raids into Canada, leading to incidents such as the Caroline Affair. How should we advise the president? **Options**

- A. The president must dispatch Secretary of State Webster to begin talks with the British to resolve this issue. The United States must be willing to give some ground on its land claims in the hopes of creating a lasting treaty that will better define our common border from Maine to the Rocky Mountains.
- B. The president must dispatch a military force to disputed region of Maine to secure the area and prevent any unintentional fighting by the state militia or American citizens, meanwhile dispatch Secretary of State Webster to begin talks of defining the border region in question. The land in question is clearly ours and the British are unwilling to risk war over the territory.
- C. The president must send a letter of protest to the British government and the threat of war if the colony of New Brunswick continues to threaten the lives and property of American citizens. It is the British that have violated the Treaty of Paris of 1783 and it is unconstitutional for the federal government to interfere in the internal issues of a state.



Dorr Rebellion(1842) President Tyler

Decision #5

The residents of Rhode Island are facing an armed insurrection against their state government. The rebels, led by Thomas W. Dorr are demanding suffrage rights for landless, white males. They have created a separate government and appear to have the support of the majority of the state's militia. The recognized governor has declared martial law and the state legislature had recently sent an appeal to the federal government for federal troops to put down the rebellion. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must order federal troops into Rhode Island to disarm the supporters of Thomas W. Dorr. The federal government has precedent such as the Whiskey Rebellion and the request of the legitimate government of Rhode Island. This is a country of laws and not “mob rule”.
- B. The president must be refrain from taking any military action, but publicly state that if the state's militia fails to support the legitimate government then federal troops will intervene. This is still an internal state issue and any federal military action may inflame the crisis.
- C. The president must call upon the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut to send their militias to support the legitimate government of Rhode Island. The federal government's constitutional authority is vague in this situation, but individual

states may have the legal ability to send the necessary forces.

Texas Annexation(1845) President Tyler

Decision #6

The country of Texas still desires to become a part of the United States. This administration's early attempt at an annexation treaty has failed to pass the Senate. Many northern politicians see Texas's admission as a means of strengthening the power of the slave states in Congress. Many politicians are eager for the economic potential that Texas will bring to the United States. However, the country of Mexico has made it clear that it will not tolerate any attempt to annex Texas. How should we advise the president? **Options**

- A. The president must cease pursuing any form of admitting Texas into the United States for the remainder of his presidency. The state's admission will only cause greater sectional conflicts between the North and the South. It also carries the very real prospect of war with Mexico, in a part of our country that lacks the necessary people or supplies to carry out a war.
- B. The president must attempt another annexation treaty in the Senate. There is a genuine concern that the British government may gain certain influence in that region, which would effectively block any hopes of territorial expansion in that region. With this threat apparent the Senate is sure to approve the treaty.
- C. The president must instead push for a “joint-resolution bill” admitting the country into the United States as a state. Although its constitutionality is questionable, it is unlikely the opposition will pursue this issue to the courts. The threat of war with Mexico is a minor issue that can be possible resolved by diplomacy or military action.



Oregon Border Dispute(1846) President Polk

Decision #7

Since 1818 both the United States and Great Britain have been attempting to settle the border claims of Oregon Territory and British Columbia. The British are very determined to maintain their control of the Columbia River for its importance to the Hudson Bay Company's lucrative fur trade. However, American settlements, such as the Willamette Valley settlement, need protection and our country needs access to a deep water port to the Pacific Ocean. The president won the election with the promise of "Fifty-four Forty or Fight!". Thus, not to surrender any of the Oregon Territory to the British or any other foreign power. How should we advise the president?

Options



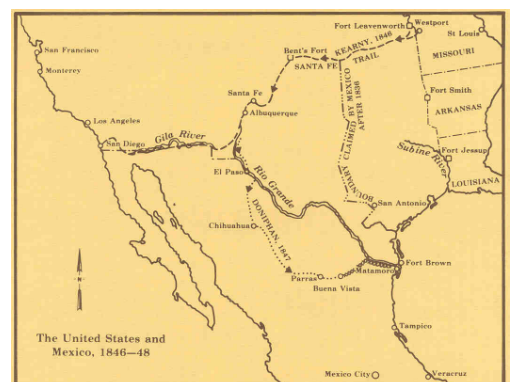
- A. The president must publicly state that the United States demands all of the Oregon Territory and make preparations for any possible military conflict and then engage in a treaty that will accept some limited compromises. The political bluster is necessary to prove to the British that this nation has serious concerns and enable the British to later claim that they forced the U.S. into concessions.
- B. The president must order the U.S. military into the disputed region under the claim of protecting U.S. citizens from the actions of the Hudson Bay Company. Once our troops are in the region the British will be forced to carry out a long distant war, in a sparsely populated region, which they likely will quickly abandon. The United States could then offer to settle the issue with a cash payment for the lost disputed territory.
- C. The president must continue the quiet diplomatic attempts for resolution to the issue. The president must realize the difference between campaign promises and reality. The country isn't prepared for any military action in the region. The British are far too valuable as a trading partner to risk war over a territory that has relatively few American settlers or trade interests.

Border Crisis with Mexico(1846) President Polk

Decision #8

Texas's admission as a state in 1845 created a diplomatic crisis between the United States and Mexico. Mexico was infuriated that the United States had annexed what they still considered a breakaway territory of Mexico. In addition, the former Republic of Texas had failed to resolve their border with Mexico. That border issue may lead the two countries to war. The United States claims that the border must follow the Rio Grande River, while Mexico claims the Nueces River to be the key starting point for the border. The issue can't be ignored any longer. How should we advise the president? **Options**

- A. The president must agree to allow for a third party, such as England to arbitrate the issue. The people of the area in question have repeatedly stated their desire to be a part of the United States. The United States neither has the military means or the international support for any form of aggression towards Mexico.
- B. The president must make an ultimatum demanding that Mexico agree to the Rio Grande River as part of the U.S.-Mexican border or face war. The Mexican government is in disarray and their military is weak. The European powers will not act against us, the United States is too important as a trade partner and their acceptance of our Monroe Doctrine will leave them to only verbally denounce our actions.
- C. The president must send a force to the Rio Grande River and establish our claim to the region, if the Mexican military resists, then our administration will have the justification for war. We can easily exaggerate the situation to gain the necessary popular support. The concept of "Manifest Destiny" is firmly supported by most Americans, and will support a war to advance the belief.



