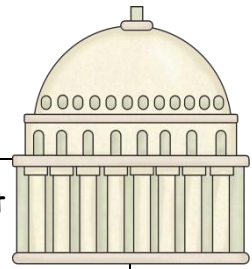


New Nation Study Guide



Articles of Confederation	This plan for the government created a weak national government, but strong state governments. It failed because representatives from each state could not agree on much of anything. Also, Congress had no power to enforce laws or provide a national defense (such as an army).
Constitutional Convention	Delegates from 12 of the 13 states (not Rhode Island!) came together for four months in Philadelphia to draft the Constitution , the plan of government which would establish the U.S. government and guarantee citizens' rights. James Madison presented the Virginia Plan . William Paterson presented the New Jersey Plan , which was too similar to the Articles of Confederation.
People of the New Nation	Framers of the Constitution: writers of the Constitution Federalists : supporters of the Constitution James Madison: father of the Constitution Benjamin Franklin: the oldest delegate of the Constitutional Convention
Great Compromise	Delegates in the Constitutional Convention had different ideas of how to create a stronger national government. Larger states wanted representation based on population (Virginia Plan). Smaller states wanted the number of representatives to be the same for each state (New Jersey Plan). Roger Sherman proposed our country have both in the Connecticut Compromise: House of Representatives , based on population, and the Senate , equal representatives from each state. These two houses would make up our Congress .
Three-Fifths Compromise	This determined how slaves would be counted in a state's population for representation. The North did not think slaves should be counted since they could not vote, but the South wanted them to be counted as part of their population.



U.S. Constitution

It is the highest law in the United States. It tells how the three branches of government works. The **Preamble** of the Constitution explains that the Constitution belongs to all citizens of the United States and power is given by the people ("We the People..."). Most people wanted the rights of the people to be listed, so that the government could not break those rights. Once the Constitution was ratified, or agreed upon, the **Bill of Rights** was added through the amendment process to list the rights of U.S. citizens. Amendments are changes made to the Constitution.

Bill of Rights

First Amendment

FIVE FREEDOMS: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom to assemble (or gather together), and freedom to petition the government

Second-Tenth Amendments

2nd Amendment: gives the right to bear arms (have weapons)
 3rd Amendment: government cannot make people house soldiers
 4th Amendment: protects people against unfair searches
 5th - 8th Amendment: right to a fair trial/due process of law
 9th Amendment: people have other rights that might not be in the Constitution
 10th Amendment: government can only do things in Constitution

Checks and Balances

Checks and balances keeps any one branch from becoming too powerful or misusing its authority. Each branch is given different powers by the Constitution so that each branch can watch over the others. For example, Congress doesn't have final say on a law- the President can veto it, or the Supreme Court can declare it unconstitutional.

Separation of Powers

All three branches have separate duties and powers- only the Legislative branch can make the laws, only the Executive branch can enforce the laws, and only the Judicial branch can decide if a law is unconstitutional.

Three Branches of Government	Executive	President and Vice President: carry out, or enforce, laws; President heads armed forces and can veto bills
	Legislative	Congress: proposes bills, makes laws, passes taxes
	Judicial	Supreme Court: decides if a law is constitutional
How a Bill Becomes a Law		Laws begin as ideas. Before a bill can become a law, it must be approved by Congress and the President. A bill is voted on in the House of Representatives before being sent to the Senate. If the Senate votes in favor of the bill, it goes to the President. If the President signs it, it will be a law. The President can also veto the bill (not sign the bill into law). Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.
Federal Government		<p><u>National Government</u> can admit new states to the country, print money, establish post offices and roads, deal with foreign nations and trade, and raise and support armed forces.</p> <p><u>State Governments</u> can create local governments, establish and support public schools, and regulate businesses. These are called reserved powers, because they are reserved for the state.</p> <p><u>BOTH National and State Governments</u> can collect taxes, provide for the health and welfare of the people, enforce laws, and punish lawbreakers.</p>

