

LESSON

1



CATEGORIZE

As you read, categorize regional disagreements between people in the North and South.

BIG IDEA

Regional differences caused conflict between Northern and Southern states.

VOCABULARY

sectionalism

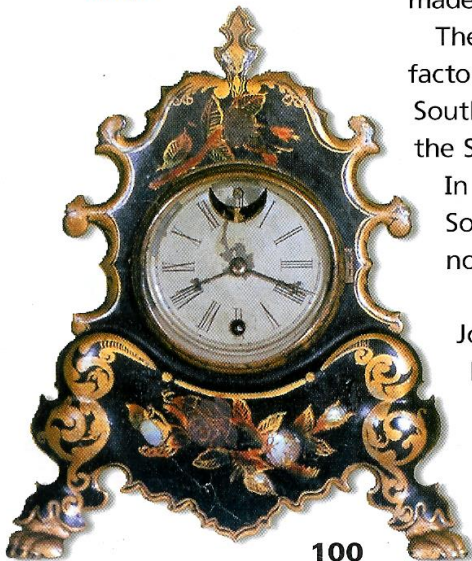
tariff

states' rights

free state

slave state

People in the South used money from the cash crops they sold to buy goods from Europe.



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Regional Disagreements



As the United States expanded its borders in the first half of the 1800s, strong differences developed among the various regions. Because of those differences, it was difficult for Americans to agree on many issues. In Congress, representatives from the North, South, and West often made decisions based on helping their own section, or region, rather than the country as a whole. This regional loyalty is called **sectionalism** (SEK•shuhn•uh•lih•zuhm), and the disagreements it caused threatened to tear the country apart.

Debate over State Authority

Sectionalism in the United States became a serious problem in 1828, when Congress set a high **tariff**, or tax, on some imports. The tariff made goods from Europe cost more than goods made in the United States. This protected factory owners and workers in the United States from foreign competition and made it easier for factories to sell their products.

The tariff helped the North because most of the nation's factories were located there. However, it did little to help the South, which remained mostly an agricultural region. People in the South sold many of their cash crops to businesses in Europe. In return, they bought many European manufactured goods. Southerners generally opposed the tariff because they did not like having to pay higher prices for those goods.

In 1829 Andrew Jackson became President, and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina became Vice President. Calhoun argued against the tariff. He believed in **states' rights**, or the idea that the states, not the federal government, should have the final authority over their own affairs. Calhoun believed

that states had the right to refuse to accept a law passed by Congress.

Although President Jackson was known to support states' rights, he still believed that the federal government had the constitutional right to collect the tariff, even if South Carolina thought it was too high. President Jackson made his feelings clear when he spoke at a dinner honoring the memory of former President Thomas Jefferson. Jackson, looking straight at Calhoun, firmly said, "Our Federal Union—It must and shall be preserved!" Calhoun, who was just as determined, answered, "The Union, next to our liberty most dear. May we all remember that it can be preserved only by respecting the rights of the states."

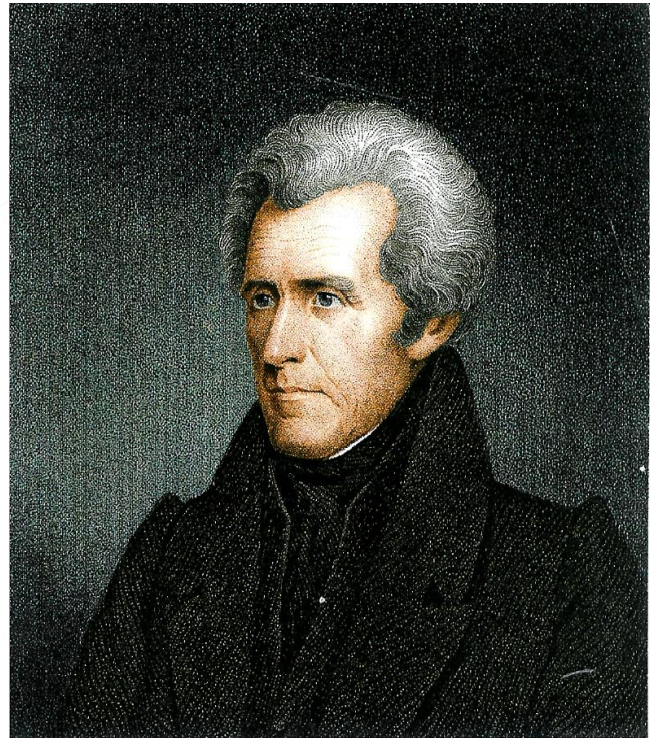
The debate over states' rights continued after Congress passed another tariff in 1832. Sectionalism grew stronger, and it further divided the people of the United States.