Wilmot Proviso(1846) President Polk

Decision #9

As the Mexican War continues an obscure Pennsylvania Democratic Congressman, David Wilmot, has added language to an Army appropriations (spending) bill. The language states “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of” the territory acquired from Mexico. This issue has created a dangerous split within our Democratic Party. Northern Democrats are becoming less supportive of the Southern Democrats attempts to expand slavery as the country grows. As president and a Democrat you need to define your position on slavery in any new territories. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must publicly oppose any language that interferes with the expansion of slavery into any territories gained from the Mexican War. The question of slavery is a state issue and the Missouri Compromise of 1820 doesn't apply to any of the future territories gained from Mexico.
- B. The president must publicly support the existing Missouri Compromise of 1820 as the best solution to the slavery issue. It is unlikely that the majority of the territories gained from Mexico will be suitable for the crops requiring slavery. The balance in the Senate can be effectively controlled with the admission of these future states.
- C. The president must remain silent on this issue. There is little to be gained from taking any side, as it is an issue that will greatly divide our political party and the nation. It is better to let events play themselves out and react to any political crisis as it appears.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo(1848) President Polk

Decision #10

Gen. Winfield has defeated Gen. Santa Anna and has captured Mexico City. The new government of Mexico has sued for peace. Despite your clear instructions to your diplomat to negotiate a treaty that would force huge concessions from Mexico, the treaty gives the United States nearly 50% of the territory of Mexico, but we must pay the Mexican government \$15 million dollars. Many Southern Democrats had demanded full annexation of the country of Mexico, while many Whigs and Northern Democrats had opposed any large territorial gains from Mexico. It is the president's decision as to whether to submit this treaty for ratification, thus officially ending the war. How should we advise the president? **Options**

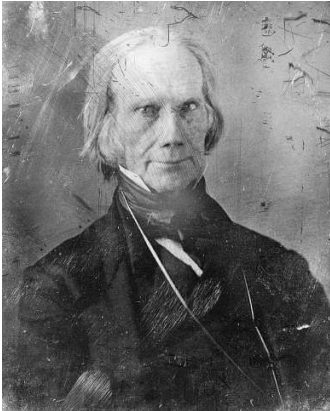
- A. The president must submit the treaty for ratification in the Senate. Although the terms are not as we had hoped, the country has achieved an important milestone as it truly stretches across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. The 15 million dollars is a cheaper price when compared with further military action against Mexico. Although the treaty may spark some debate, it likely will pass.
- B. The president must reject the treaty and seek complete conquest of Mexico. It is obvious that much of the country still supports our nation's war with Mexico, but if we fail to gain enormous concessions from the Mexicans it will be viewed as a defeat for the many of those who believe in our "Manifest Destiny" on this continent.
- C. The president must seek a suspension of hostilities from the Congress and order our diplomats to renegotiate a new treaty with Mexico. The current treaty will not satisfy both the supporters for the war or the opponents. It is better to gain more concessions from Mexico as to help gain greater support from those who support the concept of the "Manifest Destiny".



Clay's Compromise(1850) President Taylor

Decision #11

The question of how to admit the territories captured in the Mexican War are now impossible to ignore. The territory of California now has the population for statehood, thanks in large part to the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill just a few years ago. The president's ill-advised first solution of creating two "super states" from all the remaining territories and applying the "Wilmot Proviso" concept to each of them has crashed and burned in the Congress. Southern states are now actively talking about succession from the Union. Senator Henry Clay has put forth a comprehensive bill in the attempt to settle the slavery issue in this country once and for all. Many in the country are looking to whether the president will support the bill or threaten to veto it. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must remain non-committal on this issue until a bill is placed on his desk for his signature. The president is to be a unifying force for the nation, to give his indication of how he will vote will only harm the efforts for compromise. When the time for his signature is necessary is the time for his opinion on the proposed bill.
- B. The president must publicly threaten his presidential right of veto against this bill. It violates both state's rights and the right of property of the people. The bill goes beyond the issue of California's admittance into the Union.
- C. The president must publicly express his support for this bill. This bill addresses the issues that the president had attempted to solve earlier. It also will put the slavery issue behind the country so that it may focus on national growth.

Compromise of 1850(1850) President Fillmore

Decision #12

The failure of Clay's Compromise has left all sides angered and the threat of succession remains very real. In addition, President Zachary Taylor has died. His successor Vice President Millard Fillmore has remained largely out of the administration's political discussions. Now, with a new president, Senator Stephen Douglas has a new proposal to end the slavery debate. He intends to submit most of Clay's original Omnibus Bill as five separate bills to Congress. His hope is that he can get the support of extremists, while using moderates to tip the scale for passage. However, he is including this relatively new idea called "popular sovereignty" to one of the bills. It states that the people of the territory should decide whether slavery should exist or not in their territory. He believes the large territories of New Mexico and Utah must follow this concept. Both Sen. Douglas and the nation need to know where the president stands on these upcoming bills. How should we advise the president?

Options

- A. The president must reject all these bills concerning slavery. It violates both state's rights and the right of property of the people. The bill was defeated before and this method is nothing more than a "parlor trick" for passage. The American people will be enraged on both sides of this issue.
- B. The president must accept all the bills, except the bill concerning "popular sovereignty". The weight of the issue requires the national government to act to solve this slavery issue. However, the issue is far too serious to be experimenting with this vaguely defined concept.
- C. The president must accept all the bills that reach his desk concerning this issue of slavery. The nation is facing a crisis and it must be resolved. The debate concerning slavery may very well turn to open conflict if these bills fail to gain the president's signature.



