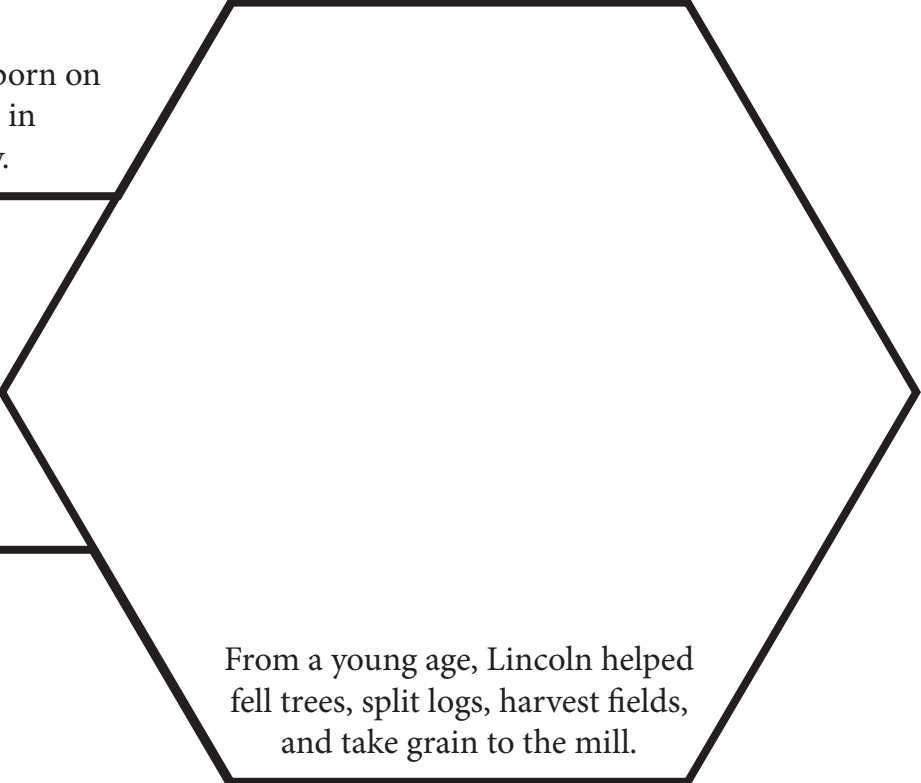
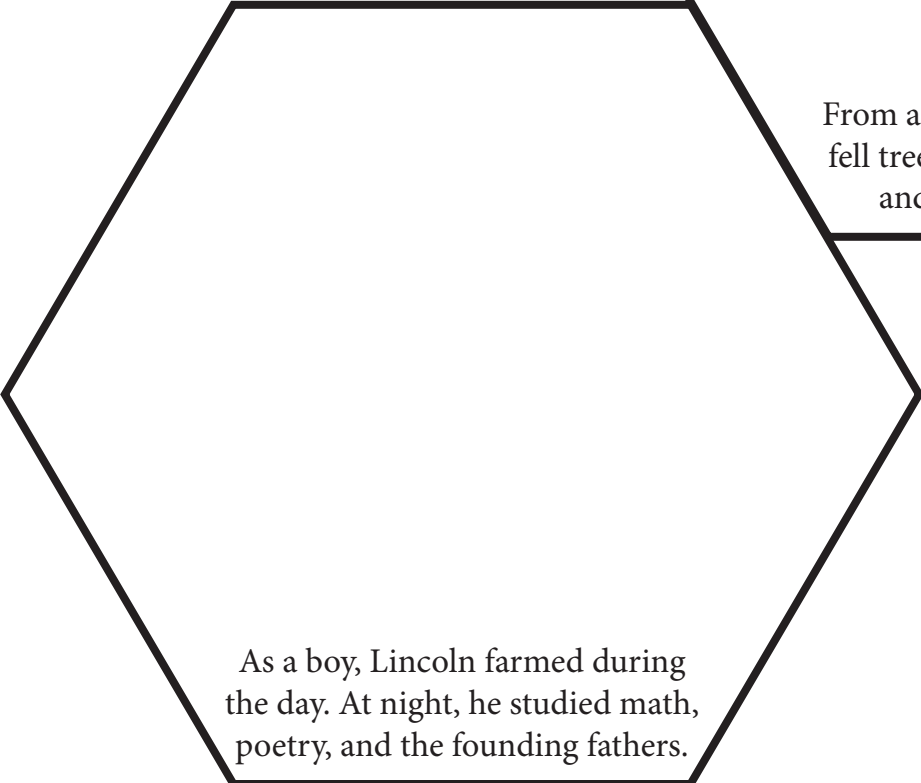


Abraham Lincoln was born on
February 12, 1809, in
central Kentucky.



