

“. . . Can a negro, whose ancestors were...sold as slaves, become a member of the political community...and brought into existence by the Constitution of the United States, and as such become entitled to all the rights, and privileges, guaranteed by the Constitution to the citizen? One of which is the right of suing in a court of the United States.”

“For if they became citizens, it would exempt them from the operation of the special laws necessary for their own safety (laws specific for slaves and Africans)...And all of this would be done in the face of the subject race of the same color, both free and slaves, and inevitably producing discontent and defiance among them, and endangering the peace and safety of the State.”

Chief Justice Taney, Majority Opinion Dred Scott Case

1: What is the main question that Taney feels the need to address in his opinion?

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2: Why would one decision on that question lead to an endangerment of peace and safety in a state? Be sure to explain what that decision would have to be.

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