

4-5.5 How did Westward Expansion affect the institution of slavery?

As Americans moved west, the United States **added** more **territories**. This raised the issue of whether or not to **allow slavery** in these **new territories**. The national government passed **laws** that affected **slavery** in the new territories.

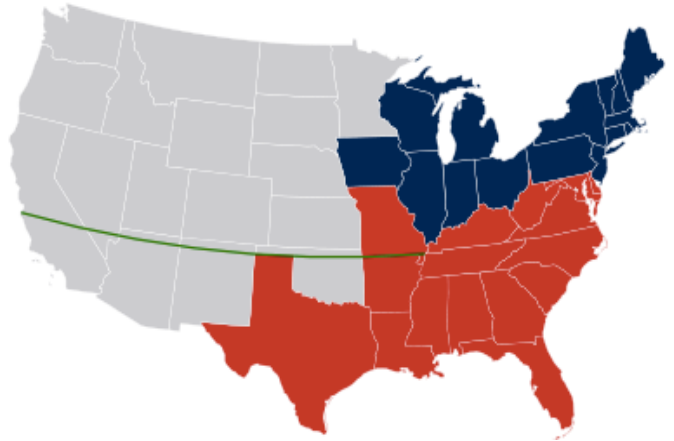
The Missouri Compromise (1820)

By the time of the **Missouri Compromise** in **1820**, there was much **controversy** over **slavery**. Because the **cotton gin** had been invented, **southern states** were even **more dependent** on **slave labor** while **northern states** were slowly **freeing** their slaves. Some **northerners** wanted **slaves** in the state of **Missouri** to be slowly freed as well. **Southern states** worried that they would **lose power** in **Congress** if there were more free states than there were slave states. Because **immigration** caused the **population** in the **north** to **increase**, there were **more representatives** from the **northern free states** in the **House of Representatives** and **less** from the **southern slave states**. This caused the **southern states** to become even more determined to hold on to **equal representation** in the **Senate**. In 1819, **Missouri** requested to be admitted to the United States as a **slave state**. This request would **upset** the **balance** between free and slave states. The goal of the **Missouri Compromise** was to **avoid future controversy** between the **North** and the **South** and **keep** the **balance** between free and slave states.

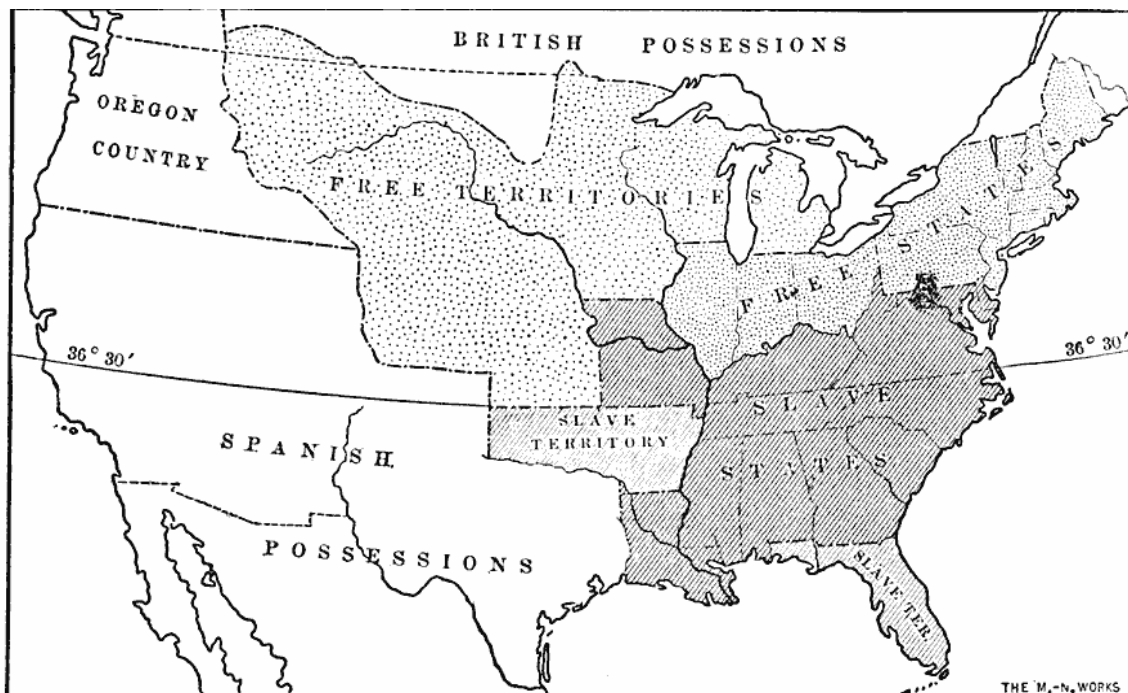
The **Missouri Compromise**:

- Added **Missouri** as **slave state**
- **Prohibited slavery** in the **Louisiana Territory** in the **area north** of **36 30' latitude line** (the southern boundary line of Missouri) *except* for the state of Missouri
- Added **Maine** (formerly part of Massachusetts) as a **free state**

These provisions of the Missouri Compromise kept the balance between free and slave states at the time.



