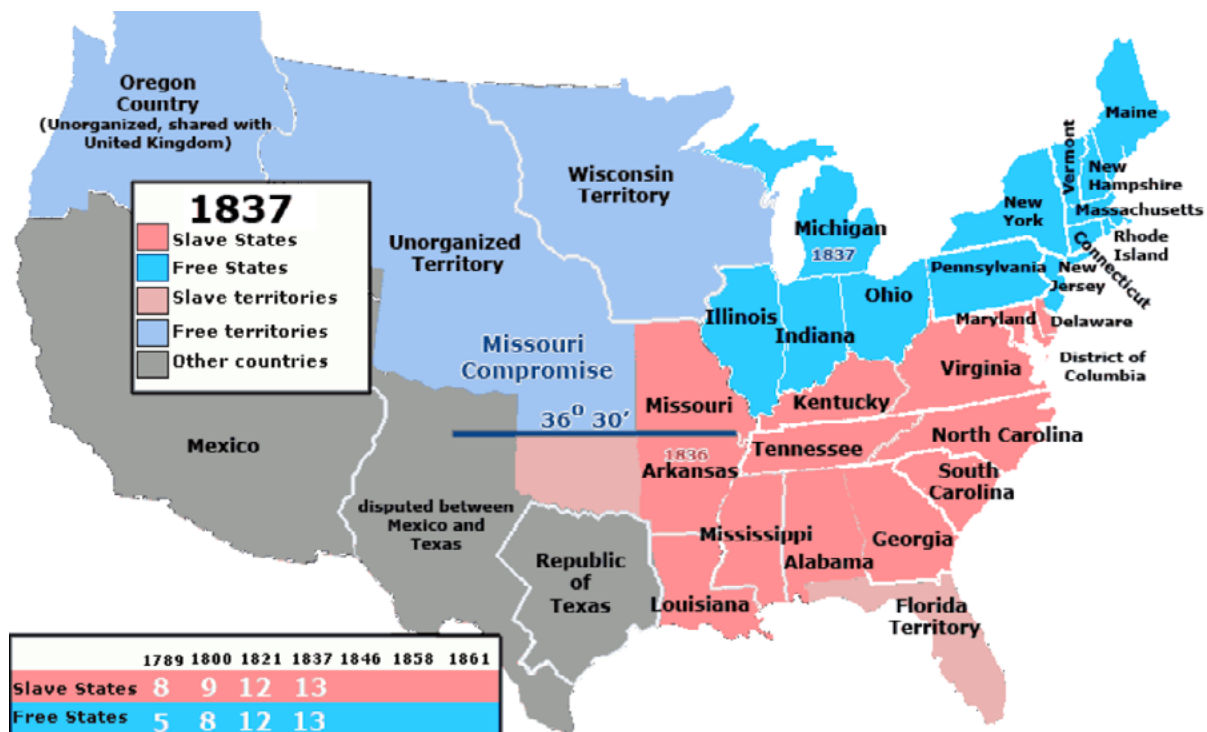




Slavery in the U.S. at the Time of the Amistad: A Snapshot

YEAR	LAW or PRACTICE
1793	The Fugitive Slave Act made it a crime to shelter people escaping enslavement or to interfere with the arrest of an enslaved person.
1794	The Federal Slave Trade Act prohibited American vessels from transporting enslaved people to any foreign country and from outfitting ships for the purpose of importing enslaved people.
1807	The Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves of 1807 banned the African slave trade, making it illegal to import any further enslaved people into the U.S. (though people of African descent already in the U.S. could still be legally enslaved).
1818/1827	" Gradual emancipation " laws freed enslaved people in stages—in Connecticut (where the Amistad captives were jailed and tried) by 1818 and New York (where the Amistad was first seized) by 1827.
1827	Some Northern states, however, supported slavery in other ways, such as: permitting enslavers from other states to bring in enslaved people; allowing slave ships to anchor and restock in their states; and arresting and returning those escaping enslavement to their former enslavers.
1820	The Piracy Act made participation in the international slave trade punishable by death.
1839	Slavery was legal in 13 Southern states and prohibited in 13 Northern states (see map below).



MAP SOURCE: Wikipedia. "Slave States and Free States." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_states_and_free_states.