Culture & Economics

Read the text and answer the questions.

The North and South were different culturally and economically.

The fertile soil and warm climate made the South ideal for large farms and crops like tobacco and cotton. Agriculture was profitable and few Southerners saw a need for industrial development. Most people lived on farms. Social status was important, and with three tiers of social status (aristocracy, middle class, slaves), everyone knew his or her place.

The Northern soil and climate favored small farms rather than large plantations, and industry grew rapidly, fueled by abundant natural resources. Large cities were established, and many people lived in urban areas. The North was a land of much opportunity and entrepreneurism. Most immigrants settled in the North.

Protective tariffs, or import duties on manufactured goods, were a point of dissension between the North and South.

Since the South was mostly agricultural, Southern states did not need or want high tariffs. They argued that high tariffs forced them to pay more for goods and subsidized factories in the North.

Northern industries were in favor of high tariffs in order to protect their factories and laborers from cheaper European products. Northerners argued that tariffs protected American jobs.

The tariffs were used to fund public projects, but that was a point of conflict as well. From 1789 to 1845, the North received five times more money from tariffs than the South. More than twice as many lighthouses were built in the North as in the South, and Northern states received twice the funding of Southern states for coastal defense.

1. A. What is a synonym for tariffs as it is used in the text?
   B. Define dissension as it is used in the text.
   C. Explain the meaning of subsidized as it is used in the text.
2. List 5 differences between the North and South based on the text.
3. How did economic differences between the North and South contribute to the Civil War? ~~Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.~~ ~~Debate the issues from each perspective with a partner.~~