**Civil War Causes**

**Brain Pop Notes**

**-In 1860 & 1861, 11 southern states seceded (left) the Union. They formed the Confederate states of America**

-The 24 states that stayed with the U.S. were called the Union.

-In April of 1861, Confederate soldiers fired upon Union soldiers at Fort Sumter in S.C. This was the beginning of the Civil War.

**Why did Abraham Lincoln not want states to leave the Union?**

-He knew that if he let states leave the Union when they wanted that it would set a bad example. If a state didn’t like the rules, then they could leave.

The Confederacy believed in **states’ rights (the belief that each state gets to make its own laws).**

**The 10th Amendment** to the Constitution does allow states to make their own laws as long as they don’t go against Federal law. The North & the South disagreed about how powerful those Federal laws should be.

In 1832 South Carolina almost seceded over this in what was called the **Nullification Crisis**- S.C. wanted the right to nullify or cancel a Federal tariff (tax) that was hurting its economy.

Tariffs normally favored northern industry and hurt southern farmers.

**Slavery-** by the time the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787 most of the states north of Delaware had made slavery illegal. They thought slavery went against everything the U.S. was about.

**Slavery divided the North & the South.** Free states were especially worried about the Louisiana Purchase lands bought from France in 1803. They didn’t want any new states to be pro-slavery.

In 1820, Northern & Southern states agreed to the Missouri Compromise- it divided the Louisiana Purchase evenly between slavery & freedom. For every free state that joined the Union, a slave state would join.

In 1854 Southern politicians managed to pass the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. It repealed the Compromise of 1820. It said that any new state could be a slave state if it wanted to. **The Supreme Court supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act with the Dred Scott Decision**.

**Dred Scott-** He was a slave whose owner traveled from free states to slave states. The Courts said that even when he traveled to free states he still belonged to his owner. It also said that African Americans could never be U.S. citizens and that slave owners from the South could keep their slaves if they moved to free states. This angered **abolitionists-** people who were against slavery.

Border states- Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and what would become West Virginia- fought with the Union. They were pro-slavery but anti-succession.