Theodore Parker(1850) President Fillmore

Decision #13

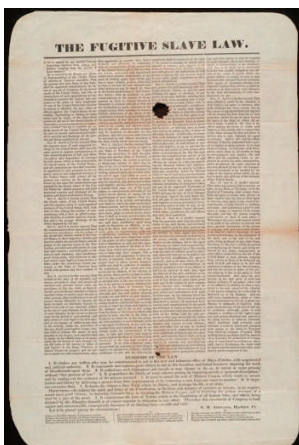
As one of the nation's leading abolitionists and one of the most radical Theodore Parker's sermons attract thousands each Sunday in the city of Boston. He continually advocates that people defy the Fugitive Slave Act and has written articles soundly attacking slavery and the South. He holds the view that there should be racial integration in the schools and the churches. His friends and followers include important reformers such as, Louisa May Alcott, Julia Ward Howe and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Now he has openly given shelter and protection to a fugitive slave by the name of Ellen Craft. How should we advise the president to deal with such a public act of defiance to federal law? **Options**

- A. The president must not allow such a public act of defiance to federal law to go without action. The president must order Mr. Parker to turn over the fugitive slave, if he refuses as we suspect send federal troops to seize the fugitive. If blood is spilled, it is the consequence of extremists in the abolitionists' movement.
- B. The president must ignore the incident and not give the abolitionists the attention that they crave so dearly. To take any action will only give the abolitionists' movement greater strength in a time when compromise has been reached in the issue of slavery. If needed the federal government can compensate the slaveholder for his lost property.
- C. The president must demand that the slave be turned over to the proper authorities and threaten the use of the military force if Mr. Parker fails to compel. However, it is likely that this action will only prompt Mr. Parker and his Boston supporters to find a means to get the fugitive slave out of the country. If so, the issue should be quietly put to rest.

The Whig Party(1851) President Fillmore

Decision #14

The hope that the Missouri Compromise would be the final solution on the issue of slavery has done quite the opposite to the people and politicians of this nation. The Abolitionists of the Northern states are enraged at the Fugitive Slave Act, claiming that our party has betrayed them. Southerners are angered that slavery isn't guaranteed in New Mexico and question the national government's commitment to carry out the Fugitive Slave Act, especially in the New England states which have passed "personal liberty" laws meant to impede the recapture of escaped slaves. How can the president best cope with these competing problems, while attempting to preserve the Whig Party? **Options**



- A. The president must side with the abolitionists and our Northern Whig supporters. The slavery supporters and Southern Whigs have their Fugitive Slave Act as they had wanted. It is the southerners that are at fault for the continued difficulties concern the slavery issue. Our political party was founded on the principle of national growth and the spirit of nationalism. The future of this country lies in industry and commerce, not the plantations of cotton and tobacco.
- B. The president must remain above this continuing debate concerning slavery. The Compromise of 1850 is law and the president must quietly carry out its intentions. It is critical that Northern Whigs or Southern Whigs do not view the president as taking sides on this issue. Leave it to the individual states to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act as they deem necessary.
- C. The president must respond to the concerns of those supporting slavery and the Southern Whigs. The president must demonstrate that the national government will aggressively enforce the Fugitive Slave Act. The southerners of the Whig Party are essential for the political party's survival. The Whig Party will live or die depending on the question of slavery.

American “Filibustering” Expeditions(1851) President Fillmore

Decision #15

Since the Polk administration, our country has actively sought to purchase the island of Cuba from Spain. However, despite very generous terms Spain has refused. However, it has come to this government’s knowledge that a Venezuelan named Narciso Lopez has raised a force of American volunteers to land in Cuba and cause a popular uprising against the Spanish occupiers. Of course, when the rebellion succeeds the leaders will turn to our country for annexation. This “invasion” has the quiet support of many southern leaders and a few northern merchants. However, to insure success the group will need financial and military support from our government. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must attempt to stop Lopez and his merry band of adventurers. It is outrageous to think that his tiny force can force a rebellion against the Spanish civil and military authorities. Any attempts to the acquiring of Cuba must be done with diplomacy, not war. The country can’t risk angering a European power.
- B. The president must do nothing in this situation. Lopez has not broken any laws, nor has he tied his efforts to our government. If his attempt is a failure as many suspect, then our government will still be free to pursue the purchasing of the island of Cuba from the Spanish government.
- C. The president must support Lopez and his freedom fighters. The Spanish authorities have long repressed the Cuban people, who wish only to be a part of the growing democratic system that we support. The cost will be limited to military arms and naval transportation. Once the popular uprising has begun we can then send troops into the island to protect American interests and justify it to the world under the guise of the Monroe Doctrine.

Matthew Perry/Japan (1853) President Fillmore

Decision #16

Our country’s trade in the Orient has steadily increased. Although our efforts in China have proven to have certain success, the British presence in that country makes advancements limited. However, two of our naval officers have sent back reports in recent years that Japan could be forced into opening their country to trade with our nation. At this point, only Dutch registered ships may trade with Japan, and only through the port of Nagasaki. Many of our nation’s merchants are seeking greater access to the Japanese nation, and our country could gain both an economic and political advantage such as the one the British enjoy in China. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must send an unarmed merchant fleet to the nation with one our diplomats to arrange a trade agreement. The fleet will not only show the Tokugawa Shogunate of Japan the goods that we could provide, but the wealth that their nation could gain as well. The United States needs new markets for their increasing manufactured goods, and greater access to the fine porcelain and silks of the Orient. If we pressure Japan too greatly they may turn to one of the European countries for protection.
- B. The president must send a powerful military fleet under the command of a naval officer empowered to make a treaty between our two governments. Both of our previous naval officers demonstrated that the Tokugawa Shogunate is greatly impressed with force and less with dialogue. If we show the Japanese the superiority our military technology, then a treaty will be assured.
- C. The president must immediately dispatch a secret diplomat with wide discretionary powers to establish a trade agreement between our two nations. Time is of the essence in this situation. The Dutch already have a foothold in Japan and have begun to make progress in opening Japan to greater trade with the Dutch solely in control. Any non-discreet actions by our nation will only drive the Tokugawa Shogunate into the Dutch government.

