**WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE CASE?**

* **Dred Scott born around 1800**
* **1820s is during Missouri Compromise**
* **Scott is taken to Missouri (slave state)**
* **Now taken to Illinois, a free state**
* **Taken to Wisconsin (another free state)**
* **Scott’s owner dies**
* **Eliza Emerson, the wife of the slave owner, takes everyone back to Missouri (a slave state)**
* **Scott had a child born in Mississippi (a free state)**
* **Eliza Emerson transfers custody of Dred Scott to a new owner in court**
* **New owner is John Sandford**
* **Sandford is Eliza’s brother from New York**
* **In court, Justice Robert Cooper rules that African Americans cannot become citizens**

**HOW DID THE SUPREME COURT RULE IN THE CASE?**

**The Supreme Court ruled that a slave is not a citizen of the United States and that the Missouri Compromise is unconstitutional. Slaves, according to the court, had no rights to ask for their freedom.**

The Dred Scott Decision protected the slave owner’s rights because a slave is their property and they can take their property anywhere.

The judges rule so that the United States doesn’t break into a civil war, so South

**NAME OF CASE**

Dred Scott v. Sandford

**YEAR OF CASE**

**1857**

**INVOLVED (ex. people, states, amendments, laws)**

Dred Scott, Emerson, Eliza Emerson, Supreme Court, Missouri Compromise, Northwest Ordinance, John Sandford, President James Buchanan, Robert Cooper, Fifth Amendment

**WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE IN THIS CASE?**

Dred Scott, a Missouri slave, sued for his freedom after his owner died

Can he even be in court?

Is a slave permanently free if they moved to a free state?

Can Congress regulate slavery