

The United States Constitution

I. Constitutional Convention, 1787

- A. The Articles of Confederation were intentionally _____ in order to protect state & individual _____. But, the inability of the national gov't to _____ & unify the states led to problems like _____ Rebellion
- B. In May 1787, 55 delegates held a _____ in Philadelphia to discuss ways to _____ the national government...but instead of _____ the Articles of Confederation, they replaced it with the _____
- C. The Constitution was a _____ from the AOC because it gave more _____ to the national gov't than to the state gov'ts
1. The _____ establishes the Constitution (not the states) as the "the _____ of the land"
 2. The _____ government under the Constitution would have _____ features & powers that the Articles of Confederation did not have
 - a. Rather than a single unicameral Congress, the new national government would be divided among _____ equal branches of government
 - i. Like the AOC, the gov't had a _____ (legislative branch) to make laws...Unlike the AOC, Congress had the power to _____ & coin money
 - ii. Unlike the AOC, the new gov't had a _____ (executive branch) to lead the nation and _____ laws passed by Congress
 - iii. Unlike the AOC, the new gov't had a _____ system (judicial branch) to _____ laws and prosecute federal crimes
 3. Delegates at the Constitutional Convention agreed on some major philosophical ideas for the new national gov't
 - a. Popular Sovereignty: the people have power by _____ for leaders
 - b. Limited gov't: even though the national government was stronger, citizens' _____ was still protected
 - c. Federalism: the national gov't _____ with state gov'ts
 - d. Separation of powers: _____ with defined powers
 - e. Checks & balances: each branch can _____ of the others

II. Compromises at the Constitutional Convention:

- A. The delegates at the convention had to negotiate a series of _____ in order to agree on a framework for gov't
- B. Many of these compromises dealt with how _____ would be chosen from the _____ to serve in Congress
1. Representation in Congress (*Critical Thinking Question A: Large States vs. Small States*) **Choice:** _____
 - a. The _____ states supported the Virginia Plan which proposed adding a president to lead the nation and a bicameral congress in which larger states have _____
 - b. The _____ states supported the a New Jersey Plan which called for a unicameral congress in which states are _____ just like the AOC
 - c. The _____ resolved the differences between the large & small states by creating a _____
 - i. In the Senate each state has _____ who serve 6-year terms
 - ii. In the House of Representatives, the number of reps is determined by each state's _____
 2. Counting Slaves (*Critical Thinking Question B: Southern Slave States vs. Northern Free States*) **Choice:** _____
 - a. Northern & Southern states could not agree whether or not to count slaves towards _____ size
 - b. If _____ are counted, _____ states would have more votes and power in the House of Representatives
 - c. The _____ Compromise allowed states to count _____ slaves toward taxation and population size
 3. Compromising with Slavery: (*Critical Thinking Question C: To End Slavery or Not*) **Choice:** _____
 - a. Many Northerners wanted to use the Constitutional Convention to _____, but _____ threatened to _____ the USA anytime slavery was discussed
 - b. As a compromise for the South, the _____ could continue for _____ more years & _____ slaves would be returned to slave masters
- C. _____ negotiated and wrote much of the framework of the new government and is referred to as the "_____ of the Constitution"