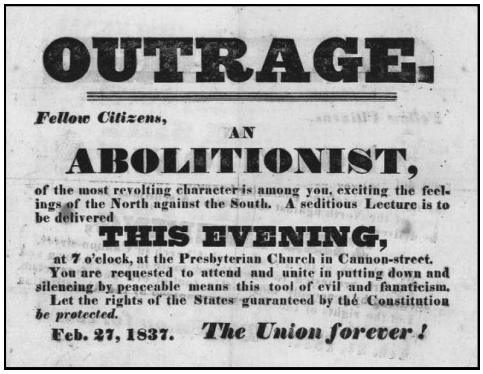
Slave States, Free States

Name:

Slavery: The Deep Divide

The United States may have started out with only thirteen states, but it soon began to grow. As each new state joined the union, everyone wanted to know if it would be a slave state or a free state. The issue of slavery was slowly driving a wedge through the United States. Abolitionists believed slavery was wrong. They wanted to abolish slavery completely, or at least keep slavery from spreading by making sure all new states would be free states. Most slave owners relied on slave labor to run their businesses. They believed they would lose their wealth without slavery, and they wanted new states to allow slavery. Each side was determined not to let the other side get any advantage.



OUTRAGE.

Fellow Citizens, AN

ABOLITIONIST,

of the most revolting character is among you, exciting the feelings of the North against the South. A seditious Lecture is to be delivered

THIS EVENING,

at 7 o'clock, at the Presbyterian Church in Cannon-street. You are requested to attend and unite in putting down and silencing by peaceable means this tool of evil and fanaticism. Let the rights of the States guaranteed by the Constitution be protected.

Feb. 27, 1837. *The Union forever!*

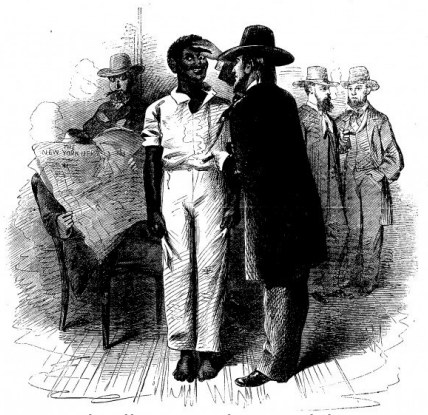
There were fierce emotions on both sides of the slavery debate.

Balancing Act

There was one thing keeping the slavery issue in check: balance in government. This was achieved by always making sure there was an equal number of free and slave states. This balance was critical! Each state gets to send two people to the U.S. Senate. An equal number of senators from free and slave states meant neither side had an advantage for getting laws passed. By 1819, there was a delicate balance of 11 free states and 11 slave states. But then, Missouri—a territory that allowed slavery—applied for statehood.

A Different Kind of "Equality"

Missouri's application triggered an uproar. If Missouri were admitted, the balance would be gone. After months of debate, the **Missouri Compromise** saved the day: Missouri would be admitted as a slave state, and a new state—Maine—would be created as a free state. To avoid future problems, they also mapped out which parts of the rest of America's territory could become slave and free states. For almost 30 years, America kept the balance as more states joined the Union. But by 1850, the U.S. had grown all the way to the Pacific coast. This new land was not subject to the Missouri Compromise, and debate over whether slavery would be allowed in the new territory threatened to tear the nation apart.



Buying and selling people was dehumanizing and degrading, but that alone didn't stop it.

$150 REWARD

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of the 2d instant, a negro man, who calls himself *Henry May*, about 22 years old, 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, ordinary color, rather chunky built, bushy head, and has it divided mostly on one side, and keeps it very nicely combed; has been raised in the house, and is a first rate dining-room servant, and was in a tavern in Louisville for 18 months. I expect he is now in Louisville trying to make his escape to a free state, (in all probability to Cincinnati, Ohio.) Perhaps he may try to get employment on a steamboat. He is a good cook, and is handy in any capacity as a house servant. Had on when he left, a dark cassinett coatee, and dark striped cassinett pantaloons, new—he had other clothing. I will give $50 reward if taken in Louisville 100 dollars if taken one hundred miles from Louisville in this State, and 150 dollars if taken out of this State, and delivered to me, or secured in any jail so that I can get him again.

