# States at Statehood

Sort states by their laws when they joined the United States.

**SS24.4.11** "Describe events and factors that led to the United States' expansion prior to the Civil War, including conflicts, technological developments, trails, and the Gold Rush of 1849..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

**FREE STATE**

When a free state joined the United States, its laws did not allow slavery.

Michigan, 1837

**SLAVE STATE**

When a slave state joined the United States, its laws allowed slavery. Enslaved people were forced to work without freedom.

Arkansas, 1836

## 1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: Circle FREE or SLAVE for each state; Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick two states and explain how you knew where each belonged.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Louisiana, 1812 | FREE SLAVE |
| **2.** | Mississippi, 1817 | FREE SLAVE |
| **3.** | Illinois, 1818 | FREE SLAVE |
| **4.** | Alabama, 1819 | FREE SLAVE |
| **5.** | Iowa, 1846 | FREE SLAVE |
| **6.** | Wisconsin, 1848 | FREE SLAVE |
| **7.** | California, 1850 | FREE SLAVE |
| **8.** | Texas, 1845 | FREE SLAVE |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one free state and one slave state that joined the United States between 1812 and 1860 and are not listed on this page; include each state's admission year.

**FREE** _____

**SLAVE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Choose one free state and one slave state from Part 1 that joined in different decades, and explain how their laws about slavery differed when they joined.

**ANSWER KEY**

# States at Statehood

**GRADE 4 · SS24.4.11**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Louisiana, 1812 | **SLAVE** | Louisiana allowed slavery when it became a state in 1812. |
| 2 | Mississippi, 1817 | **SLAVE** | Mississippi allowed slavery when it became a state in 1817. |
| 3 | Illinois, 1818 | **FREE** | Illinois did not allow slavery when it became a state in 1818. |
| 4 | Alabama, 1819 | **SLAVE** | Alabama allowed slavery when it became a state in 1819. |
| 5 | Iowa, 1846 | **FREE** | Iowa did not allow slavery when it became a state in 1846. |
| 6 | Wisconsin, 1848 | **FREE** | Wisconsin did not allow slavery when it became a state in 1848. |
| 7 | California, 1850 | **FREE** | California did not allow slavery when it became a state in 1850. |
| 8 | Texas, 1845 | **SLAVE** | Texas allowed slavery when it became a state in 1845. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FREE**: Indiana, 1816
- **SLAVE**: Florida, 1845

**Challenge:** Illinois joined in 1818 as a free state, and its laws did not allow slavery. Texas joined in 1845 as a slave state, and its laws allowed slavery.

For Part 2, accept any two correctly sorted states with explanations about whether their laws allowed slavery at statehood. For Part 3, accept other accurate states admitted from 1812 through 1860 that do not appear in the rule box or sort.