Civil War Tug of War:
Preview Exercise

Read the Sam Houston quote from the book Life of General Houston, 1793—1863 on the next page.

Answer the following questions about the quote:

Based on this quote, who do you think might have the advantage during the Civil War?

Why?

Do you agree with Sam Houston?

Which side would you prefer to be on based on the quote?

along the piazza, addressed his raging citizens. "His personal friends," says Mr. Bancroft, "fearing that violence would be offered, entreated him to remain quiet. But he was not to be stopped by any apprehension of danger. He stood erect before the people, and in prophetic language pictured to them the dark future." Here are a few of his words : —

"Some of you," he said, "laugh to scorn the idea of bloodshed as a result of secession, and jocularly propose to drink all the blood that will ever flow in consequence of it ! But let me tell you what is coming on the heels of secession. The time will come when your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers, will be herded together like sheep and cattle at the point of the bayonet, and your mothers and wives, and sisters and daughters, will ask, Where are they? You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure, and hundreds of thousands of precious lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence, if God be not against you, but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of State rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people, as you are, for they live in cooler climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, where great interests are involved, . . . they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche, and what I fear is, they will overwhelm the South with ignoble defeat." Yet even here Houston declared that Texas would have his sympathies, do what she might. As Henry Clay had said, "My country, right or wrong !" so Houston said, "My State, right or wrong !"