WILLIAM BURKE.

Bardstown, Ky., September 3d, 1838.

Slave owners put runaway slave notices in papers across the country.

When "Compromise" Means Going Backward

When California applied for statehood in 1849, there were 15 slave states and 15 free states. California wanted to be a free state, but—you guessed it!—that would upset the balance. The **Compromise of 1850** tried to satisfy both sides. California would become a free state, but the new territories of Utah and New Mexico would decide for themselves whether to allow slavery. As part of the bargain, slave trading would become illegal in Washington, D.C., the nation's largest slave market. But a new **Fugitive Slave Act** penalized citizens for helping runaway slaves and required them to cooperate with the process of returning slaves to their owners. All of this kept the nation together… for the moment.

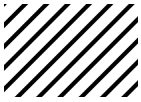
Slave States, Free States

Name: _____

A. 11 Slave, 11 Free. Below is the list of free and slave states before 1820. On the Missouri Compromise map, write an S on each slave state and an F on each free state:

Slave States	Free States
Maryland	Vermont
Virginia	New Hampshire
Kentucky	New York
Tennessee	Massachusetts
North Carolina	Rhode Island
South Carolina	Connecticut
Georgia	New Jersey
Alabama	Pennsylvania
Mississippi	Ohio

B. One of Each. The Missouri Compromise let Missouri in as a slave state and Maine in as a free state. On the Missouri Compromise map...

1. Shade Missouri and Maine with diagonal lines like this: 
2. Label Missouri and Maine with S and F like you did for the other states.

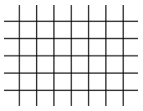
C. Not Above That Line! The Missouri Compromise also drew an imaginary line across U.S. territory at the 36° 30′ line of latitude. New states north of that line would not allow slavery. New states below the line would allow slavery. On the Missouri Compromise map...

1. Find the 36° 30′ line of latitude. It is half way between the 36° and 37° lines. (Hint: It's also the border between Tennessee and Kentucky!) Pay attention — lines of latitude follow a slight curve!
2. Starting at the Mississippi River, draw a dotted line *westward* to show the 36° 30′ line, like this:

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

3. STOP when you reach the border of land controlled by Spain.

D. Another Compromise? On the Compromise of 1850 map...

1. Draw criss-cross lines through California like this: 
2. Draw a big question mark on each of the two territories that got to decide the slavery issue for themselves.
3. Find Washington, D.C. Draw a dollar sign with a line through it like this:
4. By 1850, there were a few new states:

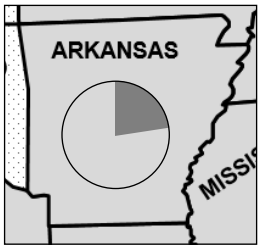
New Slave States	New Free States
Arkansas	Michigan
Florida	Iowa

Write F on ALL the free states (including the ones you marked on the other map). Do not mark on the slave states.

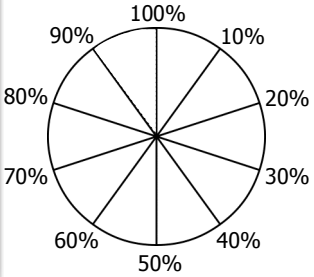
E. The Slave Population. On the Compromise of 1850 map, draw a tiny pie chart on each slave state to show the percent of that state's population that was enslaved. (The circles are already there for you.)

