Introduction: Tennesseans were divided on the issue of secession. In this lesson, students will explore the events that ultimately led Tennessee to secede. Students will also examine the geographical division of Tennessee over the issue of slavery and secession.

Guiding Question(s):

- What events led Tennessee to secede in June 1861?
- How did views on secession vary throughout the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee?

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will

- Analyze primary source documents
- Work in groups to create a timeline of events
- Analyze the geographic patterns of voting results
- Write an editorial that demonstrates knowledge of how public sentiment regarding slavery varied in throughout the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee

Curriculum Standards:

5.41 - Examine the issue of slavery in the three grand divisions and the impact their differences had on Tennessee’s secession from the Union. (C, E, G, H, P, T)

8.62 - Describe the outbreak of the Civil War and the resulting sectional differences, including: Economic, geographic, and technological differences, military strategies, roles of President Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, Significance of Fort Sumter, and geographical divisions within states. (C, E, G, H, P, T)
Materials Needed:

Election Results:
- Maury County
- Scott County
- Greene County
- Hardeman County
- Henry County
- Cartmell Diary Entry: December 1860

Lawrence Family Papers Entries for
- Jan 1, 1861 (page 68)
- Feb 9, 1861 (page 68)
- April 13, 1861 (page 69)
- April 20, 1861 (page 69)
- April 25, 1861 (page 69)
- May 1, 1861 (page 70)
- June 1, 1861 (page 70)
- June 8, 1861 (page 70)
- June 17, 1861 (page 70)
- Map of Tennessee Counties
- Timeline Graphic Organizer
- Voting Results Organizer
- Governor Isham Harris’ letter of February 28th, 1861 (for extension activity)

Background: Teachtnhistory.org—Hurst Nation and the State of Scott

Preparation Instructions:

- Print one copy of each of the diary entries. Transcriptions of the entries are included with lesson materials. These will be distributed in 10 stations throughout the classroom.
- Print copies of each of the election results for the five counties listed above. You will need one set for each of your small groups. Alternately, you may wish to provide students with links to the digital copies so that they can utilize the zoom feature to view the documents in more detail.
- Print one copy of the county map for each group.
- Print one copy of the timeline organizer for each group.
- Print one copy of the election results organizer for each group.
- Read the background essay and primary source documents to familiarize yourself with the issues and materials.
Lesson Activities: Activity 1

Divide students into small groups. Give each group a copy of the timeline organizer. Groups will travel to each of the stations, read each primary source document and summarize it on the timeline organizer. Once all groups have completed the timeline, review the events with the students. Ask the students to explain the relationship between national events such as the election of Abraham Lincoln with events in Tennessee.

Lesson Activities Continued: Activity 2

Before beginning this activity, you will need to clarify with students that the June 1861 ballot had two questions. Should Tennessee separate from the Union? Should Tennessee seek representation in the Confederate Congress? Give each group a set of county election results, a map of Tennessee counties and a graphic organizer. Students need to find each county on the map and determine if it is in East, Middle or West Tennessee. Next, students will read the primary source documents, determine the results of the election and record the information on the organizer. After students have completed the organizer, discuss their findings. Ask students to generalize about public sentiment regarding secession in each of the Grand Divisions based on their findings.

Lesson Activities Continued: Activity 3

Write an editorial that might have appeared in a Scott county or Maury county newspaper. The editorial should mention at least 3 of the Tennessee events from the timeline and correctly reflect the public sentiment of the county.

Extending the Lesson: Have students create a multimedia presentation on secession in Tennessee using documents and images from the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Have students transcribe Governor Isham Harris’ letter of February 28th, 1861. Ask them to compare the sentiments expressed in letter with Harris reply to Lincoln’s call for troops following the Battle at Fort Sumter.

Page 3 of 3
## June Secession Vote

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Grand Division</th>
<th>Election Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maury County</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott County</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene County</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardeman County</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry County</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Secession Events Timeline

#### National Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1860</td>
<td>Lincoln elected president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1860</td>
<td>South Carolina secedes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1861</td>
<td>Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana secede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12, 1861</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Sumter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tennessee Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December, 1860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 21, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
take into consideration the state of public affairs: "In order to call the convention of the people of their states to legislation in order to call conventions of the southern states have called extra sessions of their legislatures. They rather think it best to get from under it. The difficulties are seen meeting them. South Carolina has already seceded. Several members have been murdered. The cloud grows larger. Blacker to remain under it seems cannot stand. Was his idea. The south have no disposition to submit to states could not stand part free & part slave. "A house divided itself Douglas some a year since proclaimed the doctrine that these 5 Republicans. This same Lincoln in his canvass for State Senate with Republicans as they dominate themselves. Known in the South as Black Abraham Lincoln to the presidential chair of these United States. He is a man of events causing the most intense feeling is the election of "

Carroll Diary December, 1860
```
so rapidly hastening:

god can save us from that destruction to which we are
business stagnant & nothing but the power of almighty
politicians cannot save the union, people are divided,
land, which was once home of plenty & happiness. The
misery & fear stumbling walk unrestrainted over the
"finds the american eagle in deep distress, while want &

lawrence family papers january 1, 1861
```
seceded from the Union - six states. Carolina, Ala, Miss, Geo, Florida & La have already Disunion. I voted for Union & Convention. South Election held today in Tennessee. Question, Union or
Country."

exulting. Rules & is exulting. Rampant over the
Wintertary movements are going on North & South,
Yesterday by the South Carolinians & surrendered today.
anticipated for a long time. Fort Sumter was attacked
"The great and political crisis is upon us, which has been

Lawrence Family Papers April 13, 1861
but 50,000 it necessary for the defense of our State

to furnish a single man for any such accursed purpose,

Southern States. Our Gov. Harris has indignantly refused

States for troops to put down "rebellion" in our Sister

Lincoln has made a call upon all the border States

Lawrence Family Papers April 20, 1861
been in service in the wilds of Mexico commanded by Major Heimann a gallant officer who has districk in the state. I have joined the Nashville Guards companies are forming at this time in almost every State Generally are busy in warlike preparations, extraordinary times that are upon us. Nashville & the purpose of deciding measures to meet the called session of the Legislature commences today for Lawrence Family Papers April 25, 1861
past.

defense, secession, Ordinance of Confederate alliance
as needed, also $5,000,000 have been appropriated for
service & 30,000 as a reserve to be mustered in as soon
the State for 25,000 troops, 25,000 for immediate
The Legislature in Extra Session has made a call upon
Lawrence Family Papers May 1, 1861
From all parts of the state, "Companies are being rapidly mustered into service"
carried by a large majority in the affirmative: “

\[\text{Vote was taken upon Separation & Representation} \]

Lawrence Family Papers June 8, 1861
enthusiasm

state Capital, it was hoisted today amid much

The Secession Flag now waves in triumph from our

Lawrence Family Papers June 17, 1861