States at Statehood

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

SS24.4.11a "Locate states admitted to the United States between 1812 and 1860 and categorize these states as either "free" or "slave" states."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FREE STATE

A free state prohibited slavery when it joined the United States. This label describes its slavery laws, not whether everyone had equal rights.

Iowa joined in 1846 with slavery prohibited.

SLAVE STATE

A slave state allowed slavery when it joined the United States.

Florida joined in 1845 with slavery allowed.

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, circle FREE or SLAVE for each state; in Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how its clue helped you decide.

1. Louisiana (1812): State law allowed slavery. FREE SLAVE

2. Mississippi (1817): People could legally enslave others. FREE SLAVE

3. Indiana (1816): Its constitution prohibited slavery. FREE SLAVE

4. Alabama (1819): State law allowed slavery. FREE SLAVE

5. Maine (1820): Slavery was prohibited. FREE SLAVE

6. Michigan (1837): Its constitution banned slavery. FREE SLAVE

7. Missouri (1821): Its constitution allowed slavery. FREE SLAVE

8. California (1850): Its constitution prohibited slavery. 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

Choose one free state and one slave state from Part 1, then write a new sentence about each that names the state, gives its statehood year, and explains its category.

FREE _____

SLAVE _____

CHALLENGE

A state prohibited slavery when it joined, but some people there still lacked equal rights; which category fits the state, and why?

ANSWER KEY

States at Statehood

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.11a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Louisiana (1812): State law allowed slavery.	**SLAVE**	Slavery was legal in Louisiana when it became a state in 1812.
2	Mississippi (1817): People could legally enslave others.	**SLAVE**	Mississippi allowed slavery when it became a state in 1817.
3	Indiana (1816): Its constitution prohibited slavery.	**FREE**	Indiana entered the United States with a constitution that prohibited slavery.
4	Alabama (1819): State law allowed slavery.	**SLAVE**	Slavery was legal in Alabama when it became a state in 1819.
5	Maine (1820): Slavery was prohibited.	**FREE**	Maine entered the United States as a free state in 1820.
6	Michigan (1837): Its constitution banned slavery.	**FREE**	Michigan entered the United States with a constitution that banned slavery.
7	Missouri (1821): Its constitution allowed slavery.	**SLAVE**	Missouri entered the United States with a constitution that allowed slavery.
8	California (1850): Its constitution prohibited slavery.	**FREE**	California entered the United States with a constitution that prohibited slavery.

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 became a free state in 1816 because its constitution did not allow slavery.
- **SLAVE**: Mississippi became a slave state in 1817 because its laws allowed slavery.

Challenge: FREE fits because the state prohibited slavery when it joined. Being a free state did not mean everyone had equal rights.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect each chosen state's clue to whether slavery was allowed or prohibited when it joined. For example, Missouri belongs in SLAVE because its constitution allowed slavery, while Michigan belongs in FREE because its constitution banned slavery.