REVIEW Why did most people in the South oppose tariffs?

Division over Slavery

Another issue that had long divided the nation was slavery. Northern and Southern states had argued about it since the writing of the Constitution. The same argument flared up again with the rapid settlement of the western frontier. As settlers moved west into territories such as Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, they took with them their own ways of life. For settlers from the North, this meant a way of life without slavery. For settlers from the South, this meant taking along their enslaved workers.

Arguments soon broke out over the spread of slavery to the West. Most



For political advice Jackson sometimes relied on a group of unofficial advisers, whom many referred to as Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet."

Northerners thought that slavery should go no farther than where it already was—in the South. Most Southern slave owners believed that they had the right to take their slaves wherever they wanted. As the new western territories grew, settlers there asked to join the Union as new states. In each case, the same question arose. Would the new state be a free state or a slave state? A **free state** did not allow slavery. A **slave state** did.

For a time there were as many free states as slave states. This kept a balance between the North and the South in the Senate. Then, in 1819, settlers in the Missouri Territory, a part of the Louisiana Purchase, asked to join the Union as a slave state. If this happened, slave states would outnumber free states for the first time since the founding of the country.

A New Compromise

The Missouri Compromise kept the peace for nearly 30 years. During this time six new states joined the Union. The number of free states and slave states remained equal. Then, in 1848, the United States gained new lands after winning the war with Mexico. Settlers in California, a part of these new lands, asked to join the Union as a free state. Once again arguments about the spread of slavery broke out. The Missouri Compromise did not apply to lands outside of the Louisiana Purchase.

Henry Clay again worked toward a compromise—the Compromise of 1850. Under this compromise, California joined the Union as a free state. The rest of the lands gained from Mexico were divided into two territories—New Mexico and Utah. The people in those territories would decide for themselves whether to allow slavery.

Henry Clay, who became known as the Great Compromiser, died in 1852. He never gave up hope that the country

would find a peaceful way to settle its differences. On his grave marker in Lexington, Kentucky, are the words *I know no North—no South—no East—no West*. Two years after Clay's death, however, bad feelings between free states and slave states turned to violence.

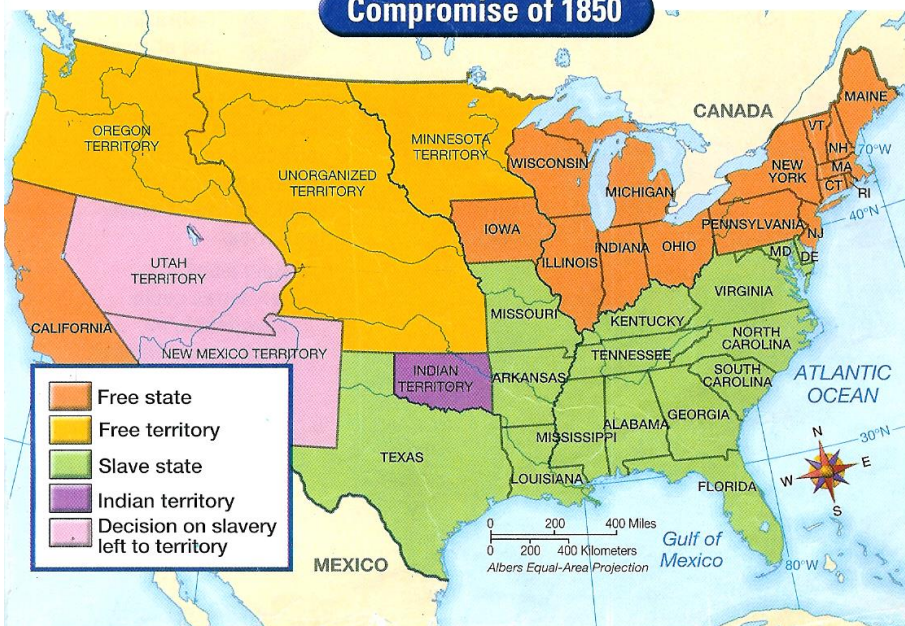
REVIEW Who became known as the Great Compromiser?

Bleeding Kansas

In 1854 Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which changed the rules of the Missouri Compromise. Under the Missouri Compromise, slavery would not have been allowed in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Under the Kansas-Nebraska Act, however, people in those territories were given the opportunity to decide for themselves whether to allow slavery. They would decide by voting.

