Social Studies

 H**OW WAS THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT A CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR?**

     Slaves first arrived in Virginia in 1619.  Since then, many people were morally opposed/against slavery but did nothing to stop it.  By the 1800's a reform movement to end slavery began to emerge and grow rapidly.  The name of this reform was the **ABOLITION MOVEMENT.**  The goal of the movement was to end slavery by getting the government to make laws ending slavery in America.  Because of the Missouri Compromise 1820, the number of slave states and free states were equal and so was political power.  As the country and number of states that did not need slavery grew, the free states outnumbered the slave states.

The Abolition Movement grew because of these key leaders:

1). **Frederick Douglass** - an important leader because he was a former escaped slave, who was a witness to its cruelty and evils

2). **William Lloyd Garrison** - a white abolitionist newspaper publisher, whose newspaper, THE LIBERATOR, published strong anti-slavery articles and positions

3). **Harriet Tubman** - a runaway slave, who risked her safety by becoming a leader of the "underground railroad"-a movement to help escaped slaves reach freedom in northern states and Canada

4). **Harriet Beecher Stowe**- a white abolitionist author whose novel Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852, presented a story about cruelty and the inhumane treatment of slaves.  Her book inspired thousands to support the abolition of slavery.

As the number of abolitionists increased, aggression and violence began to occur between pro-slave and anti-slave groups.