Start of War - Border States

Using the outline map you created of the United States right before the Civil War, there is something you should notice about Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky. (This is also true about Missouri, but it might not stand out on your map.) They are all slave states that did not join the Confederate States of America. This makes all four of them border states.

Before we get into the border states, let’s do a quick recap of what happened at the very start of the war.

**Cause and Effect Dominoes**

**Election of 1860**
Lincoln was elected even though he won only 40% of the popular vote meaning 60% voted for someone else. The last in a series of events that left Southern states feeling like the federal (United States) government could not adequately represent them.

**South Carolina secedes**

**1st wave of states from the “deep South” secede to join South Carolina and form the Confederate States of America**
- Georgia (GA)
- Alabama (AL)
- Mississippi (MS)
- Louisiana (LA)
- Texas (TX)
- Florida (FL)

**2nd wave of Southern states secedes to join the CSA**
- Virginia
- Tennessee
- Kentucky
- North Carolina (NC was in a tricky situation because once the others seceded, they were surrounded by the CSA and had to secede)

**Ft. Sumter**
1. Confederates requested the fort because it was in Charleston, SC – US refused
2. Confederates fired first and US fought back
3. Southern states saw this as “Northern Aggression” and proof that Lincoln did not respect the South.
So, why did Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri (all below the Mason-Dixon line, all Southern, and all slave states) decide not to secede?

A. Delaware – didn’t care
   1. lots of support for the United States, did not see the benefit of joining CSA
   2. less than 2% of the population was enslaved so ties to slavery were weak

B. Maryland – wasn’t allowed to
   1. popular support for Confederacy, esp. in Baltimore and Eastern Shore, but state government did not support secession
   2. If the seceded, DC would have been in a separate country
   3. Lincoln declared **martial law** (declaring the military in control of a state or region in order to maintain stability) and had federal troops occupy MD to prevent secession
      i. Chief Justice Taney declared part of the decision unconstitutional
      ii. Lincoln disregarded the Supreme Court decision (a la Andrew Jackson)

C. Kentucky – wanted to be neutral
   1. wanted to be neutral, so US was the default
   2. Lincoln requested troops and KY said “No!”
   3. Confederates occupied KY, so they backed Union with troops and supplies

D. Missouri – couldn’t come to agreement
   1. conflict within state about which side to support; half wanted to secede and half wanted to stay
   2. resulted in guerilla warfare; kind of a mini-Civil War inside the state