

## Meet the Candidates

**A+:** Based on your prior knowledge, predict the role that the slavery issue played in the election of 1860. Identify specific events, legislation, etc. to justify your position.

**Objective:** The student will be able to identify and discuss the differences between the four presidential candidates of the 1860 election.

**Procedure:**

1. Students will read a brief biography of one of the four presidential candidates in the 1860 election
2. Using the information from the biography, students will create a campaign poster promoting the candidate and their attributes

**Summary:** Students will present their posters to classmates and discuss the qualities of the various candidates (day 2)

# Meet the Candidates

## Republican

*National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, May 16-18, 1860*



**Presidential:** Abraham Lincoln, former Representative from Illinois

**Vice-Presidential:** Hannibal Hamlin, Former governor and current Senator from Maine.

**Biography:** Lincoln was a former Whig, a member of the House of Representatives from 1847 – 1849 where he opposed the Mexican War. He held a law practice in Springfield, Illinois after leaving office. He ran for United States Senate on the Republican ticket in 1858, against incumbent Stephen Douglas, taking part in the now famous “Lincoln-Douglas Debates.” He lost the election, but gained national recognition.

**Slavery:** Opposed the spread of slavery in any form to the new territories.

## Democrat (Northern)

*National Convention held in Charleston, South Carolina on April 23, 1860, then again in Baltimore, Maryland on June 18, 1860*



**Presidential:** Stephen Douglas, Senator from Illinois

**Vice-Presidential:** Herschel Vespasian Johnson, (after Benjamin Fitzpatrick, Senator from Alabama, declined) Former Governor of Georgia

**Biography:** Douglas held United States Senate seat since 1847, supporting both the expansion of the United States to include the entire continent and the Mexican War. In 1858, he was opposed by Lincoln. The two held seven nationally-covered debates across the state of Illinois. Douglas retained the seat.

**Slavery:** Wanted the people of the territories to be able to decide for themselves whether or not they wanted slavery.