

A Nation Begins to Divide

DAILY ACTIVITY

Chapter 13, Section 2

Directions: Read the information and study the maps about the changes made in slave and free states as the result of legislation. Then answer the questions that follow.

As new states were admitted to the Union, the question of maintaining a balance between slave and free states became more crucial. Under the 1820 Missouri Compromise, Missouri entered the Union as a slave state; Maine entered as a free state. The compromise established the 36°30' north latitude line as the boundary that would separate future free and slave states. States north of the line that already allowed slavery could remain slave states. However, among the new states, only those south of the line would be allowed to legalize slavery.

Later, under the Compromise of 1850, California was admitted as a free state. Utah separated from New Mexico, and each was allowed to decide whether to have slavery or not. The compromise also abolished the slave trade in Washington, D.C., and enacted a stiff fugitive slave law to make it easier for slaveholders to capture runaway slaves.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 divided the Nebraska Territory into Kansas and Nebraska. It also provided for popular sovereignty, the practice of allowing residents to vote whether to legalize slavery in their territory or not.

Explaining Graphic Information

1. Between 1820 and 1854, which section of the country had the largest number of slave states?

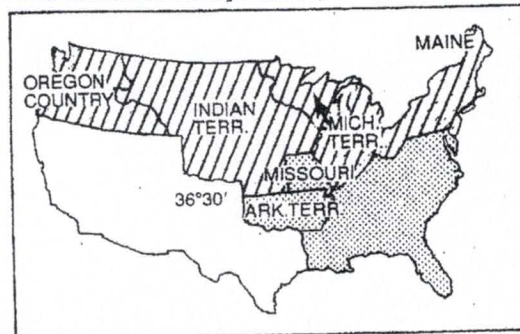
2. What slave state is shown on the map of 1850 that did not exist in 1820?

3. What effect did the Kansas-Nebraska Act have on the Missouri Compromise?

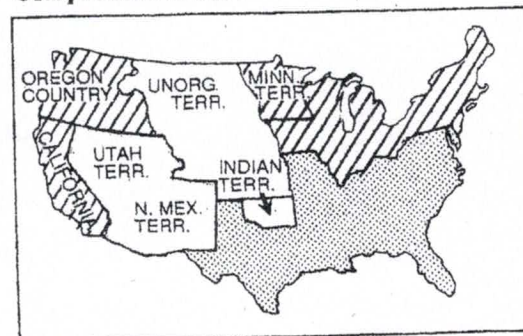
Predicting Outcomes

4. Based on the information provided on the maps, what decision do you think Kansas would make concerning slavery? Why?

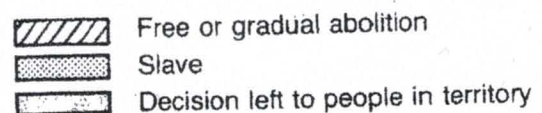
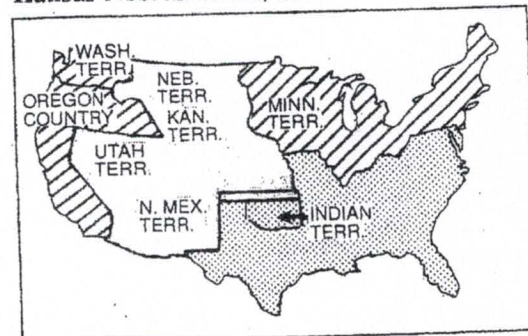
The Missouri Compromise, 1820



Compromise of 1850



Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854



5. What decision do you think New Mexico would make? Explain your answer.