The Kansas Territory quickly became the center of attention in the nation. People for and against slavery rushed into the territory. They hoped to help decide the outcome by casting their votes.

Compromise of 1850



Regions

Henry Clay's compromise brought California into the Union as a free state.

What states were later formed from the Utah territory?

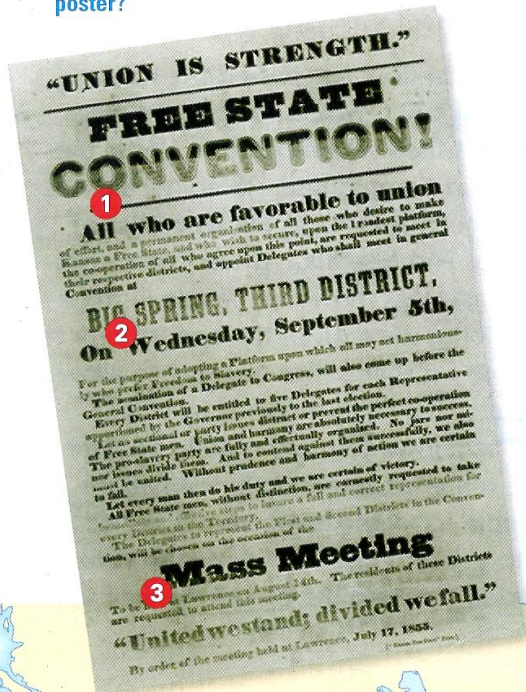
Kansas-Nebraska Act



Analyze Primary Sources

This poster was used to announce a meeting of those who supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

- 1 The headline states what type of meeting was being held.
 - 2 The date shows when the meeting was held.
 - 3 The phrase indicates that many people were to attend the meeting.
- Why do you think quotations are included on the poster?



It was not long before fighting broke out between the two sides. More than 200 people were killed in the bitter conflict that is known as "Bleeding Kansas."

Kansas eventually joined the Union as a free state, but the bloodshed there was a sign of things to come. Many people on both sides of the slavery issue no longer saw compromise as a possible solution. Some in the South began to speak of leaving the Union.

REVIEW What did the Kansas-Nebraska Act do? **CATEGORIZE**

The Dred Scott Decision

In 1857 the United States Supreme Court decided the case of an enslaved African American named Dred Scott. Scott had asked the Court for his freedom. The Court said no.

Scott was the slave of an army doctor. His owner moved often and always took Scott with him. For a time they lived in Illinois, a free state. Then they lived in

Regions The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed the people in the Kansas and Nebraska territories to decide by voting whether they would be free or slave territories.

How many territories could now decide for themselves whether to allow slavery?



Wisconsin, a free territory under the Missouri Compromise.

After his owner died, Scott took his case to court. He argued that he should be free because he had once lived on free land. The case moved up through the federal court system until it reached the Supreme Court. There, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney (TAH•nee) said that because Scott was a slave, he had “none of the rights and privileges” of an American citizen. Having lived in a free territory did not change that.

Taney also declared that Congress had no right to forbid slavery in the Wisconsin Territory. He felt that the United States Constitution protected the right of people to own slaves. Slaves, he wrote, were property. He believed that the Missouri Compromise was keeping people from owning property. This, Taney wrote, was unconstitutional.



In 1857 the Supreme Court decided that Dred Scott should not be given his freedom.

Many people had hoped the Dred Scott decision would finally settle the disagreements among sections of the country over slavery once and for all. Instead, it made the problem worse.

REVIEW Why did the Supreme Court deny freedom to Dred Scott?

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Summary Time Line

1820

• 1820
Congress passes
the Missouri Compromise

1840

• 1854
Congress passes
the Kansas–
Nebraska Act

1860

• 1857
The Dred Scott
decision is made



CATEGORIZE What states were affected by the Missouri Compromise?

- 1 **BIG IDEA** What were some of the regional differences causing conflict between the North and the South?
- 2 **VOCABULARY** What was the difference between a **slave state** and a **free state**?
- 3 **TIME LINE** When was the Kansas–Nebraska Act passed?
- 4 **GEOGRAPHY** In what region of the country were tariffs helpful?

5 **CRITICAL THINKING—Analyze** How was the Missouri Compromise changed by the Kansas–Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott decision?



PERFORMANCE—Write a Plan Imagine that you are Henry Clay and it is 1850. You need to write a plan that will help the country find a peaceful way to settle its differences. Describe in your plan how the country can settle its regional disagreements without tearing itself apart. Share your plan with the rest of the class.