

Sectional Lines Grow

Trace how policies and conflicts divided the United States.

8.7 "History. The student understands how political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War. The student is expected to: analyze the impact of tariff policies on sections of the United States before the..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each tariff, law, compromise, or congressional action in the passage. Number them, then circle a nearby phrase that tells how it affected a section or group of people.

Policies That Deepened Division

- ① Before the Civil War, tariff debates widened sectional differences. Northern factory owners often supported tariffs, taxes on imported goods, because imported products would cost more and compete less with American-made goods. Many Southern planters opposed high tariffs. They bought imported goods and feared that other nations might buy less Southern cotton in retaliation. The West had mixed views, but many western farmers wanted markets for crops. Slavery also shaped regional economies: enslaved labor produced cotton in the South, while Northern factories, banks, and shipping businesses were tied to that trade.
- ② Political and social limits affected enslaved people and free Blacks differently. Enslaved people could be bought and sold, forced to work, and denied legal freedom. Free Blacks were not enslaved, yet racism restricted their voting, schooling, travel, and safety in many places. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 made these dangers worse. Federal officials had to help capture alleged fugitives, and accused people could not testify in their own defense or receive a jury trial. Slave catchers sometimes seized free Blacks. Abolitionists organized rescues, aided escape routes, and resisted the law, while supporters demanded enforcement.
- ③ Congress tried to contain conflict through compromises, but each settlement created arguments. The Missouri Compromise admitted Maine as free and Missouri as slave, then barred slavery north of 36°30' in most of the Louisiana Purchase. The Compromise of 1850 admitted California as free, used popular sovereignty in Utah and New Mexico, ended the slave trade in Washington, D.C., and strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act. In the House, John Quincy Adams fought the gag rule, which automatically blocked antislavery petitions. The Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise line, and violence followed debate over popular sovereignty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did high tariffs affect Northern factory owners differently from Southern planters?

2 Compare the effects of political and social limits on enslaved people and free Blacks.

3 What were two effects of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, one on free Blacks or enslaved people and one on abolitionists?

4 How did the Missouri Compromise differ from the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and what congressional rule did John Quincy Adams fight?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence historical claim explaining why the Compromise of 1850 increased sectional conflict instead of settling it. Name two provisions and connect each provision to an effect on a group or section.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each tariff, law, compromise, or congressional action in the passage. Number them, then circle a nearby phrase that tells how it affected a section or group of people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did high tariffs affect Northern factory owners differently from Southern planters?	Northern factory owners often supported tariffs because imports cost more and competed less with their goods. Southern planters opposed them because they bought imports and feared retaliation against cotton exports.
2	Compare the effects of political and social limits on enslaved people and free Blacks.	Enslaved people were legally treated as property, forced to work, and denied freedom. Free Blacks were free but faced racism and restrictions on voting, schooling, travel, and safety.
3	What were two effects of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, one on free Blacks or enslaved people and one on abolitionists?	It put free Blacks at risk of seizure and denied accused fugitives a jury trial or the right to testify. Abolitionists organized rescues, aided escape routes, and resisted the law.
4	How did the Missouri Compromise differ from the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and what congressional rule did John Quincy Adams fight?	The Missouri Compromise barred slavery north of 36°30' in most of the Louisiana Purchase, while the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed that line and used popular sovereignty. Adams fought the gag rule that blocked antislavery petitions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state, which pleased many Northerners but worried many Southerners about losing influence. Its stronger Fugitive Slave Act endangered free Blacks and angered abolitionists. Instead of ending disagreement, the compromise made slavery a more divisive national issue.

Accept any accurate three-sentence claim that names two provisions of the Compromise of 1850 and explains effects on groups or sections. Students may explain that the Fugitive Slave Act increased Northern resistance and fear among free Blacks.