State	Total Population	Percent Enslaved
Alabama	771,623	51 %
Arkansas	209,897	22 %
Delaware	73,459	3 %
D.C.	51,687	7 %
Florida	87,450	27 %
Georgia	906,186	55 %
Kentucky	982,405	22 %
Louisiana	517,762	47 %
Maryland	583,034	15 %
Mississippi	536,526	58 %
Missouri	612,044	14 %
N. Carolina	869,039	33 %
S. Carolina	668,512	58 %
Tennessee	1,004,767	24 %
Texas	212,612	27 %
Virginia	1,421,661	33 %

Example:



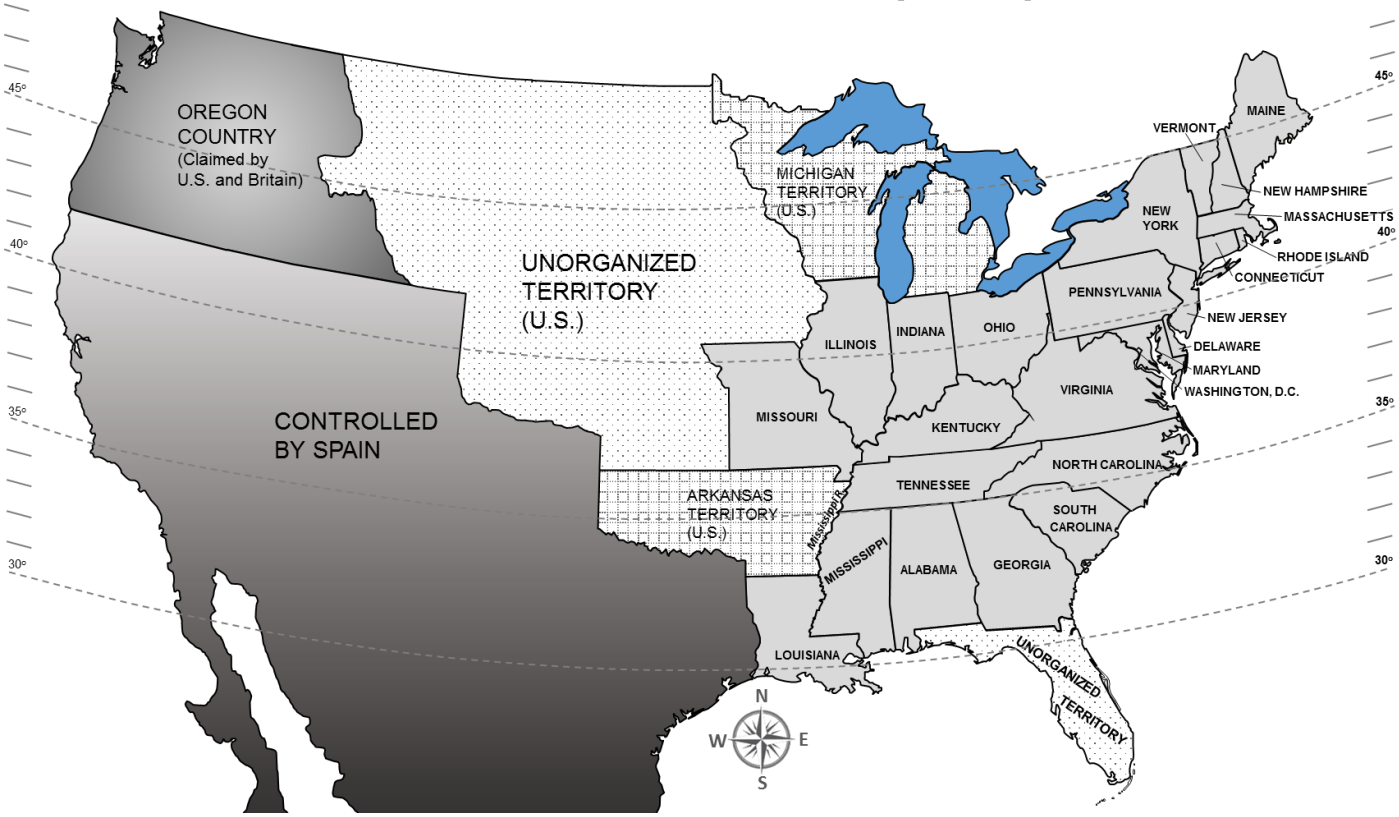
Use this circle to help you figure out how much of each chart to shade:



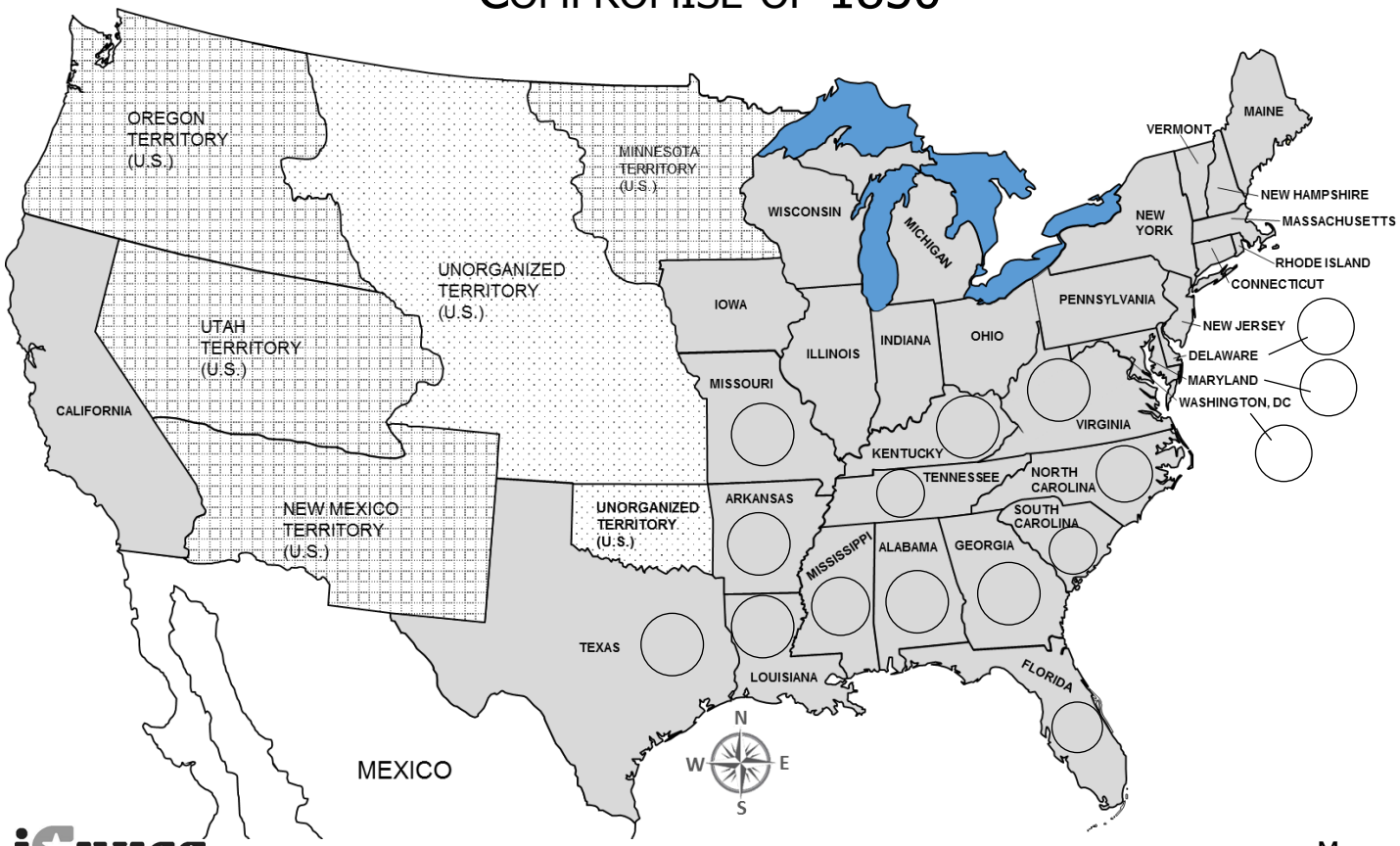
Slave States, Free States

Name:

Missouri Compromise (1820)



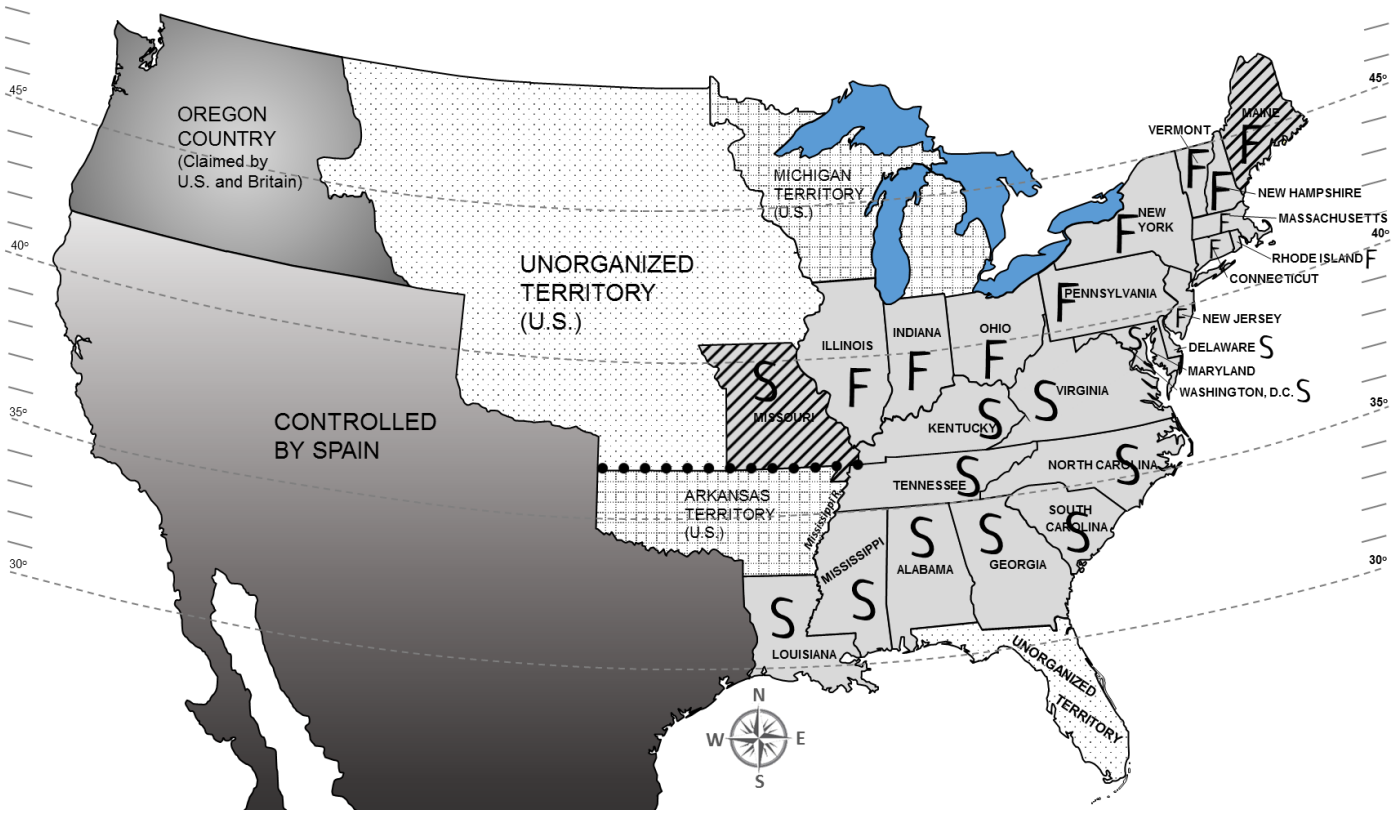
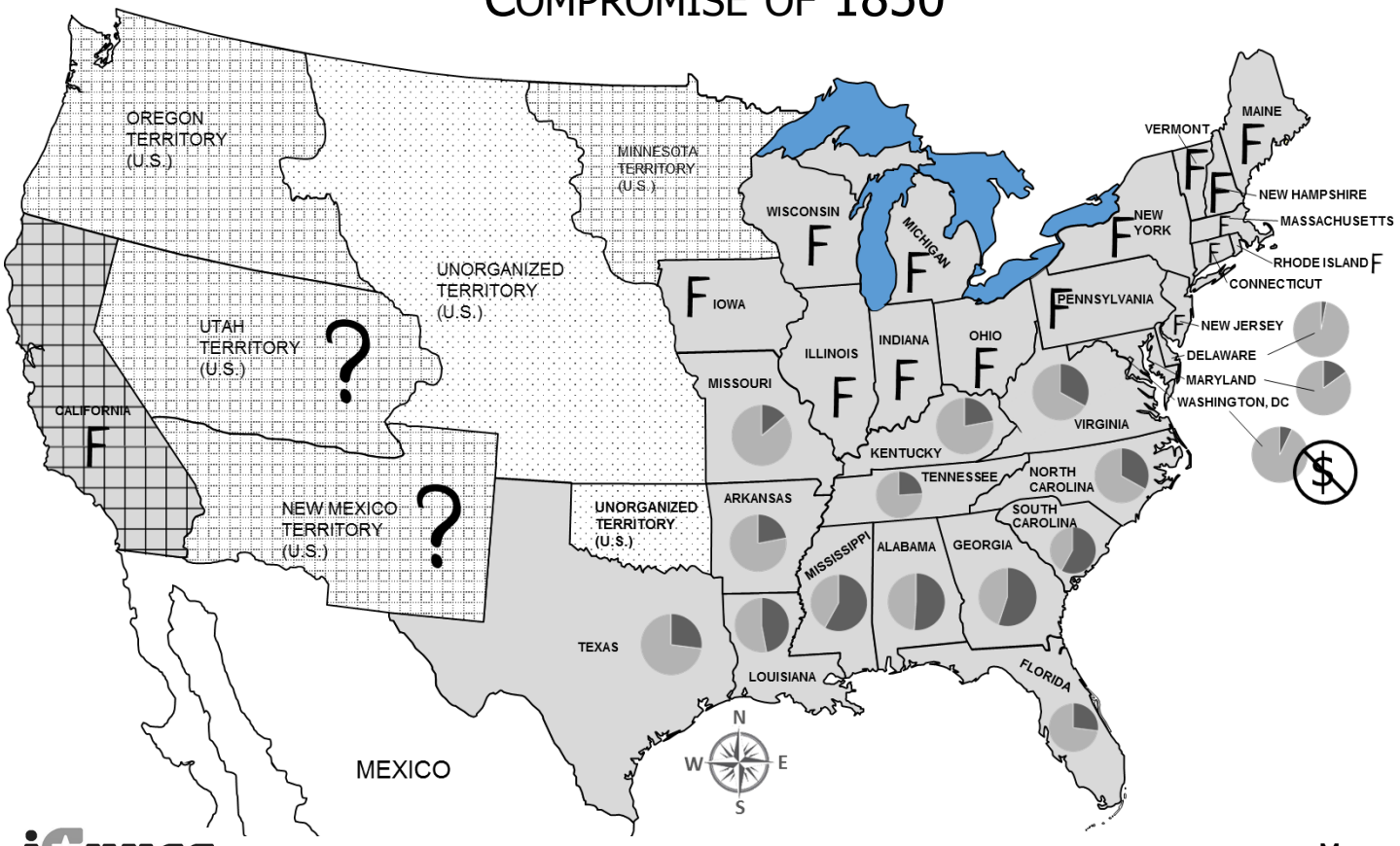
Compromise of 1850



Slave States, Free States

Name: *** TEACHER GUIDE ***

Missouri Compromise (1820)



Compromise of 1850