Gadsden Purchase(1853) President Pierce

Decision #17

Despite the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo our nation still has a key border dispute with the Mexican government. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis has proposed that our nation offer to buy a section of land along New Mexico Territory's border to both settle this border dispute and accommodate a proposed transcontinental railroad that would start in New Orleans and end in California. How should we advise the president? **Options**

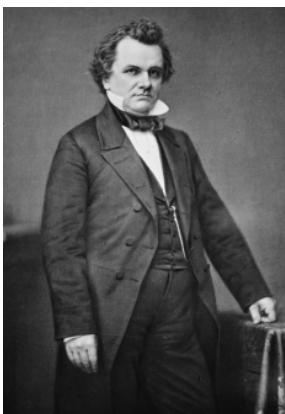
- A. The president must send a diplomat to Mexico with the full authority to pay up to 15 million dollars to settle the border and purchase additional territory. The transcontinental railroad is an important step in unifying the country both commercially and symbolically. By purchasing this land our administration will show are continued support to the southern states' needs.
- B. The president must instruct our diplomat to seek only to establish a final border between our two nations. The idea of constructing a railroad of such length and across such a barren wilderness is sheer folly. Our nation has too many issues, especially of slavery, to be purchasing more land that can only fuel more anger from the northern states.
- C. The president must send troops to the Mexican border to enforce the existing borders of our two nations. The Mexican government is only trying to squeeze money out our government at time when our nation is distracted by the slavery issue. A sizable troop presence will remind the Mexican government how lucky they were to have kept their independence.



Kansas – Nebraska Act(1855) President Pierce

Decision #18

Senator Stephen Douglas has succeeded in gaining the passage in both House of Congress a piece of legislation that would introduce the practice of “popular sovereignty” to the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. The senator claims it is the only way to appease the southern states. It is also suspected that he hopes to win southern votes for the first transcontinental railroad to start in his hometown of Chicago. He refused to wait to see if the Supreme Court will declare any of the various compromises that have banned slavery to be unconstitutional, thus make “popular sovereignty” the law of the land concerning slavery in the territories. The bill has come before the president for his signature. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must veto the bill. It is clear that Senator Douglas's motives are not entirely centered on the greater needs of this nation. Failure to veto the bill will only push our party's northern supporters away from our party. While our southern party members realize that the concept of “popular sovereignty” will likely be upheld by the Supreme Court.
- B. The president must sign the bill into law. Although the bill will likely prove unnecessary after the Supreme Court issues its decision, failure to sign the bill could push the southern states into seceding from the Union. The union must be preserved at all costs.
- C. The president must not sign the bill or veto the bill. Under the Constitution the bill will become law after ten days (excluding Sunday). This should lessen the anger of various northerners, while satisfying the southerners.

Ostend Manifesto(1854) President Pierce

Decision #19

The Spanish government has yet again refused to sell the island of Cuba to our country. Despite our very generous terms of 130 million dollars, the Spanish king has flatly refused. Our minister of France, England (James Buchanan pictured below) and Spain have written a manifesto justifying our needs to possess the island of Cuba before it falls into the hands of slaves rebelling against Spanish rule. Unfortunately, the implied threats of military action within the manifesto has inflamed anger against our country from Europe and the abolitionists in our country see it as an attempt to preserve slavery on that island and enhance the power of southern slave states. The president must make a statement concerning this manifesto. How should we advise the president?

Options

- A. The president must instruct the Secretary of State to repudiate the manifesto. The United States can't afford to have the countries of South America and Europe collectively angry at the United States. Our diplomats over-played their hand. We must put aside our desire for the island of Cuba for the foreseeable future.
- B. The president must instruct the Secretary of State to firmly defend the manifesto. It is in the United States best interest to gain control of the island of Cuba. It presents a true threat of exporting slave revolts to the South, if a rebellion succeeds on that island. The Monroe Doctrine gives this nation clear international precedence to act, within the hemisphere, without the consultation of Europe.
- C. The president must simply ignore the protests from the various countries. Once Spain realizes that the United States is committed to gaining possession of Cuba, then their king will come to terms. Europe is not in a position to offer anything but angry words towards our country.



Walker Expedition(1854) President Pierce

Decision #20

William Walker, an American mercenary or more accurate "filibuster" had successfully seized control of the government of Nicaragua. Our government had then recognized him as the legitimate leader of that country. The country is of important national interest to this nation. Its location has developed into a vital link between our eastern and western ports. Some people have begun discussion of building both railroad and canal linkage between the two great oceans. However, recent actions by President Walker have caused both the remaining Central American nations and Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt to begin plotting his removal. Mr. Vanderbilt has begun to help outfit a military force to remove him from power and is now demanding that the United States withdraw its recognition of the Walker government. How should we advise the president? **Options**



- A. The president must politely ignore the demands of Mr. Vanderbilt and the various Central American nations. The Walker government has the popular support of the people and still respects American interests in Nicaragua. Until events in Nicaragua change, there is little reason for the United States to withdraw its support to the Nicaragua government.
- B. The president must withdraw its support of President Walker, and aid in his removal from power. His actions threaten both the stability of the Central American region and aggravate the ongoing conflict concerning slavery in this country. If Mr. Vanderbilt and his allies are able to gain a clear advantage in Nicaragua, then the U.S. military should be used to finish his removal if necessary.
- C. The president must immediately stop Mr. Vanderbilt's efforts in recruiting and training an army to remove the Walker government. It is a violation of American neutrality laws for an American citizen to recruit and train individuals for the purpose of overthrowing a recognized government. The United States can't allow private citizens to dictate our national foreign policy.