From a young age, Lincoln helped
fell trees, split logs, harvest fields,
and take grain to the mill.



As a boy, Lincoln farmed during
the day. At night, he studied math,
poetry, and the founding fathers.

When Lincoln was 21 years old, he moved to Illinois.

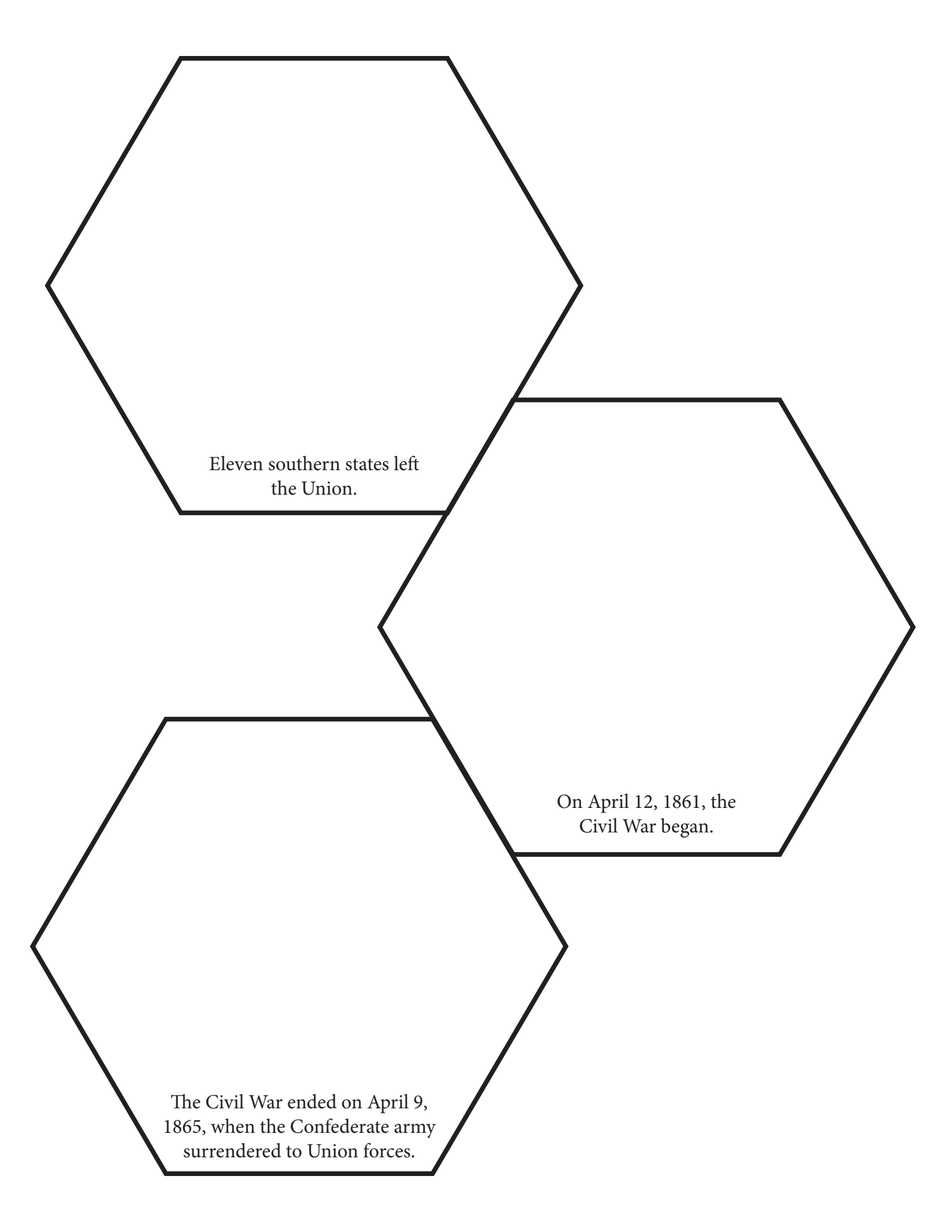
Some jobs of Lincoln included floating produce to market on a flatboat, running a general store, and a being a postmaster.

