

SLAVERY IN MISSOURI STATISTICS - CENSUS ANALYSIS - PRIMARY DOCUMENT ACTIVITY

MAIN IDEA

Students will use data from the 1860 United States census to draw conclusions about slavery in Missouri and its effect on the Civil War in the state.

TIME

25–35 minutes

GRADE LEVEL

8th grade–high school

BACKGROUND

The relatively small population of enslaved people in Missouri prior to and during the Civil War differentiated it from the rest of the Southern states, some of which had larger slave populations in 1860 than free.¹

In addition, Missouri had an influx of immigrants from Europe and Eastern states that caused a shift in the political leanings of the state’s largest city, St. Louis.²

These two factors, which are both evidenced in the 1860 census, helped to explain why Missouri, unlike other slave states, remained—however tentatively—in the Union. The small number of slaves meant that fewer of Missouri’s citizens had a financial

¹ U.S. Census, 1860.

² Louis S. Gerteis, *Civil War St. Louis* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001).

stake in the preservation of the “peculiar institution.” In addition, the growth of immigrant groups created a population that was threatened by the free labor that slavery provided. They in turn supported the supremacy of white labor and for that reason supported the abolition of slavery.³

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Increase their familiarity with primary documents and how they are used.
2. Learn how to use raw data to form conclusions.
3. Gain proficiency in determining percentages.
4. Learn how Missouri came to be in its position as a border state during the Civil War.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Gerteis, Louis S. *Civil War St. Louis*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001.
- Trexler, Harrison Anthony. *Slavery in Missouri, 1804–1865*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1914.
- U.S. Census, 1860.
<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1860.html>

³ David P. Thelen, *Paths of Resistance: Tradition and Dignity in Industrializing Missouri* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986).

MATERIALS

1860 census (one per student)

Nativity of the Free Population of the County and City of St. Louis, Missouri (one per student)

Copy of slavery statistics worksheet (one per student)

Pens/pencils

Paper

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

GLE	Content
SOCIAL STUDIES	
SS7.A Identify, select, use, and create appropriate resources for social science inquiry	Students will use and interpret primary documents.
SS2a.H Understanding the causes and consequences of the Civil War	Students will explore slavery, a primary cause of the Civil War.
SS7.A Using primary and secondary sources	Students will analyze three primary documents and contextualize them.
COMMUNICATION ARTS	
Information Literacy 1B	Students will use primary sources to acquire relevant information.
Information Literacy 1C	Students will record information in an organized fashion.
MATHEMATICS	
Numbers and Operations 1B	Students will use raw data to form percentages.

Algebraic Relationships 1B	Students will find patterns and meanings from tables of data.
Algebraic Relationships 3A	Students will model situations using graphs.
Data and Probability 2A	Students will analyze data and describe its meaning.

PROCEDURE

Phase	Description
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Introduction

Step 1: Ask students, “Was the state of Missouri a slave state or a free state? In other words, did Missouri allow slavery or not?” You will probably get a variety of answers. When you call on someone who thinks Missouri was a slave state, ask them, “Did Missouri fight for the North or the South?” You may have to explain that while Missouri had a Southern government that joined the Confederacy, its Northern government remained in control of most of the state throughout the war. Once the class has settled on the fact that Missouri was a slave state and it stayed with the Union, ask “Why did it not secede with the other slave states?”

Tell them that by looking at figures from the 1860 census they will find clues to answer that question.

Main	<p>Step 2: Pass out a copy of the census of 1860, Nativity of the Free Population of the County and City of St. Louis, Missouri, and slavery in Missouri worksheet to each student.</p> <p>Step 3: Instruct students to complete the worksheet. If necessary, review how to find percentages.</p> <p>Step 4: Once students complete the computations in the worksheet, ask them: “How do you think Missouri’s relatively small slave population affected its position in the Civil War?” and “How do you think St. Louis’s population growth did the same?”</p>
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<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Step 5: After a good discussion, share with students the answers to the questions.</p> <p>Answer: The growth of Missouri's population brought large immigrant and Eastern-born people to Missouri, making St. Louis a Union stronghold but creating tensions across the state.</p> <p>In addition, the small slave population in Missouri helped to keep the state in the Union because fewer Missourians depended on slavery for their livelihood.</p>
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The Census of 1860

THE CENSUS OF 1860.

