**Temporary Compromise**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:00 |  |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Our lesson question today is why did the nation agree to compromise over the expansion of slavery in 1850? In the warm up, you learned about an earlier compromise over the slavery issue. In this lesson, you will learn about the growing debate over the expansion of slavery into the territories. You'll also learn how the California Gold Rush expedited |
| 00:00:28 | the need for compromise. And you'll consider how all of these events led to the Compromise of 1850 and the growing divide over the future of slavery in the nation. In the first segment of this lesson, you will learn how the addition of territories in the West revived and intensified the debate over slavery. |

**Section 2**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: After winning the Mexican-American War, the United States acquired a large area in the West-- pictured here--from Mexico in the Mexican Cession. This area included the present day states of Utah, Nevada, California and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. This led to a debate over whether slavery would be allowed in the Western territory acquired from Mexico. |
| 00:00:31 | Southern states supported the spread of slavery. Northern states opposed it. American political leaders supported different positions on how to address the issue of slavery in the Mexican Cession. One position supported by many Northerners was the Wilmot Proviso, which would outlaw slavery in all new territories. The Wilmot Proviso was voted on during the Mexican-American |
| 00:01:00 | War, but rejected by Congress. Some supported the exact opposite position that slavery should be legal in all new territories. Between those two positions were two compromise ideas. One of these ideas was to extend to the Missouri Compromise line all the way west to the Pacific. Slavery would be legal below the line and banned above the line. The other moderate idea was popular sovereignty. |
| 00:01:32 | This meant that the people living in the territory could decide for themselves whether slavery was allowed there or not. |

**Section 4**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: With the election of 1848 approaching, the two major political parties, the Whigs and Democrats, tried to keep slavery from dividing their parties. The Whigs nominated Zachary Taylor, a war hero during the Mexican-American war. Although he was a slave older, he took no position on the extension of slavery to the territories. |
| 00:00:26 | Democrats chose as their nominee for president Lewis Cass, a senator from Michigan and a supporter of popular sovereignty. Remember, popular sovereignty was one of the compromise positions that would allow the people living in the territories to decide whether slavery was allowed there or not. Hoping to win support from voters |
| 00:00:49 | in both the North and the South, neither party wanted slavery to become a major campaign issue. During the campaign of 1848, the Free-Soil Party formed. This new party included antislavery Whigs and Democrats in the North who were disappointed that their old parties did not take a stand against slavery. This cartoon here shows then Democrat and former president Martin Van Buren on the ground, trying to smoke out Lewis Cass |
| 00:01:26 | and make him take a stand on slavery. The Free-Soil Party also opposed the spread of slavery into any of the Western territories. And they nominated Van Buren as their candidate for president. The Free-Soil Party gained support from different groups in the North, including abolitionists-- the people who wanted slavery to end immediately-- |
| 00:01:55 | small farmers and merchants, mill and household workers. Many white Northerners supported Free-Soilers, not because they opposed slavery on moral grounds, but because they believed enslaved workers would take away job opportunities in the West. |

**Section 6**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Zachary Taylor, a war hero of the War with Mexico, won the presidency in 1848 in a close election. Each side won support in the South and the North. Taylor's promises won him support in the South. But some Southerners still supported a Democrat candidate. As you can see on this map, the election did not have a sectional divide, North and South, that we will see in later elections. |
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**Section 7**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Today, we are exploring the lesson question, why did the nation agree to compromise over the expansion of slavery in 1850? In the first segment, you learned about the debate on slavery in the territories and the election of 1848. In the next segment of this lesson, you will learn about the California Gold Rush and its impact on westward expansion and the slavery |
| 00:00:28 | issue. |

**Section 8**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Early in 1848, a carpenter discovered gold at Sutter's Mill on the American River in California. In the months that followed, news of the gold discovery spread across the country. New York newspapers reported the news in the summer of 1848. And President James Polk confirmed the gold discovery in a December address to Congress. |
| 00:00:26 | After the president's speech, thousands of people hiked and sailed to California. The image you see here is one of the many ads offering transportation to the gold fields, offers taken up by tens of thousands of Americans and others from around the world. The journey, whether by land or sea, was not easy. Travelers faced numerous hardships |
| 00:00:52 | including cholera, shipwreck, and attacks from American Indians. Though few prospectors struck it rich, people kept on coming throughout 1849. This is why these miners were called '49ers. |

**Section 10**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: After the discovery of gold, California's population soared seemingly overnight. San Francisco and Sacramento grew from small towns to large cities. This picture shows San Francisco crowded with ships and new buildings. California's population rose from 15,000 to 100,000 in less than two years. |
| 00:00:26 | By the end of 1849, California had enough people to apply for statehood. California's application for statehood sharpened the already tense national debate over slavery. California wanted to enter the Union as a free state. This would upset the balance of 15 free states and 15 slave states already in the Union. At that time, the number of free and slave states |
| 00:00:55 | was equal and had been at the time of the Missouri Compromise in 1820. But no slave territory was ready for statehood, so there was no way to restore the balance if California became a state. The possible admission of California as a free state stirred southern fears about their loss of influence |
| 00:01:20 | in national politics. If California became a free state, Southerners would lose the balance with the free states in the Senate. Without equality in the Senate, Southerners could no longer block antislavery legislation. And many feared that the North might try to use their advantage to abolish or end slavery |
| 00:01:44 | altogether. And finally, California's admission as a free state might set a precedent for the rest of the Western territories to become free states as well. |