Lincoln's friends encouraged him to run for office.

In 1832, Lincoln ran for Illinois state representative but failed. He won in 1834.

Lincoln taught himself law and in 1837 became an attorney in Springfield.

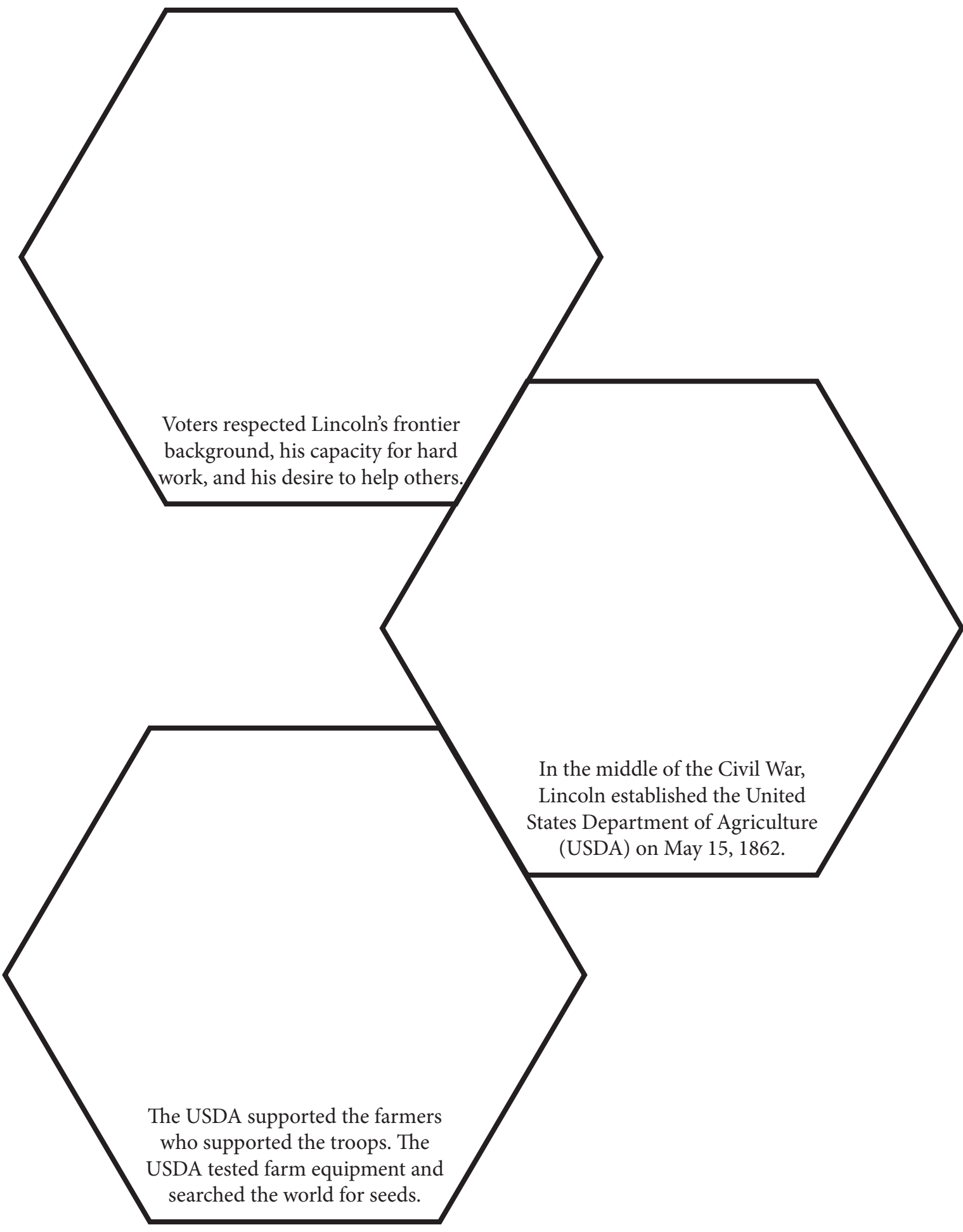
In 1860, voters elected Lincoln the 16th president of the United States.



