

# A United Nation?

*Expansion and Reform*  
*(1801–1861)*



Politics and economics

**Rising sectionalism**

19<sup>th</sup>-century reform

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know how the following factors contributed to sectional tensions in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century United States:

- Economic differences in the North and South
- The slavery debate
- The Missouri Compromise
- Rising tariffs
- The Nullification Crisis.





As time went on, the North and South began to feel less connected. Despite their differences, the two regions had many things in common. Can you correctly sort each statement?

Press **start** to begin.

start





# The slavery question



Although many Northern whites held racist beliefs, most opposed slavery.

During the colonial period, the institution of slavery was not very profitable, and many Northern states abolished it.

As the West opened for settlement and Americans rushed to claim farmland, Northerners feared that Southern plantation owners would have an advantage because of slave labor.

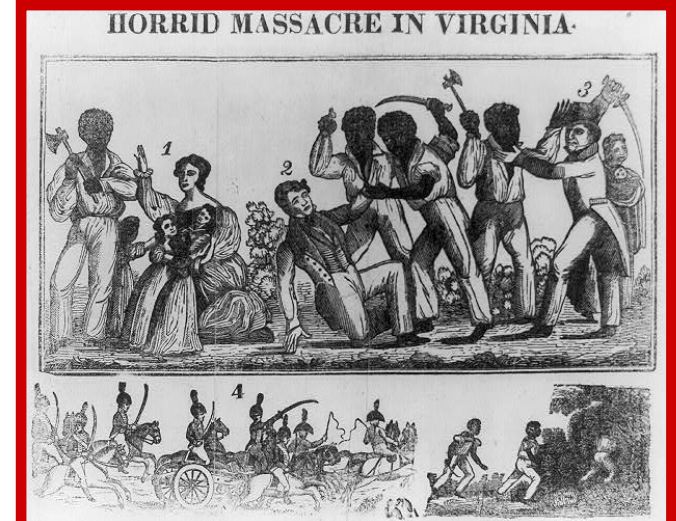


Why was slavery not profitable in the colonies?



Another factor that affected the slavery debate was the threat of slave revolt.

In 1831, Virginian slave **Nat Turner** led over 70 others to kill approximately 60 white men, women and children.



In the following weeks, angry whites killed as many as 200 slaves, most of whom had nothing to do with the rebellion.

Southern lawmakers responded by placing harsher restrictions on slaves and free blacks.

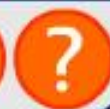




Arguments for and against slavery can be sorted into three main categories: moral (why slavery is ethically right or wrong), social (why slavery supports or hinders a pleasant society), and political or economic (why slavery supports or hinders wealth and the government). Can you sort these arguments into the correct categories?

Press **start** to begin.

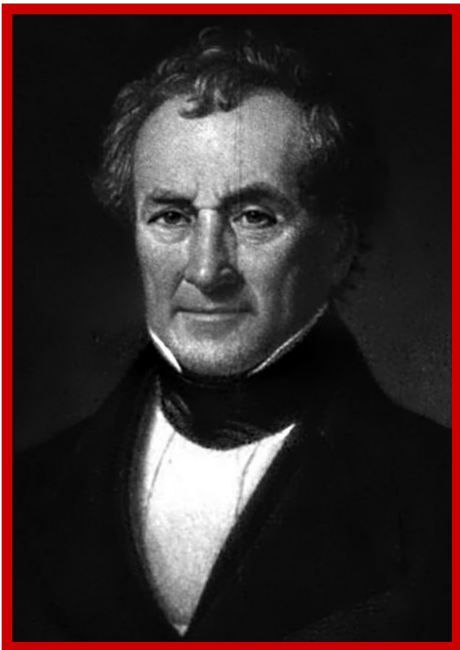
start





In 1819, Missouri applied for statehood. At this time, there were eleven free states and ten slave states in the Union.

Southerners expected Missouri to be admitted as a slave state to maintain the balance in Congress.



However, Congressman **James Tallmadge** added an amendment to the Missouri bill that said no new slaves could be brought to the state, and that all current slaves in Missouri would be freed at the age of 25.







# Missouri Compromise

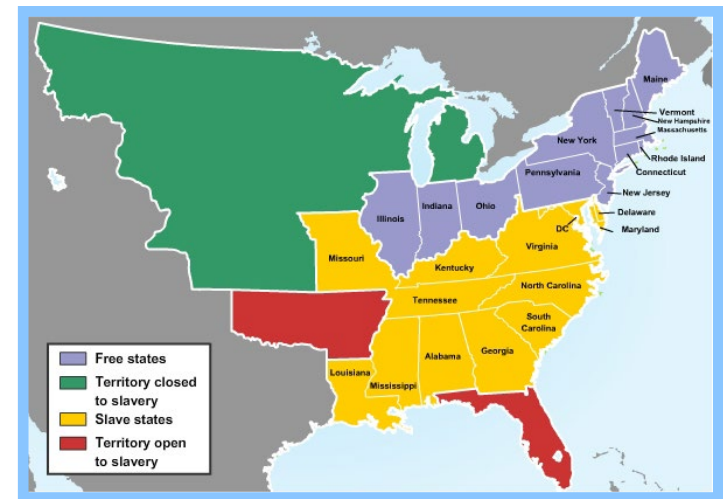


Southerners accused Northerners of trying to abolish slavery. Northerners accused Southerners of trying to extend their power. Both sides threatened civil war.

Meanwhile, Alabama became the eleventh slave state. The stakes for Missouri were higher than ever.

In 1820, Henry Clay proposed the **Missouri Compromise**.

Missouri would be a slave state and Maine would be free. Slavery would be banned in the Louisiana Territory north of the **36° 30' parallel**.



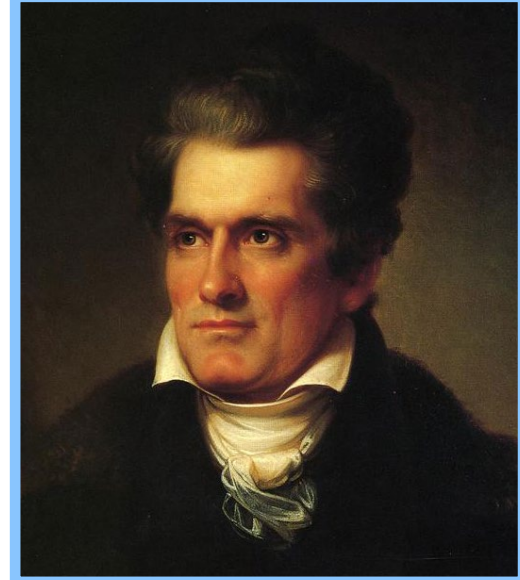
Was this an effective compromise?



Tariffs increased in 1824 and 1828. This upset Southerners who felt their taxes were enriching Northern businessmen.

Jackson's vice president, **John C. Calhoun** of South Carolina, called the Tariff of 1828 the **Tariff of Abominations**.

He believed that if a state was injured by a federal law, it could nullify that law, or make it invalid. If three-quarters of the states confirmed the government's right to enforce the law, the injured state could **secede** from, or leave, the Union.





When Jackson raised a tariff in 1832, South Carolina issued the **South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification**. Jackson called the document treasonous and passed the **Force Bill** (1833), which promised military action if South Carolina did not withdraw it. What did the Ordinance say? Press each section of text to see a modern translation.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Do you think states should be able to nullify laws?



After the Revolutionary War, many people felt more connected to their local communities than the nation as a whole. Yet many lawmakers felt the country needed a more powerful central government if it was going to survive.

Sort the following arguments based on whether they are in favor of states' rights or federal rights.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

