Cause-Effect Organizer Answer Key

A strong response should include:

- **Topic Sentence**: The Missouri Compromise was a law meant to settle disagreements over slavery as new states joined the Union.
- **Cause**: The balance of power between free and slave states was threatened when Missouri applied to become a slave state.
- **Effect**: Missouri became a slave state; Maine became a free state; slavery was banned north of the 36°30' line.
- **Result**: It helped avoid conflict for a while but did not end the argument over slavery, leading toward the Civil War.

Check for historical accuracy, organized structure, and complete thought development.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the goal of the Compromise and what "cause-effect" means before students write.
- Encourage transition words like: *because, therefore, as a result, this caused, this led to.*

Differentiation

- Provide word banks (e.g., *slavery, balance, Congress, free states, border, tension*).
- Allow speech-to-text or sentence starters for emerging writers.
- Challenge advanced students to add a concluding sentence connecting to the Civil War.

Engagement Idea

- Students share paragraphs anonymously and vote on strong topic sentences.

Extension Activities

- Students draw a simple map showing changes after the Compromise to support their writing.
- Pair this activity with primary source quotes from leaders at the time of the debate.

GetWorksheets.com