

## The Crisis Deepens

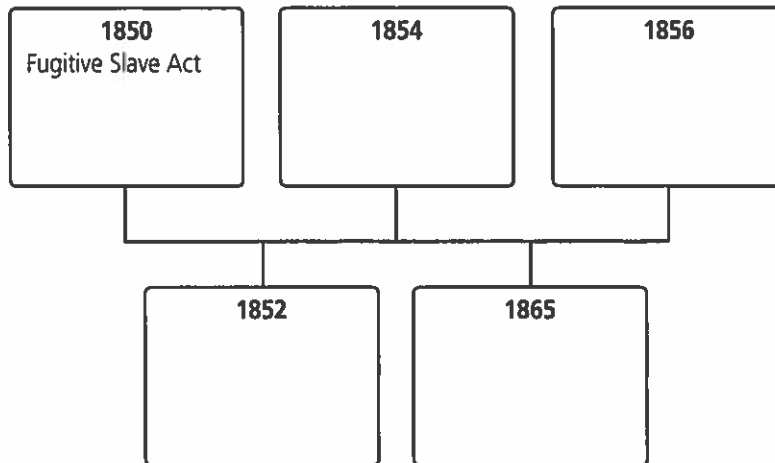
### BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read how differences between the North and the South threatened to tear the nation apart.

In this section, you will learn how conflicts over slavery led to violence.

### AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the events that led to increasing tensions over the slavery issue.



### TERMS & NAMES

**Harriet Beecher Stowe** Author of the antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

**Uncle Tom's Cabin** Antislavery novel written by Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Fugitive Slave Act** Law that helped slaveholders recapture runaway slaves

**popular sovereignty** A system where residents vote to decide an issue

**Kansas–Nebraska Act** Law that split the Nebraska Territory into Kansas and Nebraska and allowed people to vote on slavery in these territories

**John Brown** An extreme abolitionist

### The Fugitive Slave Act; Uncle Tom's Cabin (pages 446–447)

#### What was the Fugitive Slave Act?

The 1850 law that helped slaveholders recapture runaway slaves was called the **Fugitive Slave Act**. People accused of being *fugitives* could be arrested without a warrant.

Fugitives had no right to a jury trial. Instead, a federal official heard the case. The official was paid five dollars for releasing the fugitive. He was paid ten dollars if he turned the fugitive over to a slaveholder.

The law also required that Northerners return runaway slaves to their masters. It placed fines on people who helped runaway slaves escape.

Southern slave catchers traveled through the North. Sometimes they captured free African Americans.

The Fugitive Slave Act upset many Northerners. Northerners could no longer ignore that by supporting the Fugitive Slave Act, they played a role in supporting slavery.

In 1852, **Harriet Beecher Stowe** published the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The novel dealt with the moral issues of slavery. It described slavery as cruel and immoral. The book was popular in the North. But white Southerners believed it falsely criticized the South and slavery.

#### 1. What did the Fugitive Slave Act call for?

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