



MISSOURI COMPROMISE – FREE VS. SLAVE STATES

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Apportionment Legislation (An Act Apportioning Seats for Maine, 1820)
- Item 2: The Missouri Compromise, 1820 – Blank Map Including Missouri
- Item 3: Mapping Slavery in the Nineteenth Century
- Item 4A: Information From the 1820 Census
- Item 4B: Table of Enslaved Population in Missouri
This table includes data from Item 4A in a more readable version.

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to explain American sectionalism in the early 1800s.
- I will be able to cite the parameters of the Missouri Compromise and evaluate its effectiveness.

By 1861, the issue of slavery in the United States had become so intense that it led our nation into a bloody civil war. The difference between northern and southern states began to take shape as our nation was founded, and this tension intensified in the early 19th century. Prior to 1819, decisions regarding slavery were made regionally; for example, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 eliminated slavery for that area of the nation. The Missouri Compromise was the first time the United States had to tackle the question: As America expands, will slavery expand as well?

This is a difficult question — and one that Thomas Jefferson was fully aware of when he wrote to a friend, *“This momentous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the [death] knell of the Union.”*

The debate over the admission of Missouri to the Union as a slave state, held in the U.S. Senate, was the nation's first extensive discussion on slavery and thus marks a turning point in American politics and intensifying sectionalist differences. In 1820, Congress achieved a compromise over these differences with the leadership of Henry Clay, who became known as "The Great Compromiser" and "The Great Pacifier." Though the parameters of the compromise made for a peaceful resolution to the question cited above, that resolution was short-lived. The 36°30' line meant that most of the Louisiana Purchase territory would be free of slavery.

The Missouri Compromise kept the United States together for more than 30 years. It was later replaced by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which established popular sovereignty (local voting) on the issue of slavery in Kansas and Nebraska — even though both were north of the 36°30' line.

In summary, the Missouri Compromise addressed the intense mistrust and sectionalist views of the early 1800s.

4. On your map, examine the southern border of Missouri. This border represents what came to be known as the 36°30' Missouri Compromise line. The Missouri Compromise established that any state formed below this line would be considered a slave state and any state formed above it would be a free state. What do you notice about the position of the line?

5. The Missouri Compromise has parameters:

- Maine will be admitted into the United States as a free state (12 free states total)
- Missouri will be admitted as a slave state (12 slave states total)
- The 36°30' line will be established

Essential Question Connection: Given these parameters, do you believe that the Missouri Compromise would be a successful long-term solution to the disagreement between northern and southern states in America? Why or why not?

6. Examine **Item 4A: Information From the 1820 Census**. Regarding slavery, what do you notice?

court by this act established, and entered on the docket of the same at its first session, in order that the said causes may be heard and decided therein, in the manner provided by the third section of this act.

APPROVED, March 30, 1820.

ferred to the circuit court of Maine.

STATUTE I.

CHAP. XXVIII.—*An Act further to suspend, for a limited time, the sale or forfeiture of lands, for failure in completing the payment thereon.*

March 30, 1820.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the operation of the sixth condition of the fifth section of the act entitled "An act to amend the act entitled "An act providing for the sale of the lands of the United States north-west of the Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky river," be, and the same is hereby suspended until the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, in favour of the purchasers of public lands, at any of the land offices of the United States: Provided, That the benefit of this act shall not be extended to any one purchaser for a greater quantity than six hundred and forty acres.

APPROVED, March 30, 1820.

Act of March 3, 1819, ch. 74.
Act of May 10, 1800, ch. 55.
Forfeiture of lands for non-payment suspended till 31st March, 1821.
Proviso; benefit limited to purchasers within 640 acres.

STATUTE I.

CHAP. XXXIX.—*An Act for apportioning the representatives in the seventeenth Congress, to be elected in the state of Massachusetts and Maine, and for other purposes. (a)*

April 7, 1820.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, in the election of representatives in the seventeenth Congress, the state of Massachusetts shall be entitled to choose thirteen representatives only; and the state of Maine shall be entitled to choose seven representatives, according to the consent of the legislature of said state of Massachusetts, for this purpose given by their resolve passed on the twenty-fifth day of January last, and prior to the admission of the state of Maine into the Union.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That if the seat of any of the representatives in the present Congress, who were elected in and under the authority of the state of Massachusetts, and who are now inhabitants of the state of Maine, shall be vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be supplied by a successor, who shall, at the time of his election, be an inhabitant of the state of Maine.*

APPROVED, April 7, 1820.

Act of March 3, 1820, ch. 19.
Massachusetts to choose only 13 representatives in the 17th Congress.
And Maine, 7 representatives.
In case of the vacation of the seat of a representative in the 16th Congress, elected for Massachusetts, being an inhabitant of Maine, his successor to be an inhabitant of Maine also.