Eleven southern states left
the Union.

On April 12, 1861, the
Civil War began.

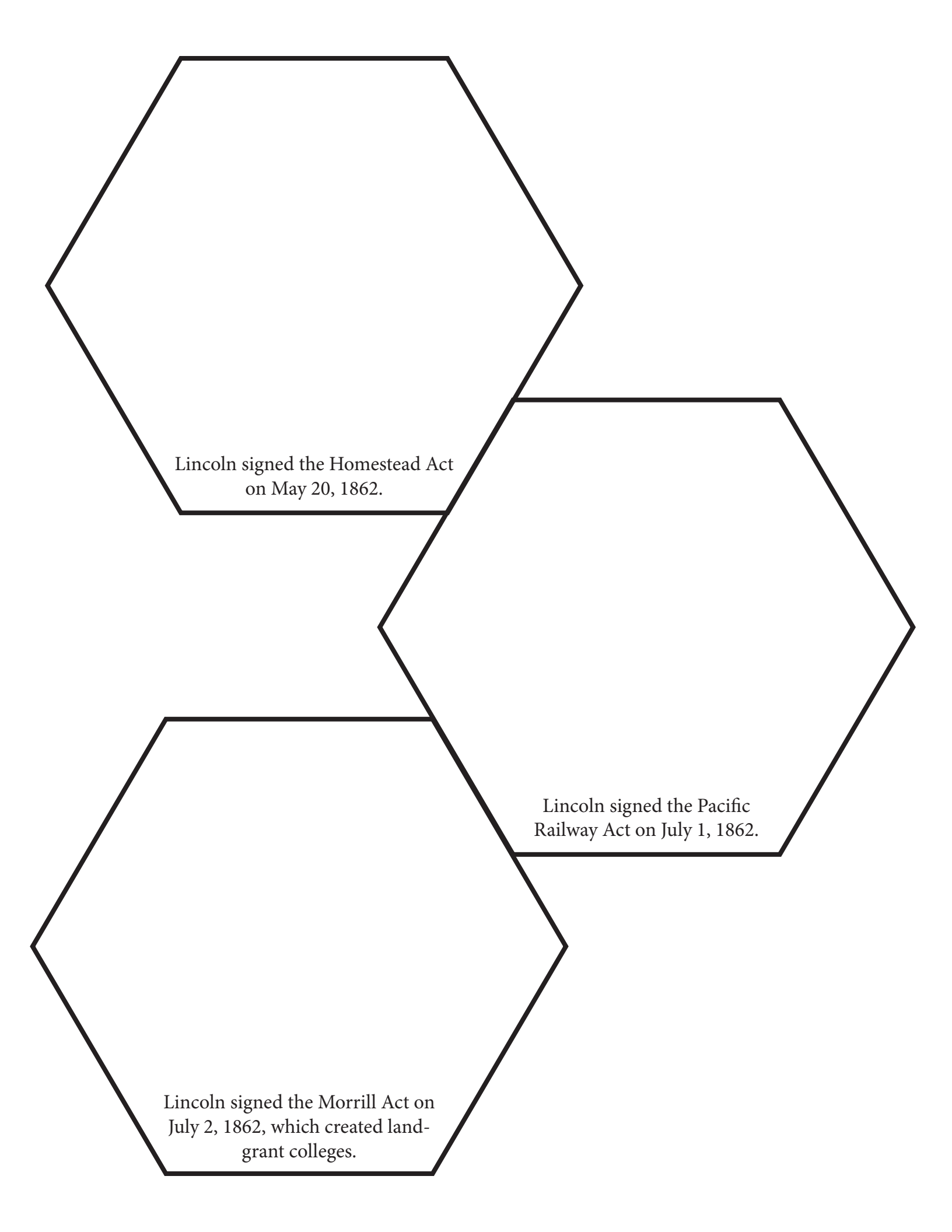
The Civil War ended on April 9,
1865, when the Confederate army
surrendered to Union forces.



Voters respected Lincoln's frontier background, his capacity for hard work, and his desire to help others.

In the middle of the Civil War, Lincoln established the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on May 15, 1862.

