

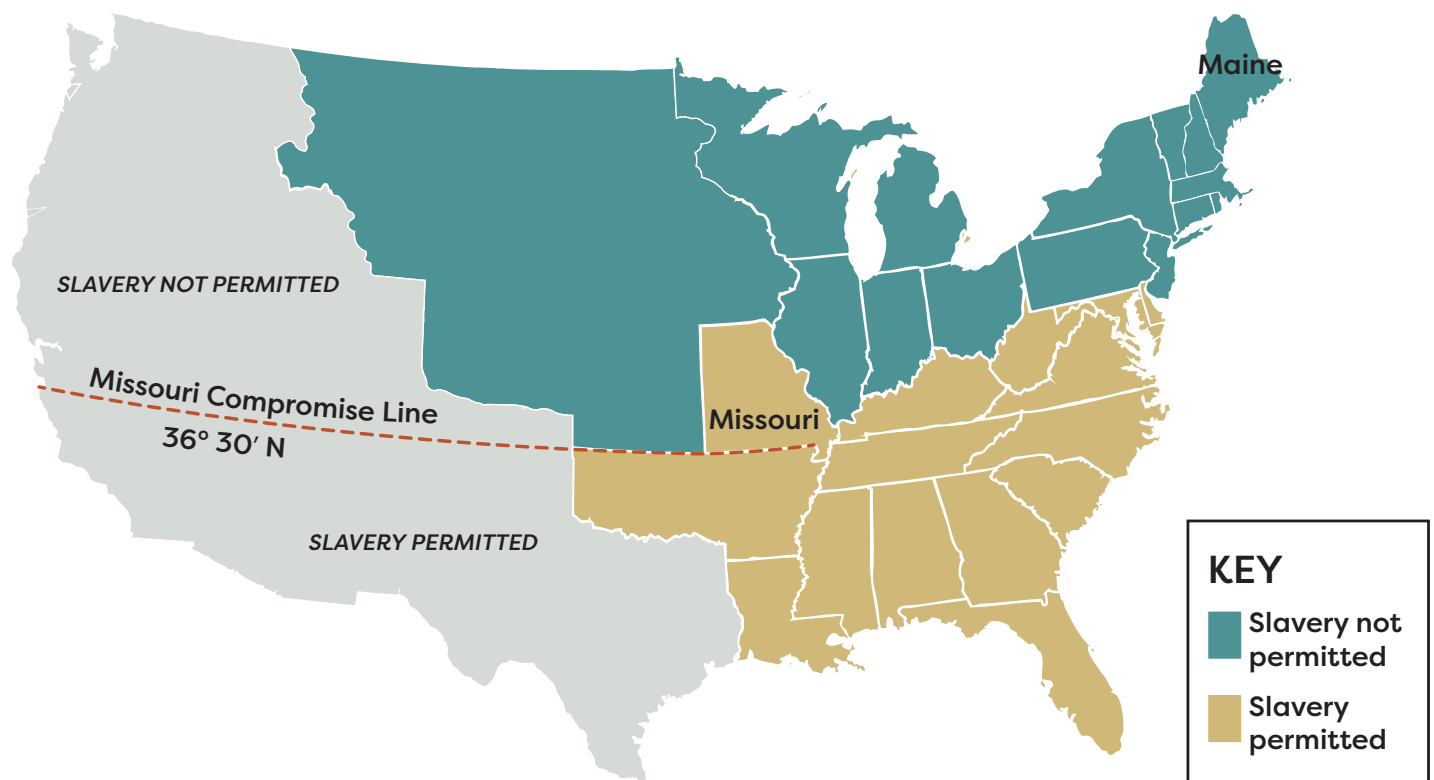
The Missouri Compromise

In 1819, the United States had 22 states. Eleven of those states, all in the South, permitted slavery. The other eleven states, all in the North, did not permit slavery. That year, the slaveholding territory of Missouri applied for statehood, threatening the balance of power in the U.S. Senate. If Missouri became a state, the states that permitted slavery, called "slave states," would outnumber the states that prohibited slavery, called "free states."

In 1820, the representatives of Maine, previously part of Massachusetts, asked to become a state. This presented the opportunity for a compromise. If the U.S. Congress admitted Maine as a free state and then admitted Missouri as a slave state, the Senate would remain equally divided. While this possibility offered a short-term solution, what would happen when additional territories applied for statehood? In order to maintain a balance of power on this divisive issue, a plan called the Missouri Compromise was proposed. The Missouri Compromise created a boundary at 36 degrees 30' north latitude. Slavery would be outlawed in any future states north of the line and only permitted in future states south of the line.

Consider the background information as you examine the map. Then answer the questions on page 2.

THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE (1820)



The Missouri Compromise

Circle the word that completes the sentences most accurately. Refer to the background information and map on page 1, if needed.

1. In 1819, the 22 states in the United States were equally divided on the issue of slavery. The eleven states in the **North/South** permitted slavery. The remaining eleven states in the **North/South** did not permit slavery.
2. Each state has two representatives in the U.S. **Senate/Supreme Court**. When the slaveholding territory of **Maine/Missouri** applied for statehood, it threatened the balance of power because there would be two more votes supporting slavery. That would increase the power of the **North/South**.
3. If Missouri became a state, the **free states/slave states** would outnumber the **free states/slave states**.
4. In **1820/1821**, the representatives of Maine, previously part of **Missouri/Massachusetts**, asked to become a state.
5. The Missouri Compromise drew a boundary that **permitted/prohibited** slavery north of the 36 degrees 30' north latitude. This boundary determined where **slavery/farming** would be permitted in unsettled territories.
6. The 1820 law was considered a compromise because each region got something it wanted. The North was allowed to admit **Maine/Missouri** as a free state. The South was allowed to admit **Maine/Missouri** as a slave state. Also, both regions agreed to **future rules/not have rules** for western territories applying for statehood.
7. If the provision outlawing slavery north of the 36 degrees 30' north demarcation line had been in effect prior to 1820, Missouri would have been a **free state/slave state**.
8. The Missouri Compromise outlawed slavery north of the 36 degrees 30' north **longitude/latitude** line in an attempt to settle the issue of whether slavery would be legal in federal territories that asked to become states. These guidelines held until the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise by allowing settlers in those territories to determine for themselves whether slavery would be permitted. So, the Missouri Compromise lasted for over **30 years/40 years**.