

NAME: _____ Date: _____

U.S. History

CHAPTER 7 PACKET

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What is a constitution?
2. What is a republic?
3. What was the Articles of Confederation?
4. How was state and national power divided under the Articles of Confederation?
5. What was the purpose of the Constitutional Convention of 1787?

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES:

Observations

STATE CONSTITUTIONS:

In May 1776, Congress asked states to set up their own governments. By 1780, all the 13 states had drafted their own constitutions.

What is a constitution?

Why would each state need one?

What is a republic?

Why do you think the Framers organized the new country as a republic, when most countries in the world (in 1783) were ruled by a king or queen?

SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS:

While states were working on their own constitutions, the Second Continental Congress was working on a plan for a national government.

Why was a national constitution needed?

A NEW NATION GROWS:

I. Articles of Confederation

- a. Started in 1777 by the Continental Congress to set up a government in which the power was divided between the national government (referred to as Congress) and the state government. This was approved by the states in 1781.
- b. It granted the majority of the power to the states.
- c. It created one body, the Congress, to serve as the national government.

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| <p>Powers given to the states:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. could _____2. controlled _____3. regardless of the size of its population, each state had _____ | <p>Powers given to Congress (national government)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. can declare _____2. provided _____3. entered into _____4. could print _____5. form an _____6. settling and _____ the western territories |
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II. WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. During the Revolutionary War, Congress had trouble raising money to fight the war because it could not _____ from its people or from the states.2. Congress could not settle _____ disputes between states.3. Congress could not settle _____ disputes between states.4. It did not have a chief executive (a _____ of government).5. It could not pass laws unless ___ out of _____ states approved them.6. It could print money, but each state had its own _____.7. Congress did not have the power to _____ laws*. |
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"We cannot exist long as a nation without having some power which will govern the whole union." - George Washington

*Shays' Rebellion

A NEW NATION GROWS *(cont.)*:

III. The Second Constitutional Convention creates the United States Constitution, 1787

September 1786, delegates from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey and New York gathered in Annapolis, Maryland. They discussed the problems among the states. Since only five states being represented here, they decided to call another convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. They decided to meet in Philadelphia in the same hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The Second Constitutional Convention began in May 25, 1787. Fifty five delegates from each state attended (except Rhode Island) secretly began a three month long meeting to discuss how to make the national government stronger. George Washington was asked to preside (lead) over the convention.

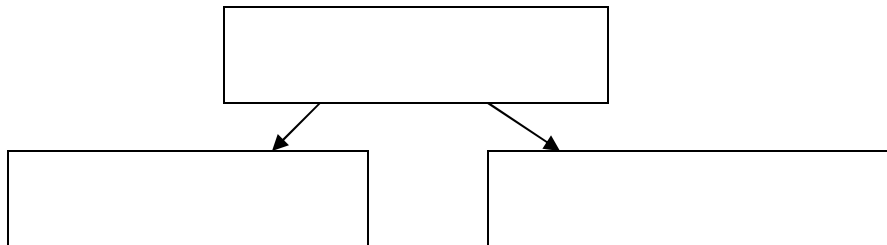
James Madison kept notes of the discussions and is often called "The Father of the Constitution." The men who wrote the Constitution are called the "Founding Fathers." All the participants in the Convention were wealthy, white, males.

After much discussion, the delegation of Virginia presented an idea so different, it would have to replace the Articles of Confederation, rather than revise them.

IV. The Virginia Plan

The New Jersey Plan

V. THE GREAT COMPROMISE



Electing the President: The delegates agreed that voters in each state would elect representatives called _____. The number of electors would equal the number of its senators and representatives. These electors could _____ for the _____ (head of government).

The Constitution was completed on September 17, 1787, and the delegates to the Constitutional Convention sent their new Constitution to the 13 states for approval. Voters in each state elected people to represent them in state conventions where the representatives debated the pros and cons of the Constitution.

VI. APPROVING THE CONSTITUTION

FEDERALISTS

*People who supported the new Constitution and argued that the new government should provide a better balance between the national and state governments. They represented their arguments in essays known as *The Federalists papers*, written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay.*

Which states immediately adopted the Constitution?

ANTI-FEDERALISTS

People who opposed the Federalists and feared that the new Constitution created a central government with too much power. They also pointed out that the Constitution did not have a bill of rights to protect the liberty of individual citizens.

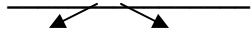
Which states opposed the adoption of the Constitution? Why?

On November 1789, North Carolina became the twelfth state to approve the Constitution. Rhode Island approved in finally in May 1790. These state approved the Constitution with the addition of the Bill of Rights. With the Constitution approved, states asked the states to hold elections for senators, representatives and electors. The electors would vote for the President. George Washington was elected the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789 (sworn in).

VII. THE BILL OF RIGHTS (The Bill of Rights, Then and Now)

VIII. FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



Article 1 lists the rules and powers of Congress and explains how its members are to be chosen. Congress has the power to make laws and treaties, coin money, and regulate trade.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Article 2 lists the rules and duties and explains how the president is elected. The president makes sure that the laws are carried out, and with the approval of the Senate, he can appoint government officials and makes treaties.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Article 3 sets up the national system of courts, with the Supreme Court as the highest court of the land. The Supreme Court is responsible for deciding cases that involve the Constitution.

CHECKS AND BALANCES:

By setting up the _____ branches of governments, each with its own _____ and _____, the Constitution _____ the powers given to the _____ government. This division not only keeps one branch of government from _____ too _____ but also allows each branch to _____ on another's actions and decisions. The _____ of power and the checking of one branch over another is known as _____.