Sack of Lawrence/Pottawatomie Massacre(1856) President Pierce **Decision #21**

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was to end the debate over slavery, which it has in the territory of Kansas. Instead both pro and anti-slavery emigrants that had rushed into the state to establish their view as the majority view of the territorial government have begun open war against each other. The establishment of a pro-slavery territorial government has only inflamed the issue. Pro-slavery forces have attacked and destroyed portions of the town of Lawrence, while abolitionist John Brown has carried out the murder of five pro-slavery individuals at Pottawatomie Creek. A congressional committee has found that the election of the pro-slavery territorial government was improperly influenced by “border ruffians” as they are called by some anti-slavery supporters, and is recommending that the president take proper action. Both sides are arming their supporters and continued bloodshed is all but certain. How should we advise the president? **Options**

- A. The president must order the military into the territory and immediately disband the territorial government. The territory can be administered as a military district until proper and fair elections are held. The violence can't be allowed to escalate and possible cause other extremists on each side of the issue to act in other parts of the country.
- B. The president must continue recognizing the existing territorial government of Kansas. There is little evidence that the actions of the so called “border ruffians” changed the ultimate outcome of the Kansas elections. It is the anti-slavery forces that are violating federal law and must cease their attempts to create a separate territorial government.
- C. The president must suspend the “writ of habeas corpus” in the territory of Kansas. Then instruct the military to arrest any individuals armed and organize within the territory. As the extremists are removed from the population, the moderates of the territory can assume greater control of the situation.



Dred Scott Decision(1857) President Buchanan

Decision #22

The Buchanan administration has just begun its term in the White House and the responsibility of leading the nation in this volatile time period. The issue of slavery is threatening to tear the nation in half, but there is hope that this peculiar institution's fate can be settled for once and for all. The Dred Scott Case has been put before the Supreme Court and a decision is expected in days. Our sources have told us that the decision will likely be against Mr. Scott, but will mirror the sectional divisions of our country. **Options**



- A. The president must use his influence to sway one of the northern justices to side with the majority decision. It is time to remove the slavery issue from the political landscape of our country. If our administration can get the Supreme Court to rule against Mr. Scott then the slavery issue can be put to rest.
- B. The president must not consider any attempts to influence the decision of the Supreme Court. Although, not illegal, any correspondence would be viewed as improper and hurt the both reputation of this administration and the validity of the Supreme Court's decision.
- C. The president must ignore the decision of the Supreme Court. It is clear to all that have heard the case that the Supreme Court is biased towards slavery. Their decision will not be based on constitutional law, but on their private feelings towards slavery and blacks. The president must act in the best

interests to this nation and avoid risking either side being pushed towards war.

Lecompton Constitution(1858) President Buchanan

Decision #23

The pro-slavery citizens of Kansas have successfully written a constitution for their admission as a slave state. However, they lack the votes to get it passed in their newly elected legislature. The pro-slavery citizens have instead proposed to put forth a vote on whether to accept slavery and the importation of slaves or no further importation of slaves, but slavery remaining legal. Northerners and even Stephen Douglas have denounced this action, and free-soilers in Kansas are refusing to take part in the vote. How should we advise the president?

Options

- A. The president must refuse to submit Kansas's petition to join the Union to the Congress. Their actions do not represent the will of the majority of the people of that territory. It is the responsibility of the president to insure that the Constitution is not violated in both a real and moral sense.
- B. The president must allow the vote to proceed and submit the Kansas's admission to join the Union to the Congress, as a slave state. Although the process was not ideal, it still has followed the democratic and legal process laid out by federal law. Failure to allow Kansas the right to be admitted into the Union will only create more violence in that territory and weaken our democratic institutions.
- C. The president must demand that the territory of Kansas begin the process again. It is clear that pro-slavery supporters have manipulated the process to their advantage, and don't represent the will of the people in the territory of Kansas. It is essential that this process is done correctly or we risk inciting renewed violence in that territory.

John Brown's Raid(1858) President Buchanan

Decision #24

The state of Virginia has concluded their trial of John Brown, the radical abolitionist. He has been found guilty of the murder, treason and the attempt to incite an insurrection. The court has sentenced John Brown to death by public hanging. The fundamental question is whether John Brown and his band operated on his own or if prominent abolitionists and the Republican Party had involvement in this attack. The Senate is considering whether to conduct an investigation. If the investigation determines any direct connection it will do much to discredit the abolitionists and the Republican Party. **Options**



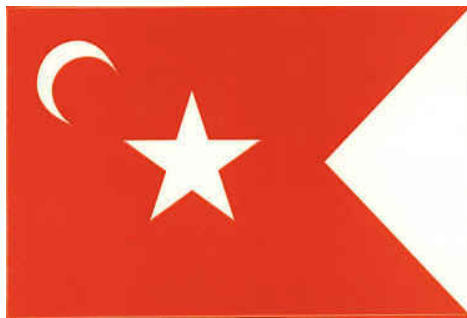
- A. The president must use his influence to stop any such proceedings. If it is found that John Brown had financial support from various abolitionists or Republican Party supporters it will destroy any hope of peacefully ending this slavery controversy.
- B. The president must allow the investigation to proceed. It may well be that John Brown had financial support from various abolitionists, if necessary their crimes will be put on trial. Public support is strongly against John Brown's actions and any of those who may have helped him will surely try to hide from that fact.
- C. The president must order the Attorney General to begin an immediate investigation to determine whether there is any truth of the existence of a group called the "Secret Six". It is critical to the security of both the nation and the Union that this group, if it existed, to be exposed and brought to justice.

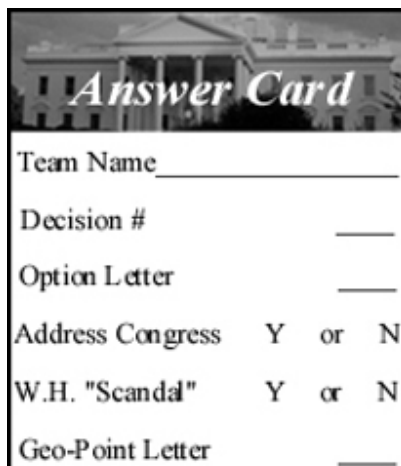
South Carolina Succession(1860) President Buchanan

Decision #25

It is nearly the end of the year and a special convention has been convened in South Carolina to decide if that state will secede from the United States. After years of threats of succession that dated back to the Jackson administration, South Carolina has in fact declared that it is no longer a part of the Union in a unanimous vote. It is certain that other southern states will follow South Carolina's lead and vote for succession and the destruction of the United States as we know it. How should we advise the president respond to this situation? **Options**

- A. The president must call for volunteers to be organized for the purpose to reinforce government held military posts and to force those seceding states back into the Union, by force if necessary. The United States can't allow any state to secede if their wishes are not satisfied in our democratic government. No state or series of states is greater in importance than the whole of the Union.
- B. The president must denounce and declare the act of succession as illegal, but take no aggressive actions that might lead to other slave states seceding from the Union. The border states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri have made it clear that they too will secede from the Union and place both our capital and our nation in even graver risk.
- C. The president must do nothing at this time. As the out-going president this is a problem for the Lincoln administration to solve. The reason for South Carolina's succession was the election of Abraham Lincoln and their belief he would abolish slavery in the south. It is for the Lincoln administration to demonstrate its intentions and with hope put out the flame of succession.