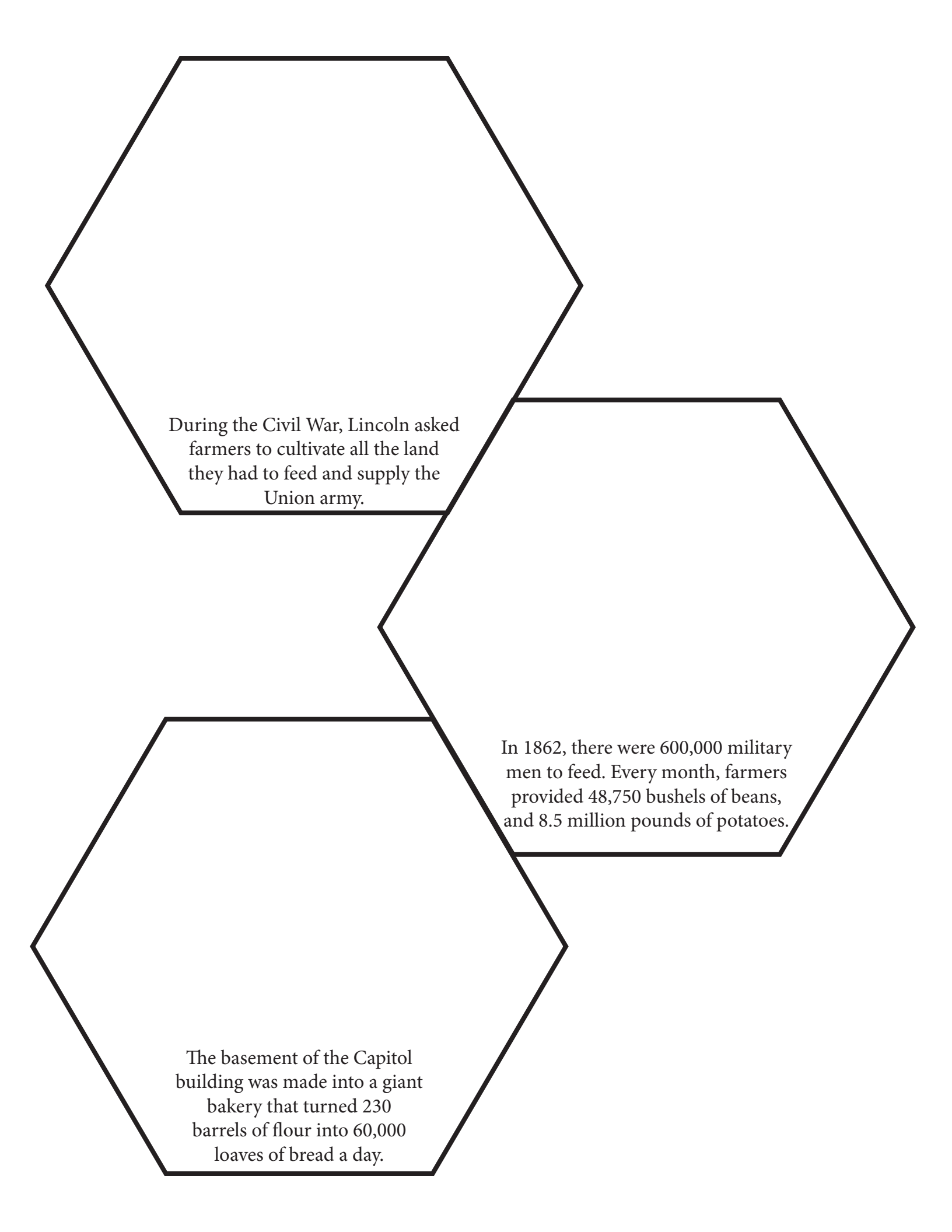
The USDA supported the farmers who supported the troops. The USDA tested farm equipment and searched the world for seeds.



Lincoln signed the Homestead Act
on May 20, 1862.

Lincoln signed the Pacific
Railway Act on July 1, 1862.

