

Sectionalism and The Missouri Compromise

Directions: Read the following passage about the Missouri Compromise and answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Missouri Compromise

Even during the **Era of Good Feelings**, disagreements between the different regions, known as **sectionalism**, threatened the Union. One such disagreement between the *industrial north* and the *agricultural south* arose in 1819 when Congress considered Missouri's application to enter the Union as a slave state. Most of the northern states had abolished slavery, while the southern states depended on it for economic reasons. The north was *industrialized*, while the south relied on *cotton plantations* or other farms for money. At the time, the Union had 11 free states and 11 slave states. Adding a new slave state would have tipped the balance in the Senate in favor of the south.

1) What are some characteristics of the north and south?

North	South

2) Why is it important to keep the senate balanced between slave states and free states?

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To protect the power of the free states, the House of Representatives passed a special amendment. It declared that the United States would accept Missouri as a slave state, but importing enslaved Africans into Missouri would be illegal. The amendment also set free the children of Missouri slaves. Southern politicians angrily opposed this plan.

3) What would each section get from the special amendment proposed by the House of Representatives?

North	South

4) What is the real issue causing tension between the two regions?

5) What did congress need to do each time there is a new state in the west?

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Henry Clay, U.S. Senator from Kentucky, convinced Congress to agree to the Missouri Compromise. The compromise would settle the conflict that had arisen from Missouri's application for statehood. This compromise had three main conditions:

Missouri would enter the Union as a slave state

Maine would join the Union as a free state, keeping the number of slave and free states equal

Slavery would be prohibited in any new territories or states formed north of 36°30' latitude – Missouri's southern border .

Congress passed the Missouri Compromise in 1820. Despite the success of the compromise, there were still strong disagreements between the north and south over the expansion of slavery.

6) How did Henry Clay keep the balance of power in the Senate?

7) What would each region get from the Missouri Compromise?

North	South

