

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

A House Divided

The following is an excerpt from a speech Abraham Lincoln made when he was chosen as a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate on June 16, 1858.

A house divided against itself cannot stand.

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*.

I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* -- I do not expect the house to *fall* -- but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other.

Either the *opponents* of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its *advocates* will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in *all* the States, *old* as well as *new* -- *North* as well as *South*.

endure: to bear or tolerate

dissolved: to break up

cease: discontinue

arrest: an act of stopping

1. What is the main issue that is dividing the nation at this time?

Slavery

2. Explain why the South depended on slavery and the North did not.

South = plantations

North = factories

3. What does Lincoln mean by "a house divided"?

The country is divided by the issue of slavery

4. What is the main idea of this speech? What is Lincoln trying to say?

The country cannot be divided.

Preserve the Union