STATUTE I.

CHAP. XL.—*An Act making appropriations for the support of government, for the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty.*

April 11, 1820.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, respectively, appropriated; that is to say:

For compensation, granted by law to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, their officers and attendants, three hundred and eighty-four thousand and ten dollars.

For the expenses of stationery, fuel, printing, and all other contingent and incidental expenses, of both Houses of Congress, forty-five thousand dollars.

Sums appropriated, for—

Members of Congress, &c.

Contingent expenses.

(a) See note to act of December 21, 1811, ch. 9, vol. ii. 669, referring to the acts apportioning the representatives in Congress according to the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, conforming to the returns of the census.

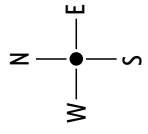
Name: _____

Date: _____

Item 2: The Missouri Compromise, 1820 - Blank Map Including Missouri

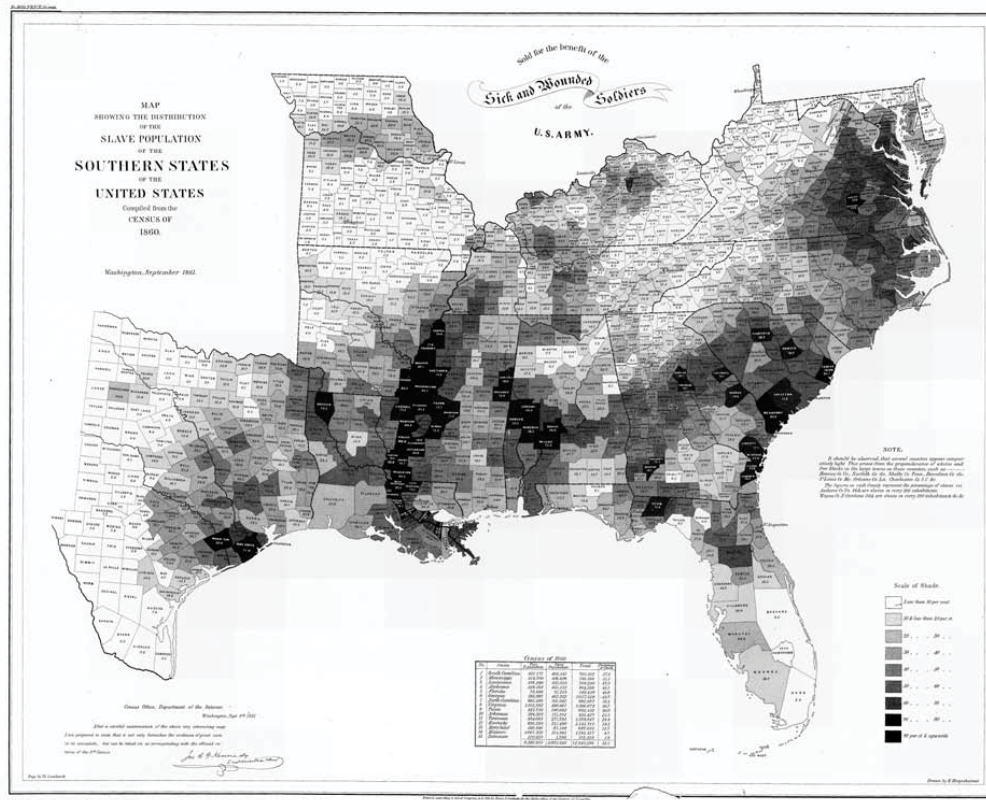


Key:



Item 3: Mapping Slavery in the Nineteenth Century

Mapping Slavery in the Nineteenth Century



Commercial lithographer Henry S. Graham printed this [choropleth map showing the distribution of the slave population](#) in September 1861. The map shows in graphic terms the density of the slave population in the Southern states, based on figures from the 1860 census. Although the development of this map was a collaborative government effort, cartographers working for Edwin Hergesheimer, U.S. Coast Survey Drafting Division, created it.

The development of this map was revolutionary for its time for several reasons. First, it was among the first of its kind, initiating a trend of statistical cartography in the United States that allowed the thematic mapping of larger social, political, and cultural trends. Second, this map represented an early use of statistical information from the census. Third, new techniques in shading developed by Hergesheimer were a path-breaking application of these new techniques to human geography. Finally, its makers went as far to use “moral statistics” in order to affect political change.

