Countdown to Civil War

1. Read The Main Problem:

The main problem causing tension between the sections of the United States was slavery. This became more apparent in the 1800s as America gained territory in the west. The North and the South engaged in bitter debates about the expansion of slavery into the new territories, and a series of compromises failed to solve the issue. Eventually, arguments about the power of the federal government to control the movement of slaves and a state’s rights to dictate its own policy about slavery led to more tension. Slavery was a constant weight undermining America’s growth, and soon tore the nation apart.

2 reasons why slavery caused tension in the United States in the 1800s:

____________________  
____________________  
____________________  
____________________  
____________________  
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____________________  
____________________  

2. Rank the Events 1 to 9. 1 is the most important event leading to Civil War, 9 the least important.

3. Use WB, p. ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compromise of 1850</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas-Nebraska Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bleeding Kansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence in the Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dred Scott Decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of the Republican Party</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Election of 1860 (Lincoln)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Choose the top 4 events. Assign 1 event to each person in the group. Fill in the chart about your assigned event with complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Event: ___________________________ Date of Event ____________</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Explain the Event:**

_________________________________________ was a main event leading to the Civil War.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Why did this event cause tension between the North and the South, helping lead to the Civil War?

_________________________________________ caused tension between the North and South.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Create a Poster

Choose from titles to help you create a poster showing the top 4 events leading to Civil War, or you can modify or think of your own title/poster idea.

Posters must have

- All names in the upper left-hand corner, per. #
- A title and a shape for the poster with graphics/illustrations
- 4 events leading to the Civil War ranked on the poster
- An explanation of each event and why it was important in leading to Civil War.
- **Poster Title Samples:**
  - High Noon: Civil War!
  - Temperature Rising: Civil War!
  - Explosion: Civil War!