

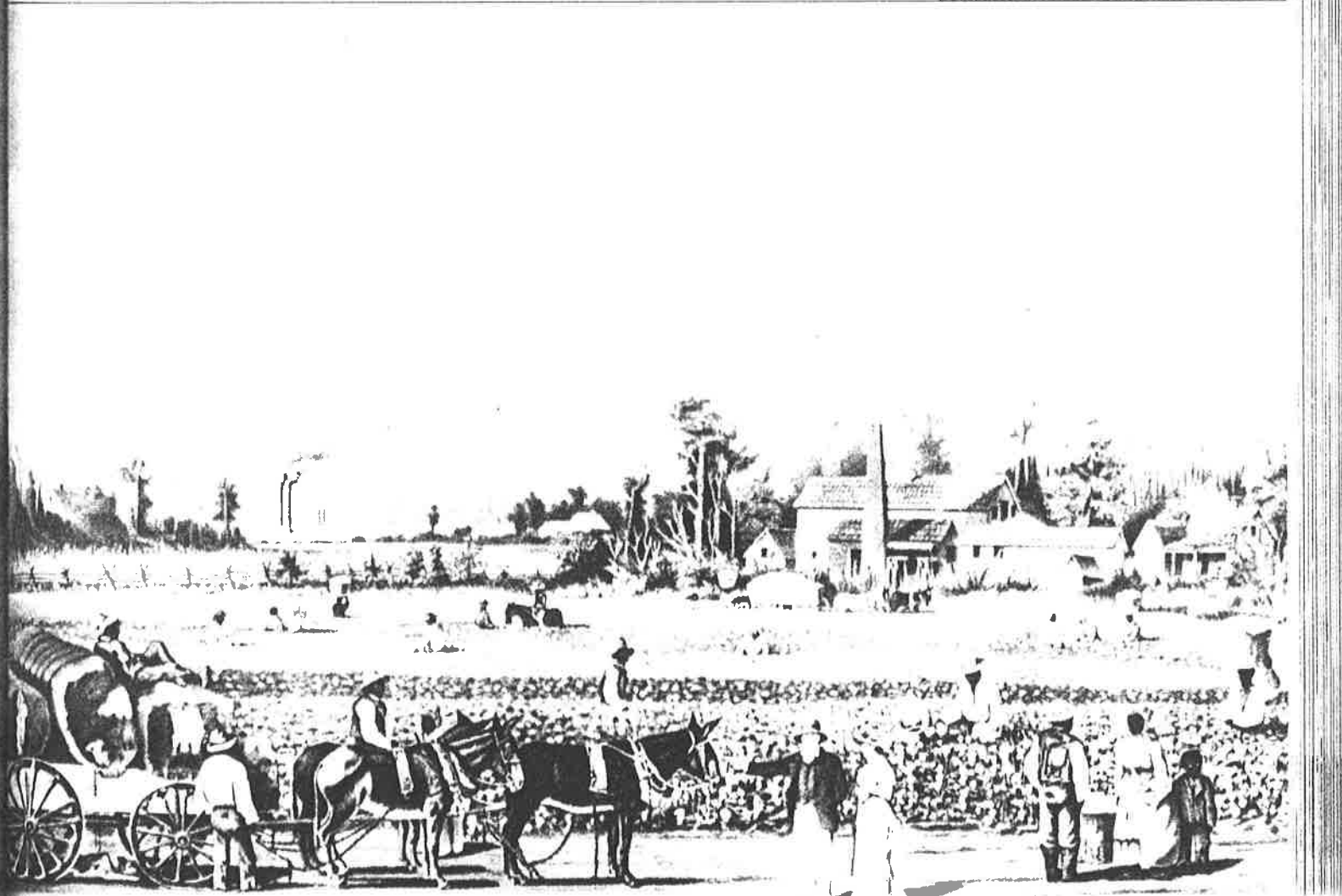
How did the Framers resolve the conflict between the Northern and Southern states?

