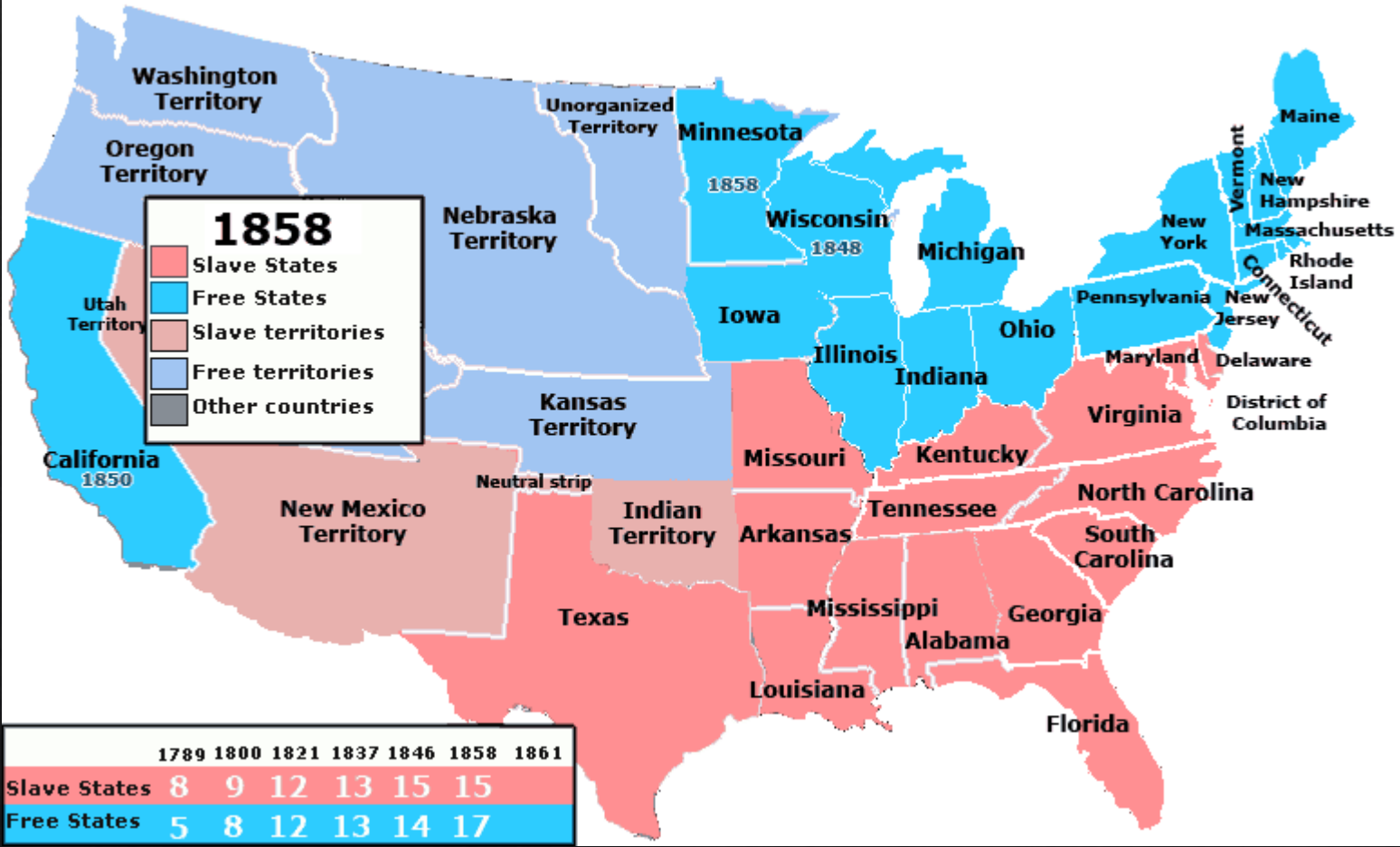


12 years a slave

and slavery in the United States of America

Slave states and free states in Northup's time

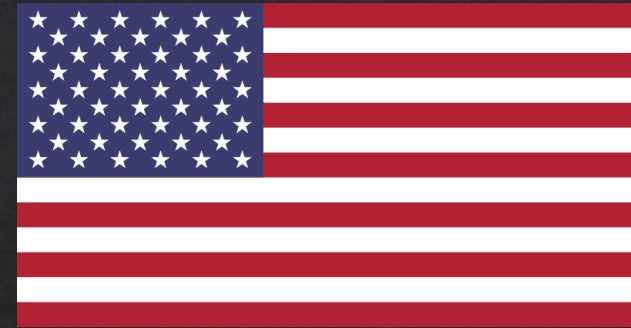
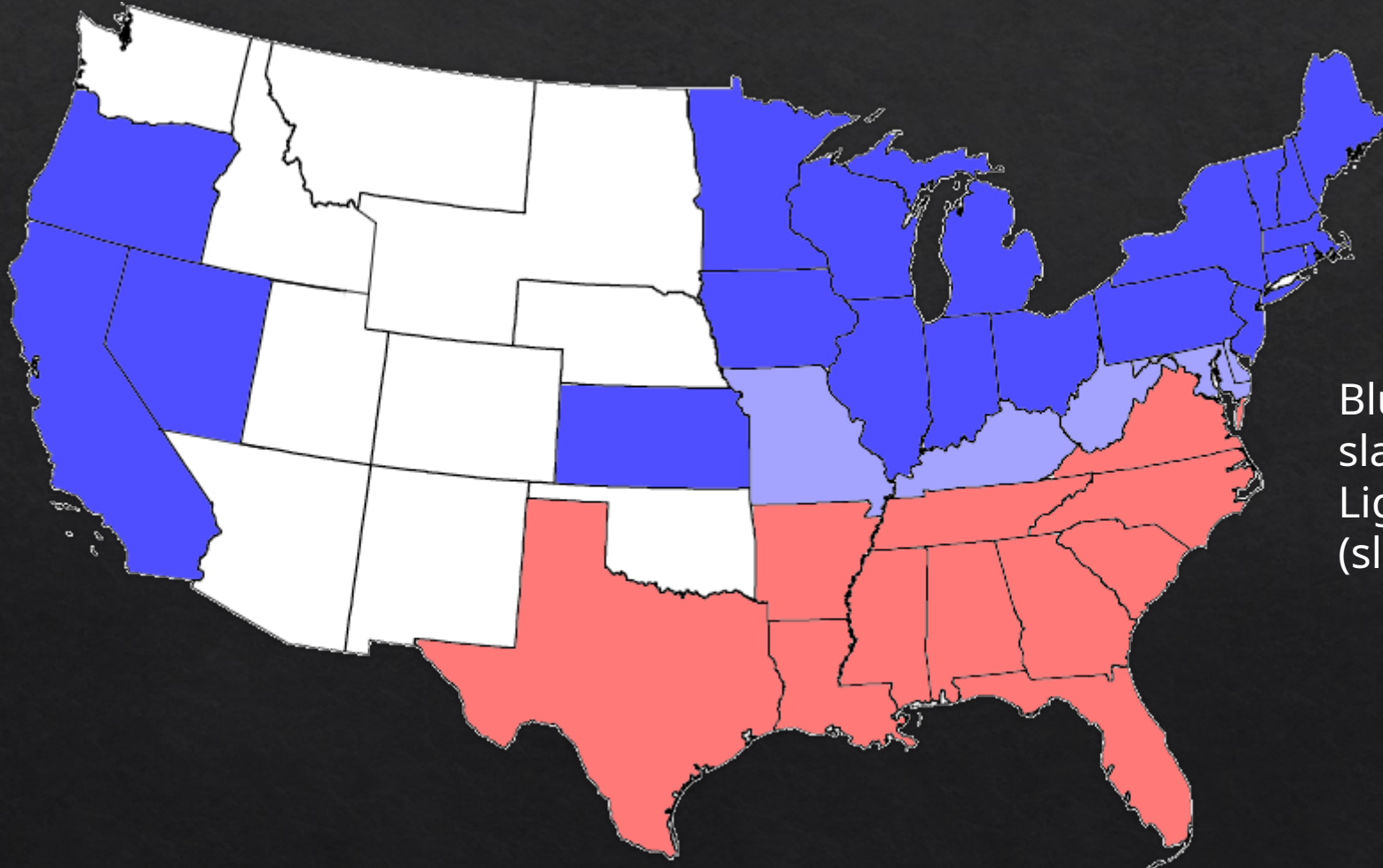


(Wikimedia foundation)

The Declaration of Independence (1776)

From the first paragraph: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The American civil war (1861 to 1865)



Blue: United States of America (no slavery)

Light blue: United States of America (slavery)



Red: Confederate States of America (slavery)

(Wikimedia foundation)

Amendments to the US Constitution

- 13th amendment (1865): No slavery allowed, except for prisoners
- 14th amendment (1868): All slaves got US citizenship and equal protection by the law
- 15th amendment (1870): Every man may vote (not limited by colour, race or if the person used to be a slave)
- 19th amendment (1920): Women may vote
- 24th amendment (1964): No tax at voting stations (to avoid only rich, white people get to vote)
- 26th amendment (1971): Everyone over 18 years may vote (in every state)

Questions

- Why could not Solomon say who he was after he became a slave?
- Why did Master Ford save Northup from being hanged by Tibeats?
- Why do you think the slave owners did not want their slaves to read and write?
- Why does Solomon never give up? What keeps him going?
- Is justice served in the end? Why or why not?
- The white worker Bass in the end of the film has a different view on slavery than Master Epps. Do you remember why?