

Creating the Constitution

What compromises emerged from the Constitutional Convention?

PREVIEW

On a separate sheet of paper, create a T-chart with the heads “Classroom Experience” and “Articles of Confederation.” Complete the chart as your class discusses the similarities between what the newly formed United States experienced after the American Revolution and your experience in the classroom.

READING NOTES

Social Studies Vocabulary

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Articles of Confederation	Enlightenment	Three-Fifths Compromise
Northwest Territory	republic	Electoral College
Northwest Ordinance	constitution	ratify
Constitutional Convention	Great Compromise	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>

Section 1

1. What issue did the Land Ordinance of 1785 address?

2. Complete this list of rules for the Northwest Territory.

Rules Set by the Northwest Ordinance

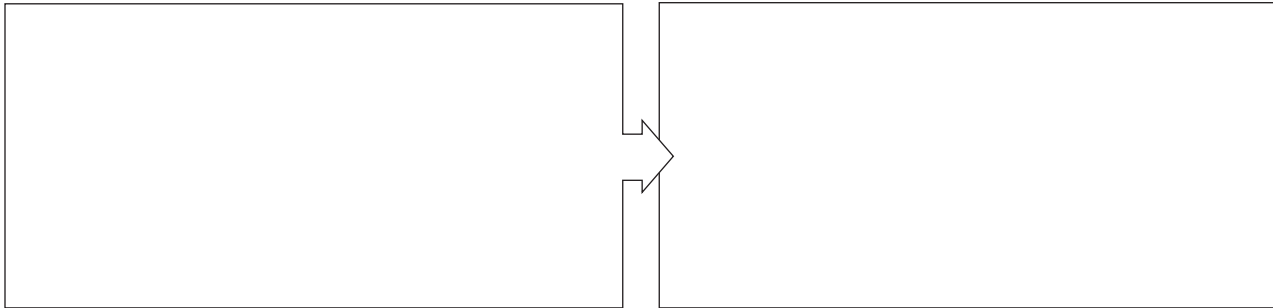
- When a territory has 5,000 free adult males, it can elect its own legislature.
-
- Settlers have the same rights and privileges as other citizens.
-

Section 2

Fill in the flowchart.

Causes of Shays' Rebellion

Effects of Shays' Rebellion



Section 3

1. Describe the role of each of these men at the Constitutional Convention.

George Washington:

James Madison:

2. Why did the important leaders Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry not attend the convention?

3. Do you agree with the delegates' rule of secrecy? Why or why not?

4. The delegates had differing views on how powerful the national government should be.

- What did delegates for a strong national government believe?

- What did delegates for stronger state governments (weaker national government) believe?

- List one belief that these two types of delegates shared.

Section 4

1. Tell how each of these would answer this question: *Where should the government's power to rule come from?*

Articles of Confederation:

James Madison:

2. Complete the matrix to explain the differences between these two plans of government.

	Virginia Plan	New Jersey Plan
How many branches of government?		
How was the legislature organized?		
Which states did this plan favor? Why?		

Section 5

1. Who created the plan that became known as the Great Compromise?
2. According to the Great Compromise, how are states represented in each house of Congress?

In the House of Representatives:

In the Senate:

Does this favor people or states?

Does this favor people or states?

Section 6

1. What might each of these delegates have said about how slaves should be counted for representation in Congress?

Delegate from the North:

Delegate from the South:

2. Compare the growing division in attitudes toward slavery by writing what each of these delegates might have said.

Delegate from the North:

Delegate from the South:


Section 7

1. How did the Three-Fifths Compromise work? Create and label a simple sketch to illustrate your answer.


2. What compromise did the delegates reach on the slave trade?

Section 8

1. Fill in the speech bubbles with at least one argument for each proposal.



Delegate Who Believes the Nation Should Have a Single Executive



Delegate Who Believes the Nation Should Have a Three-Member Executive

- List the three proposals given for choosing the chief executive. Circle the one you think is the best.

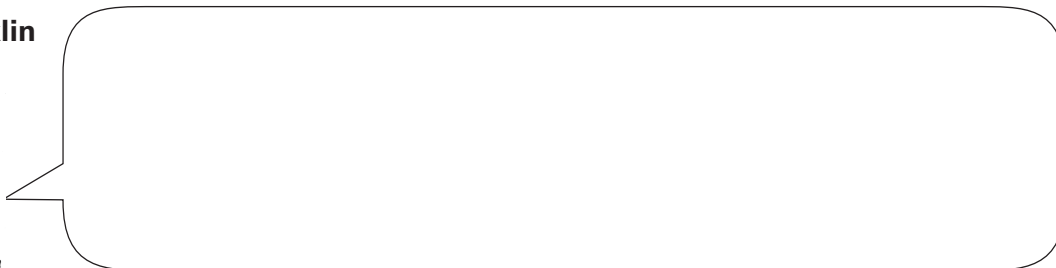
Section 9

- How many electors does each state have in the Electoral College?
- Describe one way that presidential elections have changed over time.