14

LESSON PURPOSE

The states of the North and South had different economies and different economic interests. These differences led to another conflict at the Philadelphia Convention. The sources of this disagreement were protective tariffs and slavery.

When you finish the lesson, you should be able to explain the conflicts about protective tariffs and slavery and how they were resolved.



TERMS TO UNDERSTAND



fugitive slave clause
tariff
three-fifths clause

How were the economies of the North and South different?

The economy of the South was almost completely agricultural. The Southern states grew products such as cotton, tobacco, and indigo.

The large farms in the Southern states used enslaved people to grow their crops. The farm owners depended on slave labor to make their goods more profitable. Slaves were treated as if they were property that could be bought or sold. People held in slavery were not citizens. They could not claim the rights of citizens.

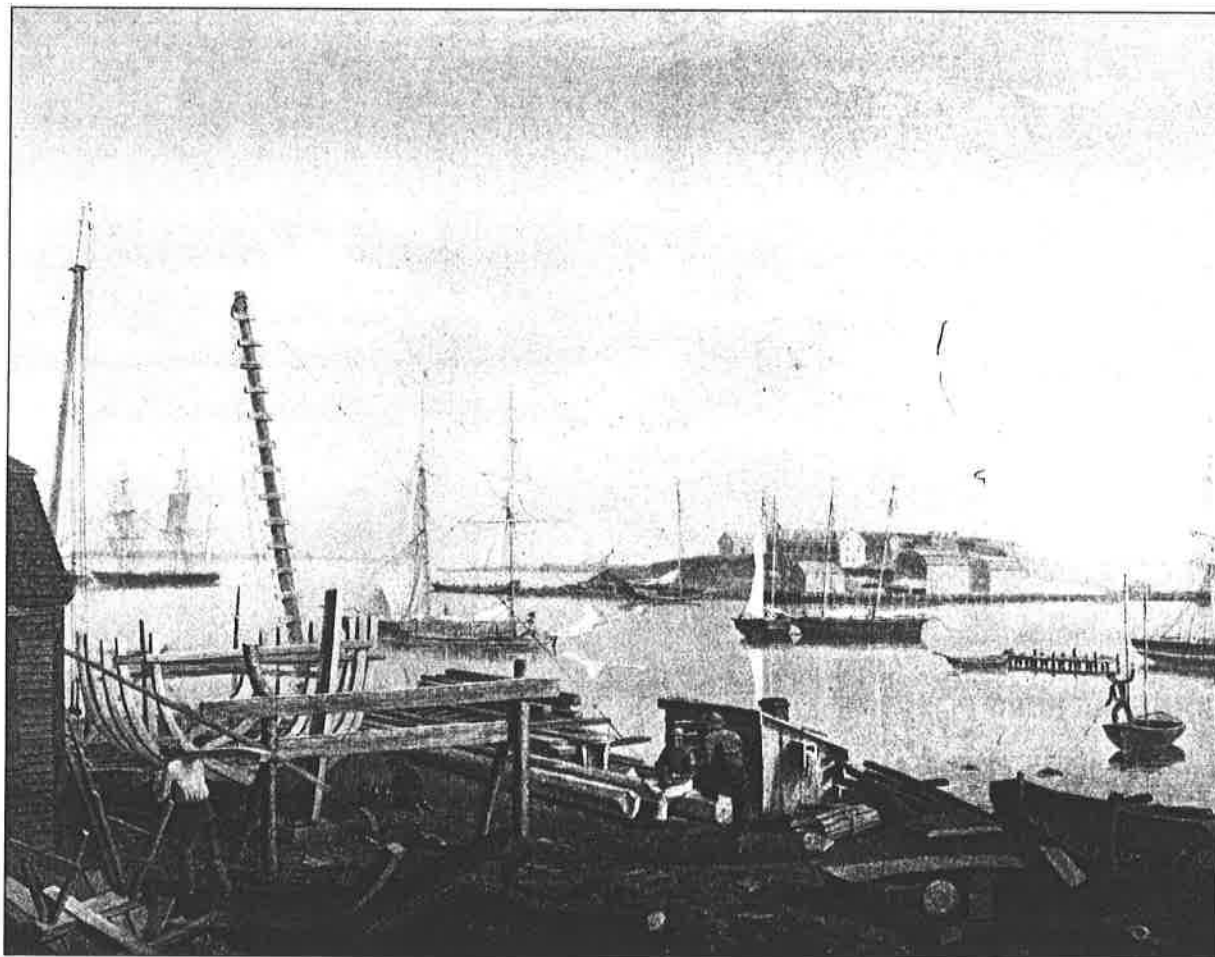
Southern farmers shipped most of their products to Great Britain and other nations in Europe. They sold some in the Northern states. People in the South bought the manufactured goods they needed from Great Britain.

