

Learning Target 7

- Describe the sectional issues that divided the United States after the War of 1812.
- Explain the role Ohio played with the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad.



After the War of 1812, the nation quickly expanded. This raised questions about whether or not to allow slavery in the new territories.

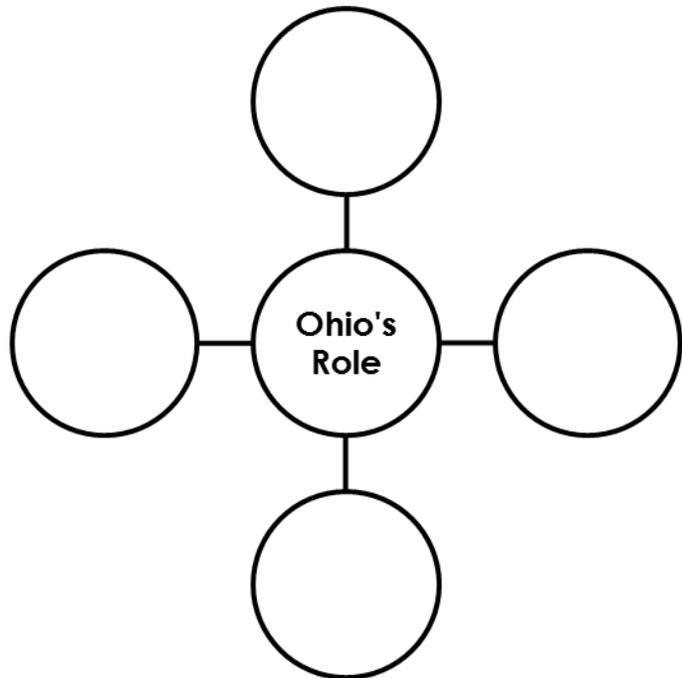
Under the terms of the Northwest Ordinance, Ohio was admitted to the U.S. as a free state.

Not all Ohioans were abolitionists. However, local **antislavery** newspapers made Ohio an important center of the anti-slavery movement. The Ohio Anti-Slavery Society hired people to give speeches across the state to convince Ohioans to join the **abolitionist movement**.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was a popular novel based on runaway slaves the author had met in Cincinnati.

Even though Ohio was a free state, the **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** made it illegal to help slaves escape. Ohio

served as the northern "trunk line" of the **Underground Railroad**. The Underground Railroad was a system of secret routes used by free people to help slaves escape to freedom. Escape routes developed throughout Ohio. Safe houses were places where slaves could be hidden during the day. Escaped slaves usually traveled at night to get to the next stop. Many cities in Ohio today have houses that were once used by escaped slaves heading north along the Underground Railroad.



Use a graphic organizer like the one above to take notes on Ohio's role in the abolitionist movement.