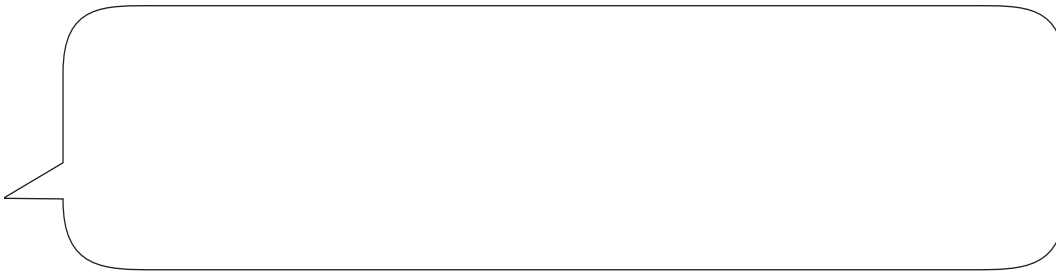
Section 10

Fill in the speech bubbles to show how each of these delegates might have answered a reporter who asked, “Did you sign the Constitution? Why or why not?”

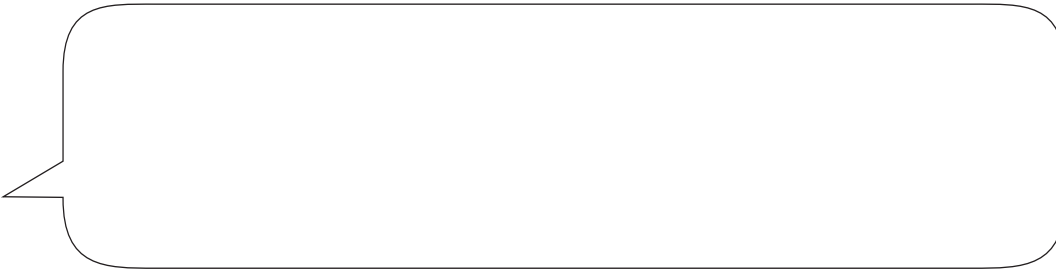
Benjamin Franklin



George Mason



Elbridge Gerry



Section 11

Write a one-paragraph letter to the editor of a newspaper from the perspective of a Federalist supporting ratification of the Constitution. Also write a one-paragraph letter to the editor opposing ratification as an Anti-Federalist.

I support ratification because . . .



I do not support ratification because . . .

**PROCESSING**

On a separate piece of paper, create a poster that might have been used to encourage people to support ratification of the Constitution. Your poster must have:

- a catchy slogan.
- three reasons why states should ratify the Constitution.
- an illustration to accompany each reason.
- creative touches to make your poster visually appealing, such as a decorative border.
- writing that uses correct spelling and grammar.

READING FURTHER

Preparing to Write: Taking Notes

Whether for newspaper, television, radio, or the latest blog, reporters always want to capture “the big story.” Newspapers were important in 1787, too. News of the Constitution was announced in papers in all 13 states.

Suppose you were a newspaper reporter on September 17, 1787. The Constitution has just been signed. Your assignment is to write an article about the new Constitution and the convention that created it. In the article, you will describe the event and important issues that were discussed.

Reporters begin by making notes. Use what you have learned about the convention to complete this reporter’s notebook. Write down a question you would like to ask three of the delegates. Record what you think they would have replied.

Notes on the Constitutional Convention

What (was the event):

Where (did it happen):

When (did it happen):

Who (was there):

Why (was it happening):

Interviews

My question:

Delegate 1:

Answer:

Delegate 2:

Answer:

Delegate 3:

Answer:

Writing a Newspaper Article

Write your newspaper article below. Your article should clearly report events and issues of the convention and have no spelling or grammar errors. The interviews should give accurate information and opinions. Be sure to give your article a headline, a byline (your name as the reporter), and a dateline (the location and date of the article—in this case, Philadelphia, September 17, 1787).

Use this rubric to evaluate your article. Make changes in your article if you need to.

Score	Description
3	The article clearly reports events and issues of the convention. The interviews give accurate information and opinions. There are no spelling or grammar errors.
2	The article reports events and issues of the convention. The interviews give some accurate information and opinions. There are few spelling or grammar errors.
1	The article does not report events and issues of the convention. The interviews do not give accurate information and opinions. There are many spelling or grammar errors.