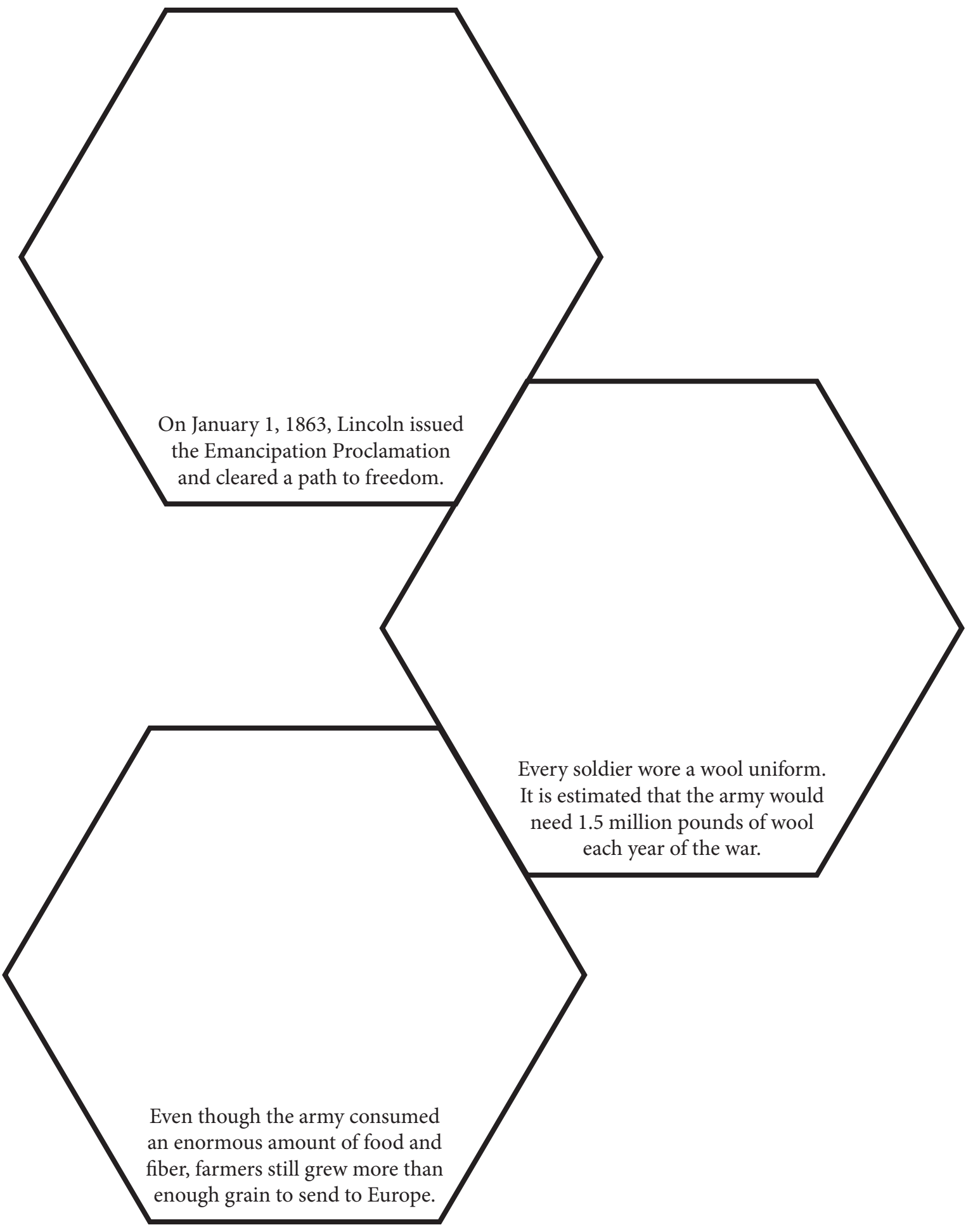
Lincoln signed the Morrill Act on
July 2, 1862, which created land-
grant colleges.



During the Civil War, Lincoln asked farmers to cultivate all the land they had to feed and supply the Union army.

In 1862, there were 600,000 military men to feed. Every month, farmers provided 48,750 bushels of beans, and 8.5 million pounds of potatoes.

