

A Delicate Balance

Trace why Congress made the Missouri Compromise and what happened afterward.

SS.5.A.6.8 "Describe the causes and effects of the Missouri Compromise."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two reasons Congress needed a compromise. Underline four results of the Missouri Compromise, including results that happened later.

The Missouri Compromise

- ① In 1819, Missouri asked to enter the United States as a slave state. At that time, there were 11 free states and 11 slave states. Leaders in Congress worried that admitting Missouri as a slave state would give slave states more senators. This could change the balance of power between regions that disagreed about slavery.
- ② Congress worked out the Missouri Compromise in 1820. Missouri entered as a slave state, while Maine entered as a free state. Adding one state of each kind kept the number of free and slave states even. Congress also said that slavery would not be allowed in most Louisiana Purchase land north of latitude 36°30', except Missouri.
- ③ The agreement eased the immediate argument over Missouri and kept an equal number of free and slave states in the Senate for a time. However, it did not end disagreement about slavery or its expansion westward. As the nation gained and settled more western land, the issue returned. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act canceled the compromise line, and sectional conflict grew.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did some leaders worry about admitting Missouri as a slave state?

2 How did adding Maine help Congress keep a balance between free and slave states?

3 What rule did the Missouri Compromise make for most Louisiana Purchase land north of latitude 36°30'?

4 What details show that the Missouri Compromise was only a temporary solution?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences that explain a cause-and-effect chain for the Missouri Compromise. Include two causes that led Congress to act and two effects of the agreement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the two reasons Congress needed a compromise. Underline four results of the Missouri Compromise, including results that happened later. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did some leaders worry about admitting Missouri as a slave state?	It could give slave states more senators and change the balance of power between regions.
2	How did adding Maine help Congress keep a balance between free and slave states?	Maine entered as a free state while Missouri entered as a slave state, so the numbers stayed even.
3	What rule did the Missouri Compromise make for most Louisiana Purchase land north of latitude 36°30'?	Slavery would not be allowed there, except in Missouri.
4	What details show that the Missouri Compromise was only a temporary solution?	It eased the argument for a time, but it did not end disagreement about slavery's expansion. The issue returned, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act canceled the line in 1854.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One cause was Missouri's request to join as a slave state. Another cause was the equal number of free and slave states. As a result, Missouri entered as a slave state and Maine entered as a free state. The agreement calmed the argument for a time, but it did not stop future conflict over slavery's expansion.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, students should name two causes and two accurate effects, with clear links between them.