Answer Card

Team Name _____

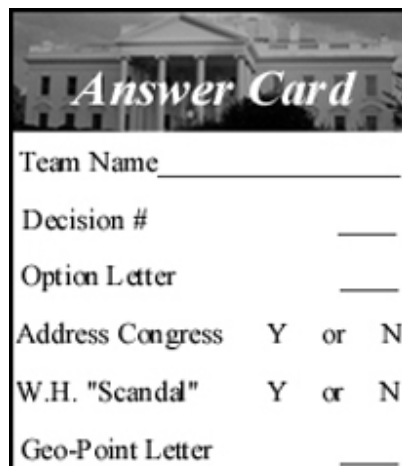
Decision # _____

Option Letter _____

Address Congress Y or N

W.H. "Scandal" Y or N

Geo-Point Letter _____



Answer Card

Team Name _____

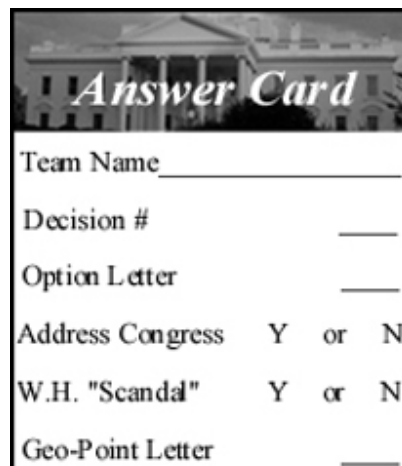
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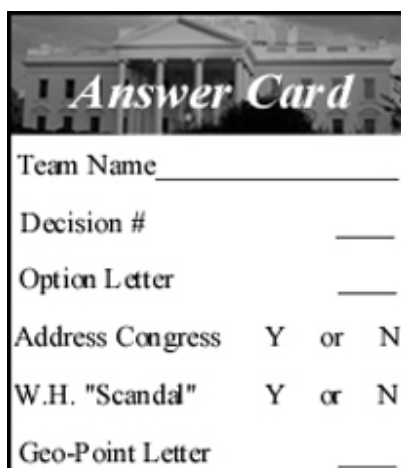
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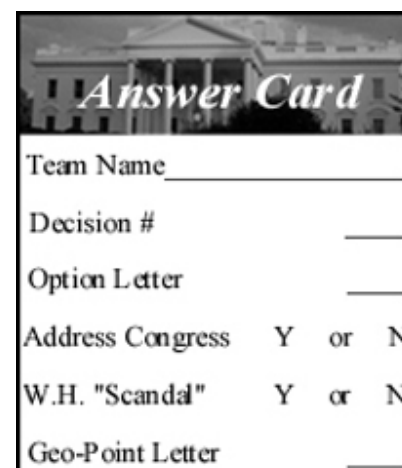
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Answer Card

Team Name _____

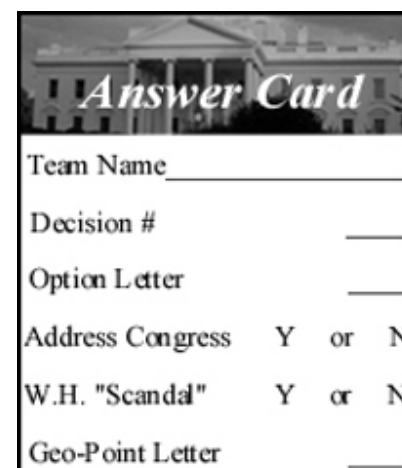
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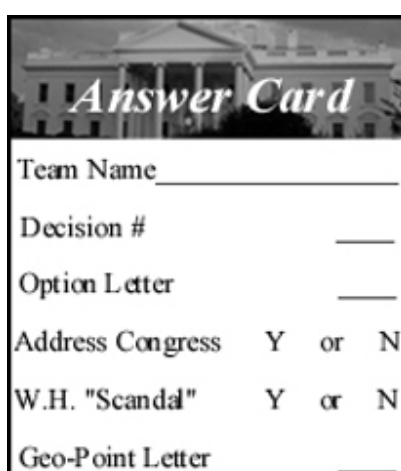
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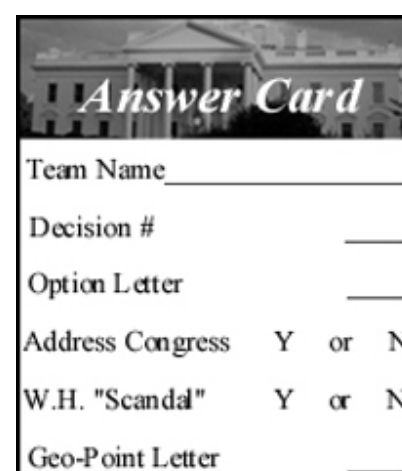
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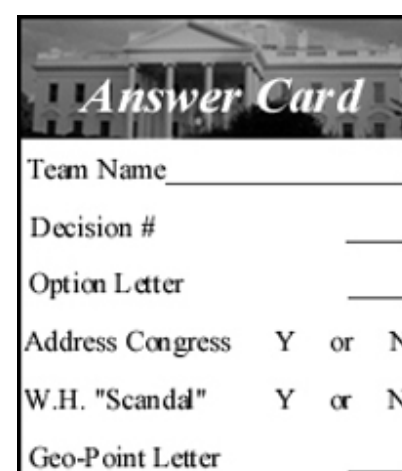
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Answer Card