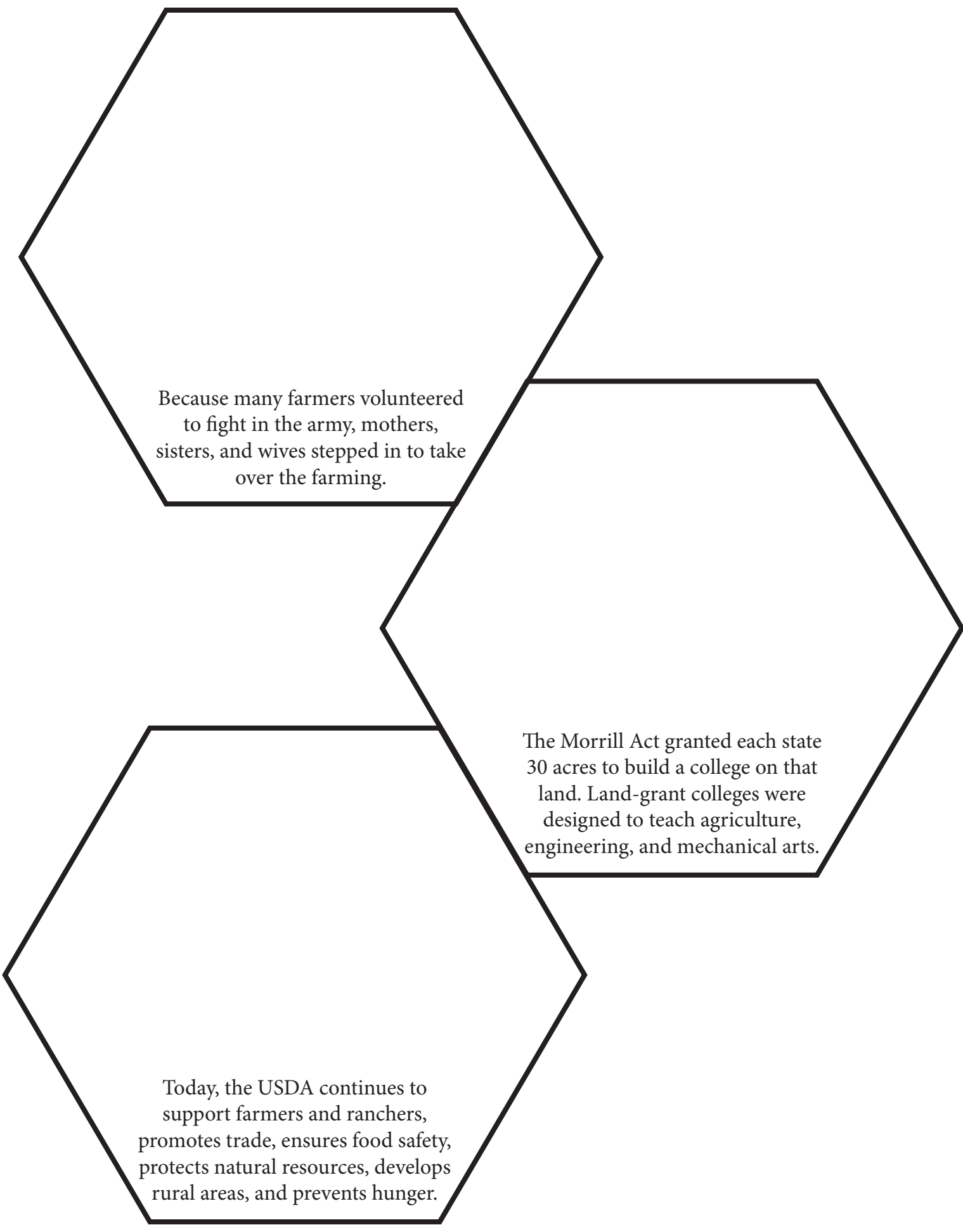
The basement of the Capitol building was made into a giant bakery that turned 230 barrels of flour into 60,000 loaves of bread a day.



On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and cleared a path to freedom.

Every soldier wore a wool uniform. It is estimated that the army would need 1.5 million pounds of wool each year of the war.