This map was more than a collaborative effort initiated by the federal government; it is a reflection of the beliefs of the cartographers and administrators who made it. The United States Coast Survey took the statistics from the 8th Census, supervised by Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy, who was pro-Union and created controversy regarding the information to be gathered about slaves. Kennedy wanted to include

[NOAA Office of Coast Survey](#)
www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar

www.census.gov/history/pdf/slavedensitymap.pdf

Item 3: Mapping Slavery in the Nineteenth Century (Continued)

slaves by name, but Congress refused. [Alexander D. Bache](#), the Coast Survey Superintendent, was also pro-Union, and allowed his staff to undertake such a map. Hergesheimer was an immigrant from Germany, who left after the failed 1848 liberal revolution in Germany, to lend his expertise to the U.S. Coast Survey. Hergesheimer and his German colleagues were largely against slavery and strongly supported the Union.

The map was created to understand the secession crisis, by providing a visual link between secession and slavery. The mapmakers consciously limited the map to just the Southern states, including the Border States of Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky, but not the Western slave states of Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah. During and after the war, the map then could be used by the Union to argue that the destruction of the Confederacy meant the destruction of slavery. There is a strong message in the banner at the top of the map that reads "For the Sick and Wounded Soldiers of the U.S. Army."

According to artist Francis Bicknell Carpenter, this map was frequently consulted by President Abraham Lincoln in considering the relationship between emancipation and military strategy. Carpenter took up residence at the White House in February 1864 to paint President Lincoln, after he was inspired by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Carpenter wrote that Lincoln would look at the map and send his armies to free blacks in some of the highest density areas in order to destabilize Southern order.

Carpenter painted the map into symbolic significance in his painting [First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln](#), which is now located in the U.S. Capitol. In this painting, Carpenter captures the moment Lincoln announces his decision for emancipation to his cabinet. The slave density map is purposely placed in the corner, demonstrating the weight of this proclamation in graphic and statistical terms.

References:

Francis Bicknell Carpenter (Painter), *First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln*. c. 1864. U.S Capitol, Washington, D.C. Accessed 11 Oct 2010.
http://senate.gov/artandhistory/art/artifact/Painting_33_00005.htm.

Harold Holzer, Gabor S. Boritt, and Mark E. Neely, Jr., "Francis Bicknell Carpenter (1830-1900): Painter of Abraham Lincoln and His Circle," *American Art Journal* 16, no. 2 (Spring 1984), 75.

Susan Schulten, "The Cartography of Slavery and the Authority of Statistics," *Civil War History*, Volume 56, Number 1, March 2010, 5-32.

Susan Schulten, "Visualizing Slavery," *The New York Times Opinionator*, December 9, 2010,
<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/09/visualizing-slavery/>

NOAA Office of Coast Survey
www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar

Item 4A: Information From the 1820 Census

Approximate amount of each description of persons in the **United States** and their **Territories**, according to the Census taken in virtue of the act of Congress of the 14th of March, 1820, and the act of the 5d of March, 1821; compiled from returns received at the Department of State.