Team Name _____

Decision # _____

Option Letter _____

Address Congress Y or N

W.H. "Scandal" Y or N

Geo-Point Letter _____

Influence Points

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Influence Points

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TEACHERS CONFIDENTIAL SHEET

Decision Answers

<u>#</u>	<u>Option</u>
1	C
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	C
9	B
10	A
11	B
12	C
13	C
14	C
15	A
16	B
17	A
18	B
19	A
20	B
21.	B
22.	A
23.	B
24.	A
25.	B

Geo-Point Map Answers

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Geo-Point</u>
A	Snake River
B	Willamette Settlements
C	Columbia River
D	San Francisco, California
E	Sutter's Mill, California
F	Colorado River
G	Rio Grande River
H	Nueces River
I	Mississippi River
J	San Antonio, Texas
K	Red River
L	Lake Superior
M	Lake Michigan
N	Lake Huron
O	Lake Erie
P	Lake Ontario
Q	Missouri River
R	Lawrence, Kansas
S	Chicago, Illinois
T	Ohio River
U	Washington D.C.
V	Providence, Rhode Island
W	Boston, Massachusetts
X	St. Lawrence River
Y	Mexico City, Mexico
Z	New Orleans, Louisiana

Student Research Sheet

Vocabulary Terms

1. Whigs Party
2. Executive Cabinet
3. *La Amistad*
4. Webster-Ashburton Treaty
5. Caroline Affair
6. Aroostook War
7. Texas Annexation
8. Willamette Settlements
9. Hudson Bay Company
10. Monroe Doctrine
11. Wilmot Proviso
12. Missouri Compromise of 1820
13. Manifest Destiny
14. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
15. Clay's Compromise
16. Fugitive Slave Act
17. "Filibustering" expeditions
18. Onsted Manifesto
19. Kansas-Nebraska Act
20. "Bleeding Kansas"
21. "Sack of Lawrence"
22. Pottawatomie Massacre
23. habeas corpus
24. Dred Scott
25. Lecompton Constitution
26. South Carolina Succession

Important People

1. President Harrison
2. President Tyler
3. John Quincy Adams
4. Sen. & Sec. Daniel Webster
5. Thomas W. Dorr
6. President Polk
7. Sen. Henry Clay
8. Gen. Zachary Taylor
9. Gen. Winfield Scott
10. Gen. Santa Anna
11. President Zachary Taylor
12. President Millard Fillmore
13. Sen. Stephen Douglas
14. Sen. John C. Calhoun
15. Sec. Jefferson Davis
16. Commodore Matthew Perry
17. Tokugawa Shogunate
18. William Walker
19. John Brown
20. Theodore Parker



Student Worksheet #1

Student Name _____

Period _____

Define the following terms using your textbook and/or outside sources

- 1) habeas corpus
- 2) Manifest Destiny
- 3) Executive Cabinet
- 4) Monroe Doctrine

Define the significance of each event to American history using your textbook and/or outside sources

- 1) Texas Annexation
- 2) Missouri Compromise of 1820
- 3) Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 4) Dred Scott Decision

Define the importance of each person to American history using your textbook and/or outside sources

- 1) President Polk
- 2) Sen. Henry Clay
- 3) Sen. Stephen Douglas
- 4) Senator John C. Calhoun

Student Worksheet #1

Student Name _____

Period _____

Answer the following questions in a complete paragraph with supporting details

- 1) What were the justifications for the Monroe Doctrine policy and the Manifest Destiny philosophy?

- 2) Why were the reasons for the Whig Party's collapse in the late 1850's?

- 3) Why did the Clay Compromise that Senator Stephen Douglas succeed in passing, fail to settle the slavery issue?

- 4) What was "Bleeding Kansas" and why did its signal that what may not be avoidable?

Final Assessment Test

Student Name_____ ***Period***_____

Define the following terms

1. Manifest Destiny

2. Monroe Doctrine

Define the significance of each event to American history

1. Missouri Compromise of 1820

2. Texas Annexation

3. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Define the importance of each person to American history

1. President Polk

2. Senator Henry Clay

3. Senator Stephen Douglas

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper in a complete paragraph, including supporting details

1. What were the justifications for the Monroe Doctrine policy and the Manifest Destiny philosophy?

2. Why did the Clay Compromise that Senator Stephen Douglas succeed in passing, fail to settle the slavery issue?

Write the name of the location next to the corresponding letter using the Test map.