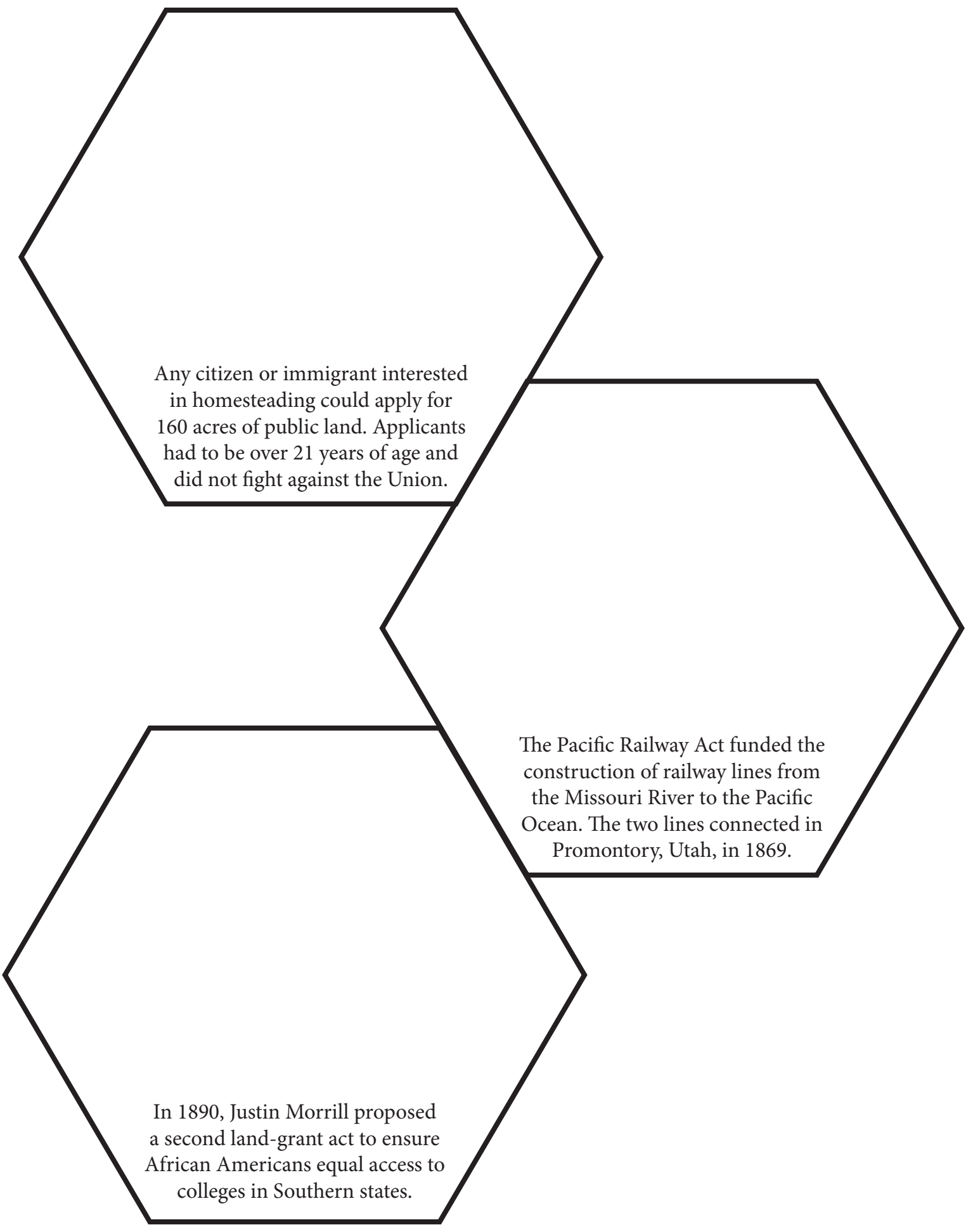
Even though the army consumed an enormous amount of food and fiber, farmers still grew more than enough grain to send to Europe.



Because many farmers volunteered to fight in the army, mothers, sisters, and wives stepped in to take over the farming.

The Morrill Act granted each state 30 acres to build a college on that land. Land-grant colleges were designed to teach agriculture, engineering, and mechanical arts.

Today, the USDA continues to support farmers and ranchers, promotes trade, ensures food safety, protects natural resources, develops rural areas, and prevents hunger.



Any citizen or immigrant interested in homesteading could apply for 160 acres of public land. Applicants had to be over 21 years of age and did not fight against the Union.

The Pacific Railway Act funded the construction of railway lines from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The two lines connected in Promontory, Utah, in 1869.

In 1890, Justin Morrill proposed a second land-grant act to ensure African Americans equal access to colleges in Southern states.