Slave and Free Areas after the Missouri Compromise, 1820



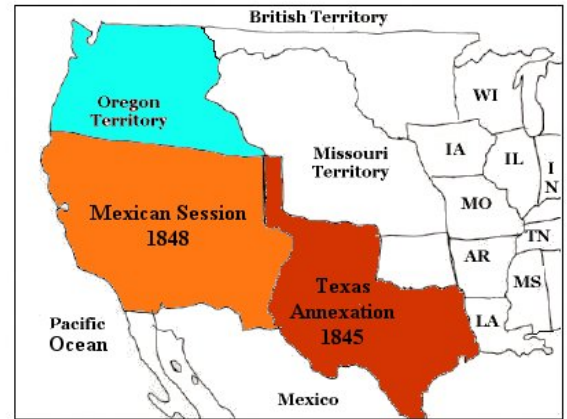
- Color the free states **blue**
- Color the slave states **red**
- Find the **36 30'** line and go over it in **green**
- Label Missouri "slave"
- Label Maine "free"

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The Annexation of Texas (1845) & the Mexican Cession (1848)

The **Annexation of Texas** was **delayed** for nine years because **Texas** wanted to be admitted to the United States as a **slave state**. Texas was finally annexed as a **slave state** in 1845. The **Mexican War** also led to more **controversy** over **slavery**. Some northerners wanted Congress to declare that all parts of the territory that was from Mexico (the **Mexican Cession**) would be **free**. That is, that **slavery** would be **prohibited** in this region, while **southerners** wanted the area to be **open to slavery**.

Think/Pair/Share: Why did Texas want to be a slave state?



The Compromise of 1850

The **Compromise of 1850** was a result of **California** applying to be admitted to the United States as a **free state**. After the discovery of **gold** in California in 1849, people rushed to California to “get rich quick.” The people who moved to California did not want to **compete** with **slave owners** who would use their **slaves** to **mine for gold**. Because California applied for admission as a free state, the **balance** of slave states and free states would be **upset**. To settle this issue, the **Compromise of 1850**:

- Allowed **California** to be a **free state**
- **Outlawed** the **slave trade**, but **not slavery** itself, in **Washington, DC**
- Allowed the people living in the rest of the **Mexican Cession** to **decide** whether or not they wanted to be a slave or free state through a **vote**. This is a concept known as **popular sovereignty**.

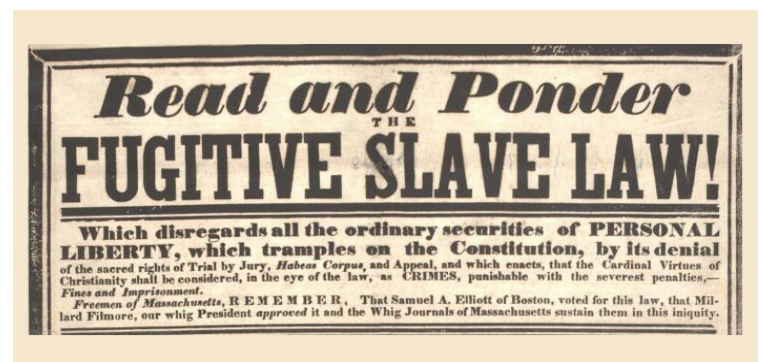


The Fugitive Slave Act (1850)

Southerners were **happy** when the Fugitive Slave Act was passed. The **Fugitive Slave Act** stated that:

- If an **escaped slave** was **caught** *anywhere* in the **United States**, then they must be **returned** to their **masters** in the **South**
- **Free African Americans** in the **North** were required to have **proof** of their **freedom** (to prove that they were not an escaped slave from the South)

If **free African Americans** in the North did not have proof of their freedom, they **risked** being **taken** and **sold** in the **South**. This unfortunately **happened often** to **free African Americans** because **slave catchers** often **ignored** or **destroyed** the proof of their freedom.



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Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

The **Kansas-Nebraska Act** was also the result of **westward expansion**. The **Kansas Territory** was in the northern part of the Louisiana Territory and therefore, according to the Missouri Compromise, it could **not** be a **slave state**. However, some politicians wanted to build a **transcontinental railroad** through Kansas and they **needed** to get **southern support**. Therefore, the United States passed the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**.

The **Kansas Nebraska Act**:

- **Repealed** the **36 30'** **slavery line** in the Louisiana Purchase (originally from the **Missouri Compromise**)
- Allowed the **people** living in these **territories** to **decide** for themselves through a **vote** whether or not to allow **slavery** within their borders (**popular sovereignty**)

While **popular sovereignty** seemed like a fair way to decide whether or not the territory would become a free or slave state, it eventually became **corrupt**. Many **abolitionists** from the North and **slave owners** from the South **temporarily** moved to **Kansas** and **Nebraska** and order to **influence** the **vote**. This was known as called "squatter sovereignty." Leading to the election, there was much **fighting** and **violence** between the northerners and southerners who temporarily moved there just to vote. Soon their fighting led people to call the area "**Bleeding Kansas**."

Dred Scott Decision (1858)

The **Dred Scott Decision** was a case taken by the **Supreme Court**.

The case was made of mostly **proslavery Southerners**. Their goal was to settle the **controversy** over **slaves** taken or **escaped** to areas where **slavery** was **not legal**. **Dred Scott** was a **slave** whose **master** had taken him into free **territory**. With the help of northern **abolitionists**, **Dred Scott** **sued** his **master** for his **freedom** claiming 'once free, always free.' The **Supreme Court** decided that **African Americans** were **not citizens** of the United States, even if they had been born in the United States. Therefore, African Americans had **no right to sue** in the **Supreme Court**. Furthermore, the **court ruled** that **slaves** were **property**. Slaves had **no rights at all** and could be taken **anywhere** in the United States. This ruling by the Supreme Court meant that **slavery** was **legal throughout the United States**. Instead of settling the controversy over slavery, the Dred Scott Decision **further divided** the United States and greatly **increased tensions** between the North and South. **Northerners** were **angered** by the Dred Scott Decision. They saw the Dred Scott Decision as **denying** them the **right to outlaw slavery** in the northern states as well as in the territories through popular sovereignty. Northerners felt that the Dred Scott Decision **limited democracy**. Southerners, on the other hand, were **overjoyed** because slavery was now **legal everywhere**.

