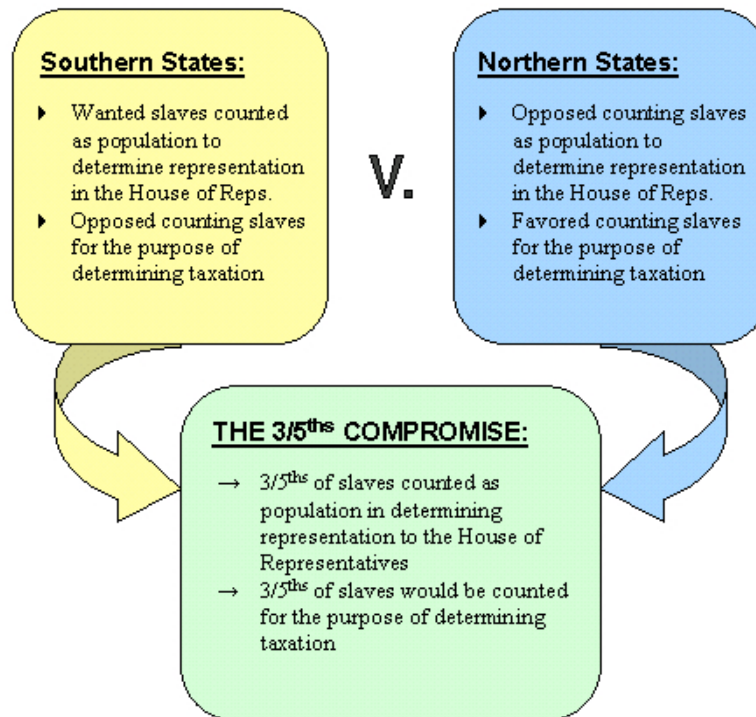


Three-Fifths Compromise

Southern states depended on slave labor because their economies were based on producing cash crops. When it became clear that states with large populations might have more representatives in the new national government, states with large slave populations demanded to be allowed to count their slaves as a part of their population. Northern states resisted and claimed that slaves were not citizens and should not be counted for representation but should be counted for taxation. Both sides compromised by allowing the states to count three-fifths of their slaves when calculating their entire population.

Regulation of Slavery

The delegates also debated over what power the new national government would have to regulate slavery and the slave trade. Southern states were afraid that Northern states would push through legislation limiting the importation of slaves and possibly even outlawing slavery. As a compromise, the delegates agreed that the new government could not outlaw the importation of slaves until at least 20 years after the institution of the new constitution.



On the back of this page please respond to these questions:

1. What was the Southern States' position on slavery?
2. What was the Northern States' position on slavery?
3. How did the two sides compromise?