**Chapter 14**

**Step 4**

**PUT IT ALL TOGETHER**

Now, take a step back and try to explain the big picture. Remember to use specific examples from the chapter in your answers.

**EXPANSION AND SECTIONALISM**

* Why was the Wilmot Proviso so controversial? What did the response to the Proviso reveal about the diverging visions of America in the North and in the South?
* Why was the expansion of slavery not only a moral issue for abolitionists, but largely an economic concern to both Northerners and Southerners?

**POLITICAL INSTABILITY**

* Why did the Compromise of 1850 ultimately fail?
* What were the consequences of the events of the 1840s and 1850s for America's political parties? How did the party system change under the pressure of the sectional divide?

**THE ROAD TO SECESSION**

* If most Northerners and Southerners wanted to avoid war, why did war come?
* Why did so many in the South see the election of Abraham Lincoln as a threat to their way of life? Why had over half of Southerners vote for pro-Union candidates?

**LOOKING BACKWARD, LOOKING AHEAD**

* Why, in the early nineteenth century, was compromise on the issue of slavery was possible? Why did so many reject compromise in the 1840s and 1850s?
* What consequences might Southerners have imagined would follow from secession? What might have led them to underestimate Lincoln’s determination to fight for the Union?