Choosing Sides

At the start of the Civil War, each state had to decide whether it would stay in the Union. Most of the states that supported slavery seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. However, some of the slave states that bordered the North chose not to secede.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a bright color to shade the state on the map that is bordered by a Union state, a border state, and a Confederate state.

2. Write the letter C next to the capital city of the Confederate states. Then write the letter U next to the capital city of the Union states.

3. Outline the borders of the Union state that is surrounded by territories on all sides except the east side.

4. Use a light color to shade the border states that were part of the Union.
ANALYZING MAPS

1. Region  Which two Union states on the map are located farthest west?

2. Location  What was the capital of the Confederate states? In which state was it located?

3. Interpreting  In what year did West Virginia become a state?

4. Place  List the border states. Why do you think these states did not join the Confederacy even though they practiced slavery?

5. Drawing Conclusions  Why do you think West Virginia separated from the state of Virginia?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Draw a political cartoon that shows the division that occurred during the Civil War. Use pictures and text to describe the feelings of those who supported and opposed the Union.