



**Instructions - Highlight or underline that the text will help you answer your Supporting and Compelling Questions. Take notes on the side and explain why the examples are important.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. is receiving large portions of land from the Mexican Cession, after the Mexican-American War. Congress has to decide what to do with that land, and whether slavery should be abolished in the new territories. (more background p. 459 of your book)

**WILMOT PROVISIO (1846)**

**Wilmot Proviso (actual text)**

Provided that, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico by the United States, by virtue of any treaty which may be negotiated between them, and to the use by the Executive of the moneys herein appropriated, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.

**Wilmot Proviso (modified text)**

As a condition of receiving territory from the Mexican Cession and before the government spends any money to buy territory from Mexico, we must agree that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of that territory, except for when the person has committed a crime and they have already been convicted.

**MAP OF MEXICAN CESSION**



### COMPROMISE OF 1850

#### BACKGROUND:

After large population increases following the Gold Rush, California has enough people to apply to become a state. It wants to become a free state, where slavery is banned. However, southern representatives in Congress do not want it to become a state because currently there are an equal number of slave states and free states in the country. If California becomes a state, the south would have fewer representatives in both the Senate and House of Representatives. (more on p. 460)

#### COMPROMISE OF 1850 (actual text)

Resolved, That California, with suitable boundaries, ought, upon her application to be admitted as one of the States of this Union, without the imposition by Congress of any restriction in respect to the exclusion or introduction of slavery within those boundaries.

Resolved, That as slavery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced into any of the territory acquired by the United States from the republic of Mexico, it is inexpedient for Congress to provide by law either for its introduction into, or exclusion from, any part of the said territory; and that appropriate territorial governments ought to be established by Congress in all of the said territory, not assigned as the boundaries of the proposed State of California, without the adoption of any restriction or condition on the subject of slavery.

Resolved, That it is expedient to prohibit, within the District, the slave trade in slaves brought into it from States or places beyond the limits of the District, either to be sold therein as merchandise, or to be transported to other markets without the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That more effectual provision ought to be made by law, according to the requirement of the constitution, for the restitution and delivery of persons bound to service or labor in any State, who may escape into any other State or Territory in the Union.

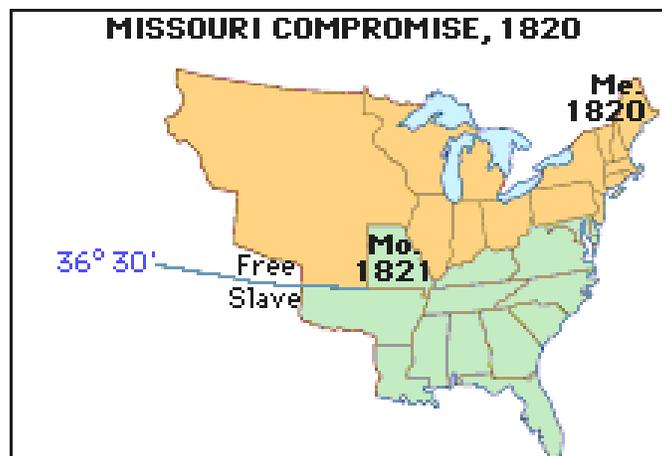
SENATORS DEBATING THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

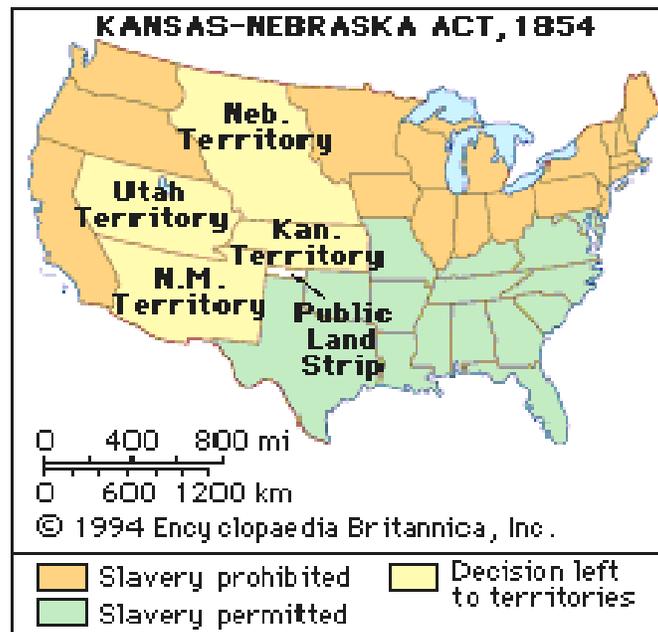


MISSOURI COMPROMISE & KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT

**BACKGROUND:**

Slavery was banned in the territory in the northern mid-west by the Missouri Compromise. Senator Stephen Douglas now wants to divide this territory into two, and allow them to vote on whether they should allow slavery. See the maps below.





**COMPROMISE OF 1850 (summarized version)**

**BACKGROUND:**

After large population increases following the Gold Rush, California has enough people to apply to become a state. It wants to become a free state, where slavery is banned. However, southern representatives in Congress do not want it to become a state because currently there are an equal number of slave states and free states in the country. If California becomes a state, the south would have fewer representatives in both the Senate and House of Representatives. (more on p. 460)

**COMPROMISE OF 1850 (modified summary of text)**

1. California will be admitted to the country as a Free state
2. Congress will not ban slavery in the territory acquired from the war with Mexico
3. The slave trade will be banned in the District of Columbia
4. Congress will pass a law that requires people in the north to help capture slaves who have runaway and bring them back to the south.

SENATORS DEBATING THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