The economy of the North was more diverse than that of the South. Some people were farmers, fishers, merchants, or bankers. Other people manufactured goods or worked as laborers. The North's economy did not depend on slave labor.



Why was agriculture profitable in the South?

The North was also a center for shipbuilding and trade with other nations. The North had to compete for business with Great Britain's shipping and manufacturing industries.



How did Northerners protect their businesses from foreign competition?

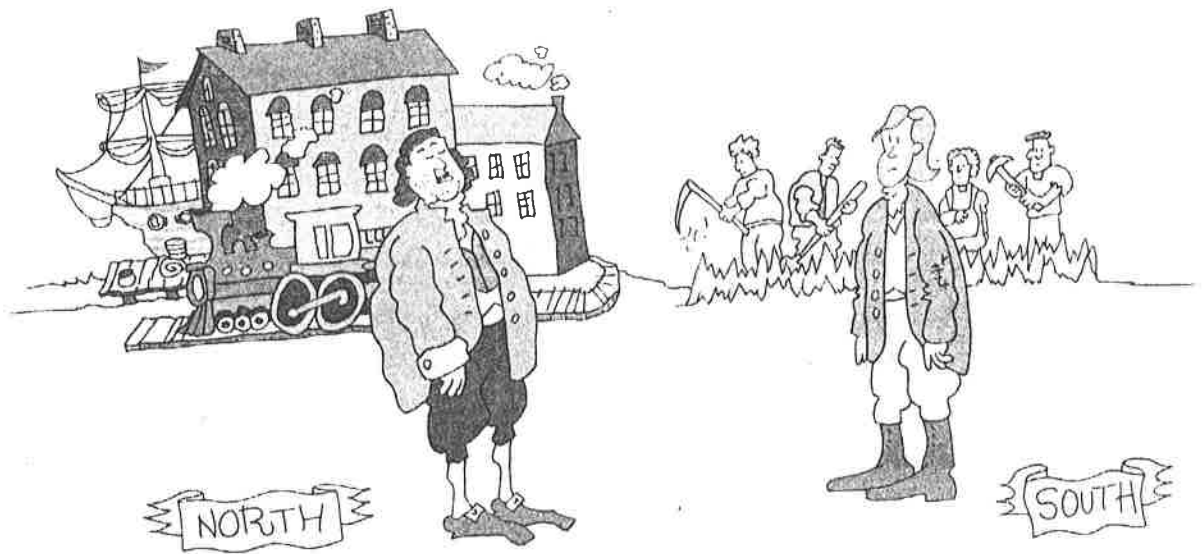
Why did the states disagree about the need for tariffs?

The economic differences between the North and South caused a conflict among the Framers at the Philadelphia Convention. One area of disagreement was the issue of tariffs. A **tariff** is a tax on goods and products imported from other nations. The purpose of a protective tariff is to raise the cost of the imports to protect local farmers and businesses against outside competition. The Northern and Southern delegates held different opinions about tariffs.

THE NORTHERN POSITION

The Northern states believed that tariffs were necessary for their businesses to prosper. Tariffs on British products would make those products cost more than similar ones made in America. As a result, Americans would be more likely to buy goods made in their own country instead of those made in other countries.