STATES.	CENSUS OF 1850.			CENSUS OF 1860			38TH CONGRESS.		
	Free.	Slave.	Total.	Free.	Slave.	Total.	Reps.	Loss.	Gain.
Alabama*	428,770	342,844	771,623	529,164	435,132	964,296	6	1	..
Arkansas	162,797	47,100	209,897	324,323	111,104	435,427	3	..	1
California	92,597	....	92,597	380,015	....	380,015	3	..	1
Connecticut	370,792	....	370,792	460,151	....	460,151	4	..	..
Delaware	89,242	2,290	91,532	110,420	1,798	112,218	1	..	..
Florida*	48,135	39,310	87,445	78,686	61,753	140,439	1	..	..
Georgia*	524,503	381,632	906,135	595,097	462,230	1,057,327	7	1	..
Illinois	851,470	....	851,470	1,711,753	....	1,711,753	13	..	4
Indiana	988,416	....	988,416	1,350,479	....	1,350,479	11	..	..
Iowa	192,214	....	192,214	674,948	....	674,948	5	..	3
Kansas	....	....	....	107,110	....	107,110	1	..	..
Kentucky	771,424	210,981	982,405	930,223	225,490	1,155,713	8	2	..
Louisiana*	272,953	244,809	517,762	376,913	332,520	709,433	5	..	1
Maine	583,16	....	583,169	628,276	....	628,276	5	1	..
Maryland	492,636	90,368	583,034	599,846	87,188	687,034	5	1	..
Massachusetts	994,514	....	994,514	1,231,065	....	1,231,065	10	1	..
Mississippi*	296,648	309,878	606,526	354,699	436,696	791,395	5	..	..
Missouri	594,622	87,422	682,044	1,058,352	114,965	1,173,317	9	..	2
Michigan	397,654	....	397,654	749,112	....	749,112	6	..	2
Minnesota	6,077	....	6,077	162,022	....	162,022	1	1	..
New Hampshire	317,976	....	317,976	326,072	....	326,072	3	..	..
New Jersey	489,319	236	489,555	672,031	....	672,031	5	..	..
New York	3,097,394	....	3,097,394	3,887,542	....	3,887,542	31	2	..
North Carolina	580,491	288,548	869,039	661,586	331,081	992,667	7	1	..
Ohio	1,980,329	....	1,980,329	2,339,599	....	2,339,599	18	3	..
Oregon	13,294	....	13,294	52,464	....	52,464	1	..	..
Pennsylvania	2,311,786	....	2,311,786	2,906,370	....	2,906,370	23	2	..
Rhode Island	147,545	....	147,545	174,621	....	174,621	1	1	..
South Carolina*	283,523	384,984	668,507	301,271	402,541	703,812	4	2	..
Tennessee	763,258	233,459	1,002,717	834,063	275,784	1,109,847	8	2	..
Texas*	154,431	58,161	212,592	420,651	180,388	601,039	4	..	2
Vermont	314,120	....	314,120	315,116	....	315,116	2	1	..
Virginia	949,133	472,528	1,421,661	1,105,196	490,887	1,596,083	11	2	..
Wisconsin	305,391	....	305,391	775,873	....	775,873	6	..	3
POP. OF STATES	19,866,662	3,200,600	23,067,262	27,185,109	3,949,557	31,134,666	233	24	19
TERRITORIES.									
Colorado	....	....	....	34,197	....	34,197			
Dakota	....	....	....	4,839	....	4,839			
Nebraska	....	....	....	28,832	10	28,842			
Nevada	....	....	....	6,857	....	6,857			
New Mexico	61,547	....	61,547	93,517	24	93,541			
Utah	11,354	26	11,380	40,266	29	40,295			
Washington	....	....	....	11,578	....	11,578			
Dist. of Col.	48,000	3,687	51,687	71,895	3,181	75,076			
TOTAL POP...	19,987,563	3,204,313	23,191,876	27,477,090	3,952,801	31,429,891			
* Deduct the population of the seven "Confederate States," 1860				2,656,481	2,311,260	4,967,741			
Population of the other, according to the Census of 1860				24,820,609	1,641,541	26,462,150			

The number of Representatives is fixed at 233, apportioned as follows: To the free population three-fifths of the number of slaves is added; the sum forms the representative population; this divided by 233, gives the ratio of population required for a Representative. The representative population of each State, divided by this ratio, gives the number of Representatives to which it is entitled. The fractions thus left would decrease the Representatives below the number of 233. This is obviated by giving an additional member to the States having the largest fractions, until the number of 233 is reached.

**Nativity of the Free Population of the County and City of St. Louis, Missouri (from the
1860 Census)**

RECAPITULATION.

