

Name: _____

Date: _____

How Did the Framers Resolve the Conflict between the Northern and Southern States?

The Northern Position

The Northern states believed that tariffs were necessary for their businesses to succeed. Tariffs on British products would make those products cost more than similar ones made in America. As a result, Americans would be more likely to buy goods made in their own country instead of those made in other countries.

The Framers who came from the Northern states wanted to give the new national government the power to control trade between the states and trade with foreign nations. This included the power to pass tariffs.

1) Why did the Northern States want tariffs?

The Southern Position

The South argued that tariffs would increase the cost of the manufactured goods that they bought from European nations. Southerners argued that tariffs unfairly favored the North. Southerners also feared that Great Britain might place its own tariffs on agricultural products grown in the south. This would make those products harder to sell in Europe.

The Southern states had fewer citizens than did the Northern states. Southerners were afraid they would be a minority in Congress. They thought they might have less power in the new national government to decide issues of trade. So, the Framers who came from the Southern states opposed giving the national government power to regulate trade.

2) Why did the Southern states oppose tariffs?

Why was there a conflict about slavery?

The conflict about slavery was more complicated than the issue of tariffs. Slavery began in the colonies soon after the first settlements were established, but most of the Northern states had put an end to the practice, at least officially. Most Framers from the Northern states were opposed to slavery, as were some Framers from the Southern states.

Many Southern farmers, however, were still financially dependent on slavery and wanted it to continue. The Southerners believed that each state had a right to decide the issue for itself. The delegates from three Southern states said they refused to be part of a union of states that denied them the right to own and import slaves.

The Framers who opposed slavery faced a dilemma. They wanted all the states to be part of one country, but they did not want to allow slavery to continue.

3) Explain the position of the Northern States and Southern States in regard to slavery?

4) What do you think the Northern states will do about the issue of slavery in the constitution?