

Compromise Under Pressure

Trace congressional choices and their effects before the Civil War.

8.7.E "identify the provisions and compare the effects of congressional conflicts and compromises prior to the Civil War, including the role of John Quincy Adams."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each provision, or action Congress took. Circle each effect, and write A beside the detail that explains John Quincy Adams's role.

Congress Faces Slavery's Expansion

- ① In 1820, Congress faced a dispute over whether Missouri would enter the Union allowing slavery. The Missouri Compromise admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, keeping the Senate balanced. It also barred slavery in most of the Louisiana Purchase north of latitude 36°30', except Missouri. The agreement reduced conflict for a time, but it treated the spread of slavery as a problem Congress could postpone rather than settle. Sectional disagreements remained between many Northern and Southern leaders.
- ② During the 1830s, antislavery citizens sent Congress petitions asking it to act against slavery. In 1836, the House adopted a gag rule that automatically tabled, or set aside, these petitions without discussion. John Quincy Adams, a former president serving as a Massachusetts representative, argued that citizens had a right to petition. He repeatedly challenged the rule in the House. In 1844, the House repealed it. The conflict showed that congressional rules could silence debate, but organized resistance could reopen it.
- ③ After the Mexican-American War, Congress again argued over slavery in western lands. The Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state, allowed Utah and New Mexico territories to decide the issue by popular sovereignty, and strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act. It delayed disunion, yet the stronger law angered many Northerners. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise line and used popular sovereignty in Kansas and Nebraska. Rival settlers fought in Kansas, showing that later compromises increased conflict instead of containing it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two statehood decisions did the Missouri Compromise make, and what boundary rule did it add?

2 How did the gag rule affect antislavery petitions, and what did John Quincy Adams do in response?

3 Compare the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. What did each use to handle slavery in territories, and what was one effect of each?

4 Which congressional action was intended to limit slavery's spread, and which later law removed that limit? Explain the effect of removing it.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence claim comparing the Missouri Compromise with the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Identify a provision and an effect of each, then explain which action did more to reduce conflict and why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each provision, or action Congress took. Circle each effect, and write A beside the detail that explains John Quincy Adams's role. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two statehood decisions did the Missouri Compromise make, and what boundary rule did it add?	It admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state. It barred slavery in most of the Louisiana Purchase north of 36°30', except Missouri.
2	How did the gag rule affect antislavery petitions, and what did John Quincy Adams do in response?	The gag rule set aside antislavery petitions without discussion. Adams argued for the right to petition and repeatedly challenged the rule.
3	Compare the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. What did each use to handle slavery in territories, and what was one effect of each?	Both used popular sovereignty in territories. The Compromise of 1850 delayed disunion but angered many Northerners because of the stronger Fugitive Slave Act. The Kansas-Nebraska Act led to fighting in Kansas.
4	Which congressional action was intended to limit slavery's spread, and which later law removed that limit? Explain the effect of removing it.	The Missouri Compromise limited slavery north of 36°30' in most of the Louisiana Purchase. The Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed that limit, and rival settlers fought in Kansas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Missouri Compromise was more successful than the Kansas-Nebraska Act at reducing conflict. It balanced the Senate by admitting one slave state and one free state, and it limited slavery in much of the Louisiana Purchase. These provisions reduced conflict for a time. In contrast, the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed that limit and let settlers decide the slavery issue. Its policy led to fighting in Kansas, so it increased conflict rather than containing it.

Accept equivalent descriptions of provisions and effects when they are supported by the passage. For the open response, accept either position if the student accurately compares both actions and supports the claim with a provision and an effect.