

5.4 The Compromise of 1850

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **attempts at compromise** 妥协的尝试.

You must be able to:

- state what the Mexican Cession led to
- state who attempted to resolve the issue
- state what the Compromise of 1850 is an example of
- explain why the courts appear beside national leaders

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The Cession

The Mexican Cession led to heated controversies over whether to allow slavery in the newly acquired territories.

■ Who attempted

The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Compromise of 1850. Two institutions, working on the same question.

■ An example

The Compromise of 1850 is the CED's example of a legislative attempt. 5.6 gives the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott decision as later attempts that **failed to reduce conflict**.

■ Courts and leaders

The question was not only legislative. Including the courts records that the dispute was also about what the Constitution already permitted—which is why a judicial answer could be attempted at all.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the Mexican Cession led to. [2]

2.2 State who attempted to resolve the issue. [2]

2.3 The courts appear beside national leaders.

(a) State what this records. [2]

(b) State the CED's later examples of such attempts. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED names as attempting resolution the courts and [1]

- **A** national leaders
- **B** state governors only
- **C** foreign powers
- **D** the army

3.2 The Compromise of 1850 is given as [1]

- **A** one of a variety of attempts
- **B** the only attempt
- **C** a court decision
- **D** a constitutional amendment

3.3 A dispute is taken to the courts as well as to the legislature.

(a) State what this indicates about the dispute. [1]

(b) Explain why a judicial answer was attempted.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.4 The Compromise of 1850** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 5: 1844-1877** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 heated controversies over whether to allow slavery in the newly acquired territories.

2.2 the courts and national leaders.

2.3 (a) that the dispute was also about what the Constitution already permitted. (b) the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott decision.

3.1 A. national leaders.

3.2 A. one of a variety.

3.3 (a) that it was partly a question of constitutional interpretation. (b) if the Constitution already settled the matter, a court could declare what it required rather than a legislature negotiating a new rule.