A_____

F_____

B_____

G_____

C_____

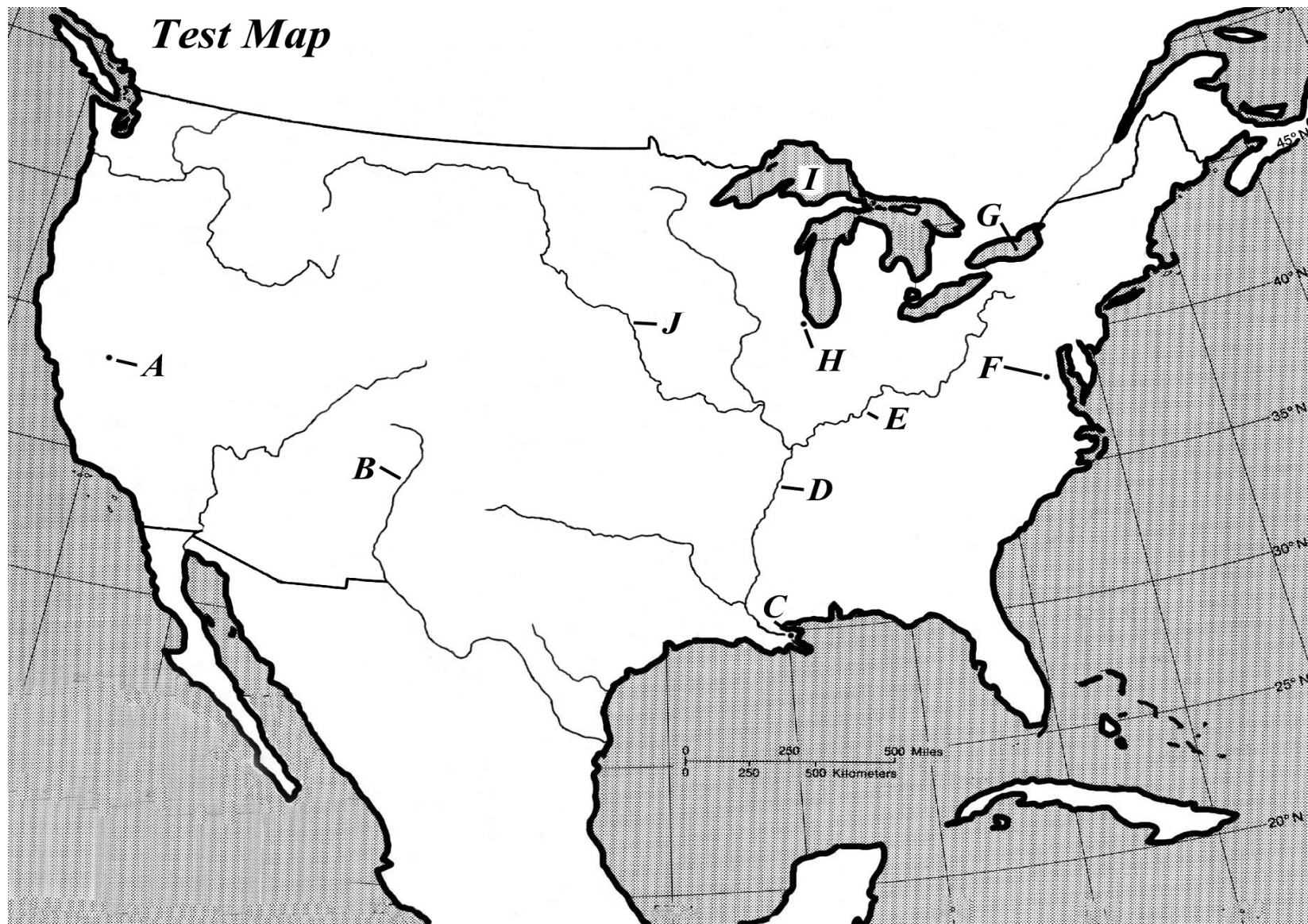
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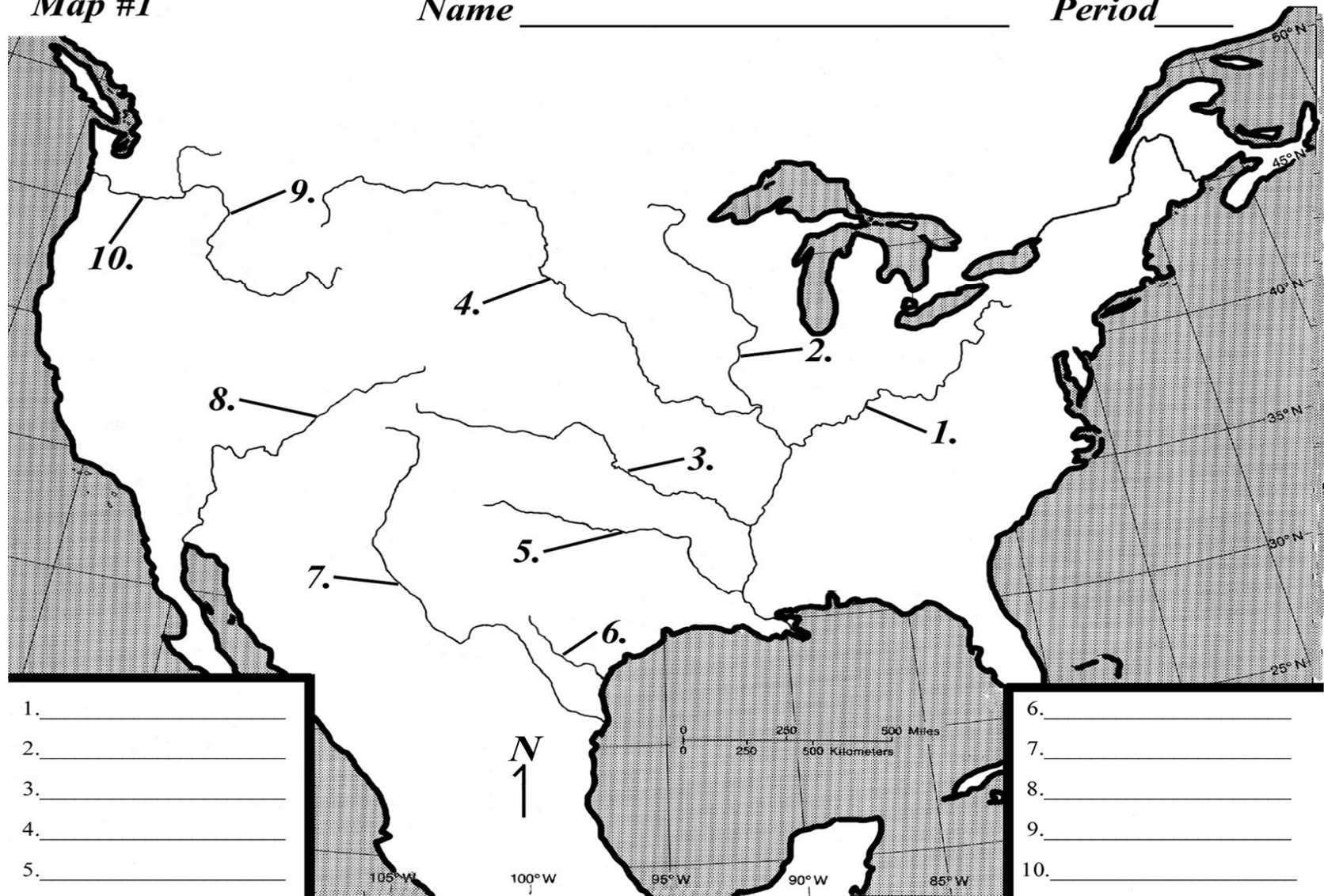
J_____



Map #1

Name _____

Period _____



1. _____
2. _____
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Map #2

Name _____ Period _____

Identify the territorial expansions of the United States