The Framers who came from the Northern states wanted to give the new national government the power to control trade between the states and trade with foreign nations. This included the power to pass tariffs.



Why did the North believe tariffs were necessary?

How did economics affect the position of the South on slavery?

THE SOUTHERN POSITION

The South argued that tariffs would increase the cost of the manufactured goods that they bought from European nations. Southerners argued that tariffs unfairly favored the North. Southerners also feared that Great Britain might place its own tariffs on agricultural products grown in the South. This would make those products harder to sell in Europe.

The Southern states had fewer citizens than did Northern states. Southerners were afraid they would be a minority in Congress. They thought they might have less power in the new national government to decide issues of trade. So, the Framers who came from the Southern states opposed giving the national government power to regulate trade.

Why was there a conflict about slavery?

The conflict about slavery was more complicated than the issue of tariffs. Slavery began in the colonies soon after the first settlements were established, but most of the Northern states had put an end to the practice, at least officially. Most of the Framers from the Northern states were opposed to slavery, as were some Framers from Southern states.

Many Southern farmers, however, were still financially dependent on slavery and wanted it to continue. The Southerners believed that each state had a right to decide the issue for itself. The delegates from three Southern states said they refused to be part of a union of states that denied them the right to own and import slaves.

The Framers who opposed slavery faced a dilemma. They wanted all the states to be part of one country, but they did not want to allow slavery to continue.

How did the Framers resolve the conflicts about tariffs and slavery?

After a long and sometimes bitter debate, the Framers reached a compromise over the issues of tariffs and slavery. Read the following parts of Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the Constitution.

The Congress shall have the power:

SECTION 8

- 1 To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises.
- 2 To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

SECTION 9

- 1 The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight.

As you can see, the Constitution gave Congress the power to place tariffs on imports. Congress also was given the power to control both interstate and foreign trade. To get this agreement from the Southern delegates, the Framers from the North agreed to Southern demands on the issue of slavery.

The Framers reached the following agreements about slavery.

- The national government would not end the slave trade before 1808.
- They included the three-fifths clause in Article I, Section 2, Clause 3.



This is a portrait of Paul Revere, a politically active Boston silversmith. How would tariffs have helped Northern craftsmen like Revere? How would they have hurt Southern farmers?