**Section 12**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: President Zachary Taylor, pictured here, supported California's admission to the Union as a free state. Though a slave owner himself, Taylor opposed the creation of new slave states. He also wanted to resolve the California controversy as quickly as possible. Southern slave owners were shocked at the president's position. |
| 00:00:25 | They felt betrayed by one of their own. Remember, Taylor was indeed a slave owner. |

**Section 14**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Let's take another look at our lesson question today. Why did the nation agree to compromise over the expansion of slavery in 1850? In the previous segment, you learned about how the discovery of gold in California increased the debate over slavery between the North and the South. In the third segment of this lesson, |
| 00:00:23 | you will learn about the Compromise of 1850 and how Americans responded to the agreement. |

**Section 15**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The debate over California intensified in 1850. Kentucky Senator Henry Clay tried to bring the two sides together as a grand compromise. Clay was known as the Great Compromiser for his work in engineering the Missouri Compromise and resolving other [? cessional ?] disputes. In 1850, Clay proposed a package deal that would give concessions to both sides. |
| 00:00:24 | However, he could not get it passed through Congress. The compromise proposed by Clay was opposed by many groups. New York Senator William Seward led a group of Northern radicals who opposed making any concessions to the South. Southern leader John C. Calhoun and his supporters opposed any compromise with the North. President Taylor sided with the Northerners |
| 00:00:46 | and threatened to veto or block any compromise passed by Congress. As tensions continued to rise, Northerners demanded prohibition of slavery in the territories, while many Southerners considered pulling their states from the Union. But the path to compromise was cleared when President Taylor passed away suddenly |
| 00:01:06 | from a stomach ailment. His successor, Millard Fillmore, was more open to finding a solution that all sides could live with and used his [? position ?] to get Northern Whigs in line. Clay's ideas were championed by Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas. Instead of a grand, all inclusive bill proposed by Clay, Douglas proposed |
| 00:01:26 | that Congress passed each measure individually. This allowed congressmen to oppose the individual measures they disagreed with. The end result was the same, however-- the Compromise of 1850 passed. Clay's grand compromise proposal included three major concessions to both sides. To please the Northerners, California |
| 00:01:47 | would be admitted to the Union as a free state. The slave trade, but not slavery, would be banned in the District of Columbia. Since that was the location of the nation's capital, many Northerners wanted to end slavery in DC to send a message to other nations that the US government did not support that institution. Texas would give up claims in the Mexican Cession |
| 00:02:11 | to New Mexico. Texans then claimed a large area of the Mexican Cession that included much of present day New Mexico and Colorado. The federal government disagreed, wanting this area to be part of the New Mexico territory. The South received a more effective law covering the return of fugitive slaves or people who had escaped to the North. |
| 00:02:35 | The Utah and New Mexico territories would be organized without restrictions to slavery. Residents in those territories would decide the question through popular sovereignty. Finally, Texas would receive $10 million from the federal government in exchange for giving up its land claim to New Mexico. |

**Section 17**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Americans in both the North and the South celebrated the agreement, which became known as the Compromise of 1850. Most citizens were happy that civil war was avoided and more importantly, that the Union was preserved. The good feelings would not last, however. Remember, aside from California, the issue of slavery in the West had yet to be decided. |
| 00:00:26 | And there was one part of the compromise that would soon set off a firestorm of opposition. The new Fugitive Slave Law included harsh measures regarding enslaved persons suspected of escaping. Northern states had managed to get around the original Fugitive Slave Law of 1793, so enslaved people who escaped to the North were automatically free. |
| 00:00:54 | The new law of 1850 changed this situation by adding punishments to any Northerner who helped runaway enslaved persons. The law denied suspected runaways a trial by jury. And suspected runaways also could not testify on their own behalf. And a person could be re-enslaved by the testimony of one white witness Furthermore, |
| 00:01:22 | the law required all citizens to assist federal officials with its enforcement. Anyone who helped enslaved people escape faced heavy fines or jail. The Fugitive Slave Law sparked outrage across the North. Abolitionism gained support as the law forced Northerners to confront and take part in the injustices of the slavery system. |
| 00:01:51 | Many Northerners resisted enforcing the law and helped runaway enslaved persons to escape. Several states in the North passed personal liberty laws. These laws granted fugitives the right to a jury trial, banned the use of state jails to hold fugitives, and included other measures that hindered the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law. Southerners resented this opposition |
| 00:02:18 | to the Fugitive Slave Law, their biggest gain in the Compromise of 1850. Tensions started growing again between the North and the South. |