NATIVITY OF THE FREE POPULATION OF THE COUNTY AND CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

STATES AND TERRITORIES.	UNITED STATES.						Total born in United States.	COUNTRIES.	FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						Total born in foreign countries.
	WHITES.		Total whites.	FREE COLORED.		Total free colored.			WHITES.		Total whites.	FREE COLORED.		Total free colored.	
	M.	F.		M.	F.				M.	F.		M.	F.		
Alabama.....	61	51	119	2	7	9	121	German States:							
Arkansas.....	48	30	78	3	5	8	86	Austria.....	1,367	1,173	2,540			2,540	
California.....	20	23	43				43	Bavaria.....	3,119	2,763	5,882			5,882	
Connecticut.....	353	235	588		1	1	589	Baden.....	2,440	1,958	4,407			4,407	
Delaware.....	68	59	127				127	Hesse.....	2,470	1,921	4,391			4,391	
Florida.....	7	10	17				17	Nassau.....	329	250	579			579	
Georgia.....	56	55	111	3	3	6	117	Prussia.....	8,180	5,949	14,129			14,129	
Illinois.....	1,435	1,495	2,930	17	31	48	2,978	Wurtemberg.....	1,064	692	1,756			1,756	
Indiana.....	376	432	808	5	3	8	816	German States, (not specified)	9,326	7,240	16,766			16,766	
Iowa.....	349	334	683	4	4	8	691	Total Germany.....	32,564	21,946	50,510			50,510	
Kansas.....	15	6	21				21	Asia.....	11	3	14			14	
Kentucky.....	1,238	1,305	2,543	85	108	193	2,736	Africa.....	3		3			3	
Louisiana.....	365	342	707	20	33	56	763	Atlantic Islands.....	2	3	5			5	
Maine.....	170	96	266		1	1	267	Australia.....	23	17	40			40	
Maryland.....	705	521	1,226	32	31	63	1,319	Belgium.....	97	44	141			141	
Massachusetts.....	792	537	1,349	5		5	1,354	British America.....	762	567	1,329	2	1	3	1,332
Michigan.....	157	97	254				254	Central America.....							
Minnesota.....	41	30	71				71	China.....	1		1			1	
Mississippi.....	84	73	157	6	9	15	172	Denmark.....	150	83	233			233	
Missouri.....	28,125	28,657	56,782	373	479	852	57,634	England.....	2,804	2,618	5,512	1		1	5,513
New Hampshire.....	161	116	277				277	Europe, (not specified).....	5	6	11			11	
New Jersey.....	390	293	683	2	2	4	687	France.....	1,703	1,360	3,072			3,072	
New York.....	2,250	2,318	4,568	2	2	4	4,572	Great Britain, (not specified).....							
North Carolina.....	93	95	188	8	10	18	206	Greece.....	7		7			7	
Ohio.....	1,805	1,576	3,381	39	35	74	3,455	Holland.....	271	220	491			491	
Oregon.....		1	1				1	Ireland.....	13,994	13,931	29,925	1	1	29,926	
Pennsylvania.....	2,326	1,839	4,165	67	49	116	4,281	Italy.....	273	152	425			425	
Rhode Island.....	84	45	129				129	Mexico.....	10	8	18	2	1	3	21
South Carolina.....	72	67	139	3	2	5	144	Norway.....	21	19	40			40	
Tennessee.....	313	223	536	17	20	37	573	Portugal.....	2	1	3			3	
Texas.....	14	21	35	1	2	3	38	Poland.....	120	64	184			184	
Vermont.....	231	137	368	8	18	26	394	Pacific Islands.....	1		1			1	
Virginia.....	1,141	965	2,106	115	143	258	2,364	Russia.....	25	13	38			38	
Wisconsin.....	175	192	367	1	2	3	370	Scotland.....	650	451	1,101			1,101	
District of Columbia.....	98	86	184	5	4	9	193	Spain.....	24	11	35			35	
Territories.....	30	37	67	2	2	4	71	Sweden.....	54	37	91			91	
At sea.....	29	22	57		1	1	58	Sardinia.....	30	18	48			48	
Not stated.....	899	496	1,395	12	6	18	1,413	Switzerland.....	1,450	1,110	2,560			2,560	
Total.....	45,176	43,063	88,239	840	1,013	1,853	90,092	South America.....	3	4	7			7	
								Sandwich Islands.....							
								Turkey.....	1	1	2			2	
								West Indies.....	48	47	95	2	2	4	99
								Wales.....	25	47	132			132	
								Other foreign countries.....							
								Total.....	53,284	42,790	96,074	7	5	12	96,086

RECAPITULATION.

Born in the United States.....	90,092
Born in foreign countries.....	96,086
Total free.....	186,178
Slaves.....	4,346
Aggregate.....	190,524