

In 1819, as Missouri began drafting a state constitution in preparation for statehood, New York congressman James Tallmadge introduced two antislavery amendments to the bill which allowed for the creation of Missouri as a state. Despite the fact that Tallmadge's bills were not passed, the issue involving slavery threatened to explode.

The issue of slavery had remained controversial in America since 1787. In 1819, half of America's twenty-two states were free states (northern), and half were slave states (southern). Because the free states had larger populations, they controlled the House of Representatives. Free and slave states shared equal representation in the Senate. The admission of Missouri as a free state or slave state would upset the balance. Antislavery members of Congress argued that slavery should be prohibited in new states, while pro-slavery members of Congress argued that the state should have the right to determine if slavery was legal or illegal within its borders.

A compromise was made when Maine applied for statehood in 1820. According to the deal thought of by Henry Clay, if the southern states agreed to the admission of Maine as a free state, Missouri would be admitted as a slave state. In addition, all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30' N latitude would be free. Both the free and the slave states agreed to Clay's compromise, which lasted 30 years before being repealed following another period of American expansion.

- 1. What was the primary issue that made the Missouri Compromise necessary?**
  - A. slavery
  - B. statehood
  - C. Maine
  - D. Henry Clay
  
- 2. The admission of Missouri as a free state had the potential to...**
  - A. cause slavery.
  - B. destroy the House of Representatives.
  - C. upset the balance in Congress.
  - D. give the northern states too much power.

**3. Slavery supporters argued that...**

- A. slavery should be illegal.
- B. slavery should be allowed in all states.
- C. that slavery should only be illegal in the new states.
- D. that citizens of new states should vote on slavery.

**4. What happened when Maine was admitted to the Union?**

- A. Slavery was permitted in Maine
- B. Slavery was permitted throughout the country
- C. Slavery was permitted in Missouri
- D. Slavery was not permitted in Missouri

**5. Why is the Louisiana Purchase important in this discussion?**

- A. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery became illegal in all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- B. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery became illegal in some of the lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- C. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery was permitted in all lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase
- D. As a result of the Missouri Compromise, slavery was permitted throughout America

**6. What does the passage suggest about the Missouri Compromise?**

- A. The same problems that caused the Missouri Compromise would appear again in the near future
- B. The problems addressed in the Missouri Compromise were permanently solved
- C. Eventually, Missouri would become a free state
- D. There were some states that did not agree to Clay's compromise.

**7. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage above?**

- A. The life of Henry Clay
- B. The House of Representatives and its Stance on Slavery
- C. Maine – the Story of a Free State
- D. How the Issue of Slavery Shaped America's Map