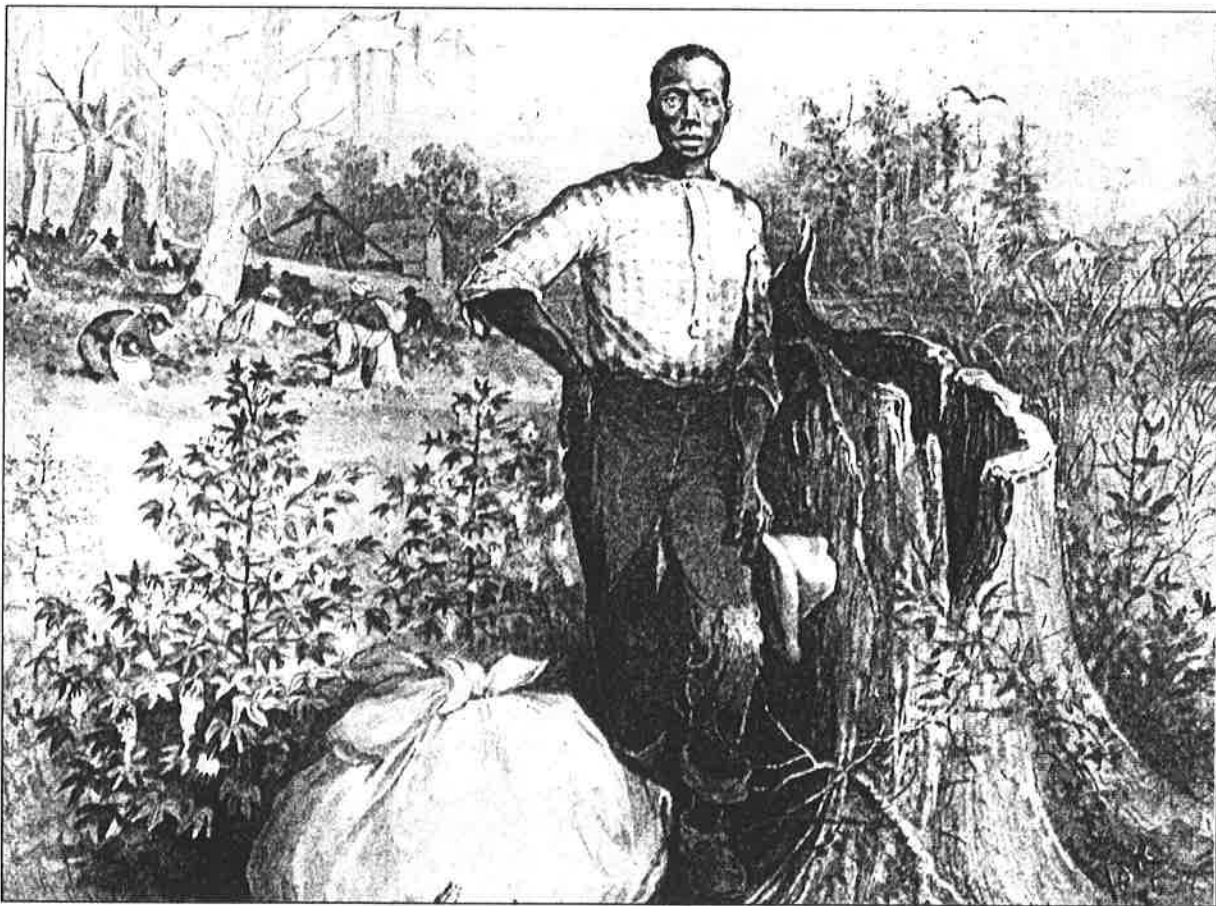
The **three-fifths clause** states that in deciding how many representatives a state could send to the House of Representatives, the numbers would be determined by counting free persons, indentured servants, and “three-fifths of all other persons” [slaves]. Congress was to use the same count for collecting direct taxes from the states. Indians were excluded.

- Finally, the Framers agreed to include the fugitive slave clause in Article IV, Section 2. The **fugitive slave clause** states that persons who escaped from slavery to a state where slavery was prohibited “shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.”

The compromise on slavery was designed to satisfy the demands of some of the Southern states. It was accepted by a majority of the Framers to get the support of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. These states would not have supported the Constitution without this

agreement. In spite of strong criticisms, the compromise was not as controversial in 1787 as it became in the 1800s and later.

Although the delegates agreed to the compromise, many people in both the North and the South were strongly opposed to slavery. For example, one Framers, Gouverneur Morris, denounced slavery as “the curse of Heaven on the states” where it existed. It is also interesting to note that nowhere in the Constitution did the writers use the words slave or slavery. Some people say that this is because the Framers were ashamed of slavery.



What compromise did the Framers reach on the issue of slavery? Why do you think the Framers left the words slave and slavery out of the Constitution?

LESSON REVIEW

- 1 In what ways were the economic interests of the Northern and Southern states different?
- 2 What was the position of the Northern states on the issue of tariffs? What was the position of the Southern states?
- 3 What was the position of the Northern states on the issue of slavery? What was the position of most of the Southern states?
- 4 What compromise did the Framers reach on the issues of tariffs and slavery?
- 5 What reason did the Framers have for compromising on the issue of slavery? Do you agree or disagree that the compromise violated fundamental principles that you have been studying in this text? Why?

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Go to your library or use the Internet to find some of the Framers' speeches about slavery. George Mason's is of particular interest. Share the speech with your class.
- 2 Research the use of tariffs today. Create a drawing that illustrates how tariffs are employed. Write a paragraph explaining the point of view your drawing expresses on the issue.