Calculating Representatives

Directions: Below you will calculate the number of representatives for each state in various ways. Remember, the more representatives means the more power that state has.

Calculating how many representatives in Congress a state would have if all the people living in the state were counted.

The chart below provides 1790 census (population) data for four states.

State Name	Total Population	Free Population	Slave Population
New York	340,120	318,796	21,324
Pennsylvania	434,373	430,636	3,737
Virginia	747,610	454,983	292,627
North Carolina	393,751	293,179	100,572

Source: http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1790.html

In 1790 each state received one representative in Congress for every 30,000 people. Given this number calculate how many representatives, based upon its total population; each state would have in that year. To help you finish the calculations for New York is shown below. Show your work to the right of each state. Be sure to round up or down.

New York - 11 representatives (340,120 total population divided by 30,000 = 11)

Pennsylvania - _____representatives

Virginia - _____representatives

North Carolina - _____representatives

Data taken from 1790 Census

2. **Calculating the number of representatives each state would receive if only the free population were counted. Show your work to the right of each state.**

   New York - 11 representatives (318,796 free population divided by 30,000 = 10.63 [11])

   Pennsylvania - _____representatives

   Virginia - _____representatives

   North Carolina - _____representatives

3. **Use your calculations from #'s 1 and 2 to fill in the chart below.**

State Name	# Representatives based on total population (free + slave)	# of Representatives based only on free population	Change in number of representatives if only free population is counted
New York	11	11	0
Pennsylvania			
Virginia			
North Carolina			

Data taken from 1790 Census

4. **Calculating the number of additional representatives each state would receive under the Three-Fifths Compromise:**

State Name	Slave Population	Multiply slave population by 3/5 (.6) = slave population to be counted towards representation	Number of additional representatives state based on counting 3/5 of slave population (need 30,000 for 1 representative)
New York	21,324	21,324 x .6 = 12,794	0
Pennsylvania			
Virginia			
North Carolina			

Data taken from 1790 Census

5. **Final calculations after the adoption of the 3/5 Compromise. Use information from the charts above to complete this chart.**

State Name	# of representatives based on free population	Number of additional representatives state receives from the Three-Fifths Compromise	Total number of representatives each state will have in Congress in 1790 with the 3/5 Compromise in effect
New York	11	0	11
Pennsylvania			
Virginia			
North Carolina			

Part III – Use information from your calculations above to answer the following questions.

1. If the number of representatives a state had in Congress increased its power to make or defeat certain laws (political power), which states most benefited from the Three-Fifths Compromise?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. What do you think the impact of Three-Fifths Compromise was be on those people were held in slavery at this time?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

Data taken from 1790 Census

PART IV - Identify Reasonable Statements

A thesis statement is the point that you are trying to prove. It is an answer, based on evidence, to an important question.

In this lesson you were provided background information and data connected to the Three-Fifths Compromise adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

"Why was the 3/5th Compromise a significant event in the history of the United States?"

Below are three possible thesis statements that, **based on information provided in this lesson,** try to answer the question above. Check the thesis statement that is best supported by the information and, in the space below the statements, explain your choice.

1. _____The 3/5 Compromise was a significant event in American history because it showed what the people who wrote the Constitution thought about the Africans who were enslaved in the United States.

2. _____The 3/5 Compromise was a significant event in American history because it increased the political power of the slave owners in the Congress and, therefore, contributed to the continuation and expansion of slavery.

3. _____The 3/5 Compromise was a significant event in American history because it put off a confrontation between North and South over the existence of slavery in the United States.

Data taken from 1790 Census

Why did you choose # _____ as the best of these three possible thesis

statements? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why didn't you choose # the best of these three possible thesis statements? _____

_____

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Data taken from 1790 Census