

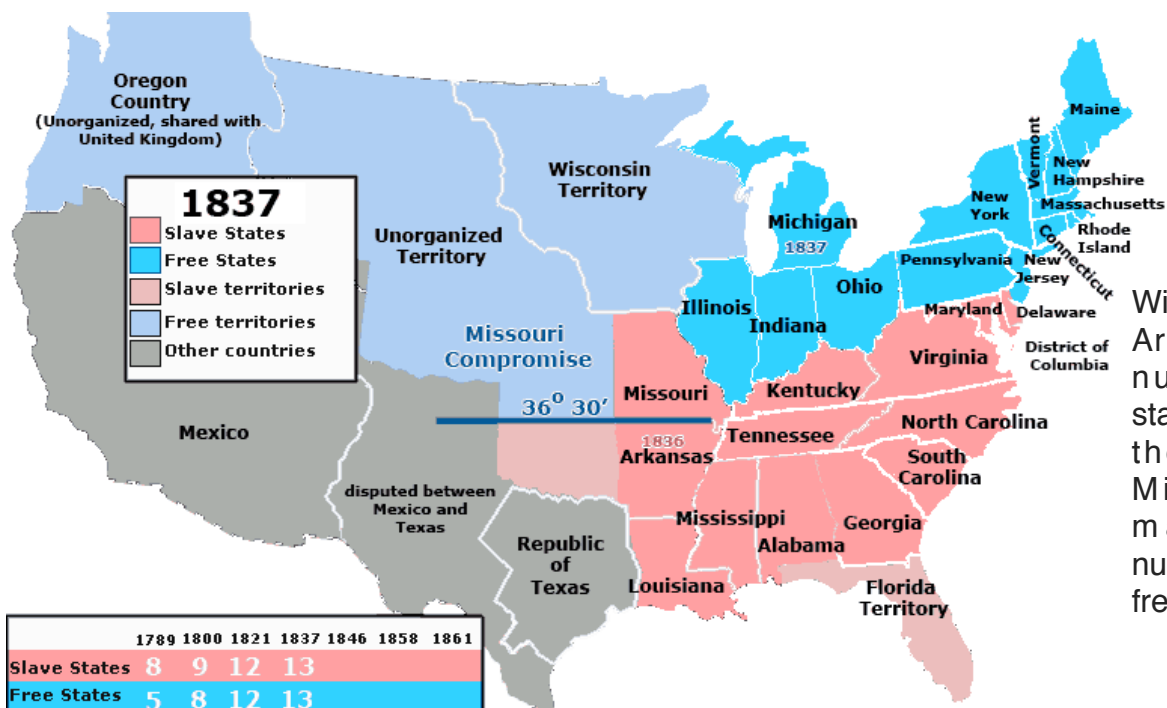
# Michigan's Statehood - 1837

## Happy Birthday!

January 26th marks Michigan's \_\_\_\_\_th birthday as a state. Back in the 1830s, the road to becoming a state was "rough and rocky".

The Michigan Territory asked the U.S. Congress for statehood in 1833 by writing a state constitution, which was not approved! There were two issues that needed to be cleared up first: Michigan's boundary dispute with Ohio and the fact that Michigan's statehood would "upset the balance" between free states and slave states .

The second matter was easily resolved when Arkansas, a slave state, became a state the same time as Michigan, a free state. This allowed for there to be an equal number of free and slave states. The first issue was tougher to solve! Congress forced the Michigan Territory to hold a convention, which met in Ann Arbor on September 26, 1836, to vote on a compromise over the Ohio boundary.



With the statehood of Arkansas(1836), the number of slave states grew to 13, but the statehood of Michigan (1837) maintained the numbers of slave and free states equal.



The delegates voted against the deal and Michigan's governor, Stevens T. Mason, was not happy! He secured another group of delegates and on December 14, 1836, they voted in favor of Congress's deal. Michigan formally became a state on January 26, 1837.

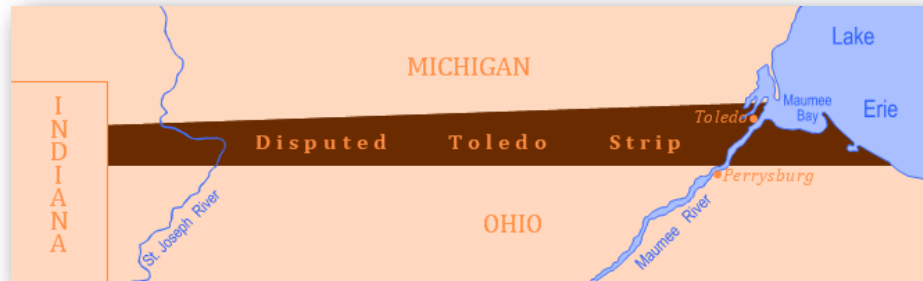


In these four pictures, notice that from 1805 to 1836, Michigan's territory continued to grow. When Michigan became a state, in 1837, we ended up with the state's shape we all know today.



The **Toledo War** (1835-1836) also known as the **Michigan-Ohio War**, was a bloodless dispute between the **state of Ohio** and the **territory of Michigan**. They both wanted to claim the 468-square-mile region along the border, now known as the **Toledo Strip**.

The portion of the Michigan Territory claimed by the State of Ohio known as the Toledo Strip



Ohio's governor **Robert Lucas** and Michigan's 24-year-old "**Boy Governor**" Stevens T. Mason were both unwilling to give up the Strip. In 1836, Congress came up with a compromise where Michigan gave up the Strip and received approximately three-fourths of the **Upper Peninsula**. Voters at the state convention felt this was a bad deal and voted it down!

Later that year, at the "**Frostbitten Convention**", Governor Mason's new delegates voted in favor of the deal. Years later, the discovery of **copper and iron** deposits and the plentiful **timber**, in the Upper Peninsula, more than made up for the land given away to Ohio.