STATES AND TERRITORIES	FREE WHITE MALES			FREE WHITE FEMALES				Persons not included	Number of persons engaged in Agriculture	Number of persons engaged in Commerce	SLAVES				FREE COLORED PERSONS				Total amount in each State and Territory	Representative numbers.										
	Free white males under ten years of age	Free white males ten and under fifteen years	Free white males fifteen and under twenty years	Free white females under ten years of age		Free white females ten and under fifteen years					Free white females fifteen and under twenty years	Males		Females		Males		Females												
				Under five years	Five and under ten years	Under five years	Five and under ten years					Under five years	Five and under ten years	Under five years	Five and under ten years	Under five years	Five and under ten years	Under five years			Five and under ten years									
Maine	49,317	34,528	7,146	28,520	27,742	19,178	46,943	18,577	1,690	45,031	4,237	7,943	170	86	91	89	108	115	119	106	100	129	344,161	298,515						
New Hampshire	55,466	35,073	5,229	29,702	22,556	15,415	44,999	18,989	24,966	22,044	1,008	4,099	1,043	59	101	85	109	115	106	99	106	129	344,161	298,515						
Massachusetts	70,981	55,273	10,912	49,596	45,414	33,968	69,590	38,508	63,449	52,646	13,201	23,644	1,808	2,884	1,043	896	860	778	860	778	904	129	344,161	298,515						
Rhode Island	11,430	8,860	1,767	7,996	7,618	5,868	10,917	5,769	8,467	8,071	6,081	2,244	2,244	22	22	342	379	403	463	429	44	44	83,028	83,028						
Connecticut	58,848	39,082	6,281	24,821	25,622	19,814	32,999	19,833	29,205	29,069	24,978	5,688	10,318	5,381	3,751	47	865	639	1,421	940	624	100	775,248	255,764						
Vermont	58,708	40,241	8,900	34,327	33,055	25,189	35,327	18,577	27,213	32,883	17,765	8,484	11,301	5,931	192	113	95	90	170	119	97	75	15	253,764	253,764					
New York	222,658	164,257	29,388	127,255	128,624	81,253	126,513	101,594	124,965	128,890	70,235	133,011	34,648	8,133	6,028	1,861	1,693	932	671	1,444	1,065	701	1,728,812	1,268,773						
New Jersey	42,055	29,970	5,956	26,239	24,418	18,257	28,921	15,294	24,967	24,693	1,830	5,944	860	1,468	917	689	336	283	449	336	336	151	1,049,283	774,451						
Pennsylvania	75,231	77,050	10,750	102,589	97,144	64,833	105,710	73,623	104,901	70,881	10,915	17,860	1,116	3,823	1,517	1,207	1,154	1,090	825	1,116	1,090	766	1,692,312	1,049,283						
Delaware	9,071	4,468	1,719	5,516	5,697	3,283	6,637	3,283	4,311	5,273	2,634	3,823	860	1,468	917	689	336	283	449	336	336	151	1,049,283	774,451						
Maryland	41,511	18,522	3,261	26,494	27,916	19,900	39,494	19,973	27,203	26,547	15,897	18,598	3,261	1,244	839	337	147	127	127	127	127	127	127	407,350	384,209					
Virginia	103,982	45,762	11,148	33,583	37,898	38,315	48,483	44,756	67,411	52,993	23,153	41,884	4,974	27,511	18,718	14,846	10,718	6,705	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	1,053,566	893,200					
North Carolina	74,488	29,213	9,248	39,257	36,264	25,453	70,998	32,101	42,513	38,068	15,153	18,640	2,726	14,846	10,718	6,705	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,740	638,209	564,881					
South Carolina (except Beaufort)	41,701	17,625	5,728	25,244	21,278	15,899	38,982	18,285	23,156	20,407	12,834	15,911	4,658	3,261	1,815	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	434,829	380,994					
Georgia	33,444	14,743	4,215	19,483	17,874	13,680	33,177	14,677	18,642	15,265	9,941	14,113	3,603	2,634	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	391,106	341,106					
Alabama	17,102	6,281	1,750	5,226	5,053	4,984	5,810	6,289	7,993	7,993	5,053	6,289	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	137,901	137,901					
Mississippi	8,104	3,216	1,082	4,560	4,110	2,296	7,220	3,176	3,791	3,107	1,896	2,634	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	74,448	63,300					
Louisiana	13,817	4,710	2,166	8,747	11,226	4,820	11,060	5,644	6,708	5,695	3,102	3,142	4,941	6,281	11,625	10,876	10,876	10,876	10,876	10,876	10,876	10,876	10,876	133,279	133,279					
Tennessee	67,746	38,467	7,472	31,628	27,749	18,780	61,419	27,770	34,669	27,521	15,628	21,044	6,329	3,142	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	1,779	424,815	390,769					
Kentucky	85,000	30,004	10,283	41,228	38,178	25,138	77,944	34,129	41,993	35,481	20,759	32,680	10,283	5,053	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	2,634	564,817	516,203					
Ohio	111,683	45,838	12,697	57,008	54,622	31,626	106,056	44,196	53,527	49,797	22,686	31,626	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	10,283	683,200	614,202					
Indiana	29,629	11,644	3,270	14,028	14,072	7,066	27,684	10,707	13,633	12,099	5,071	9,941	4,166	3,261	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	381,424	381,424					
Illinois	13,354	4,237	1,213	6,204	5,715	3,441	9,428	4,018	4,814	4,814	2,641	3,261	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	187,178	187,178					
Missouri	10,977	4,216	1,201	6,527	6,222	3,099	9,756	5,078	5,078	4,083	1,901	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	2,641	142,270	142,270					
Territory of Michigan	1,200	489	112	1,254	1,161	608	2,142	974	1,179	974	426	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343	343					
Territory of Arkansas	3,420	984	259	1,427	1,432	686	2,142	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319						
District of Columbia	3,779	1,940	558	2,171	2,382	1,291	3,861	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291	1,291						
Grand Total	1,144,262	818,102	189,626	763,529	745,438	494,273	1,079,025	604,912	708,885	736,060	460,440	518,633	208,698	73,237	142,460	202,248	162,939	77,913	324,014	301,299	171,922	70,230	47,440	24,442	17,186	43,969	27,169	18,873	4,621	9,275,714

Item 4B: Table of Enslaved Population in Missouri

Missouri Slaves							
Males				Females			
Males under 14 years old	Males of 14 and under 26	Males of 26 and under 45	Males of 45 and upwards	Females under 14 years old	Females of 14 and under 26	Females of 26 and under 45	Females of 45 and upwards
2,491	1,511	852	487	2,281	1,461	855	284