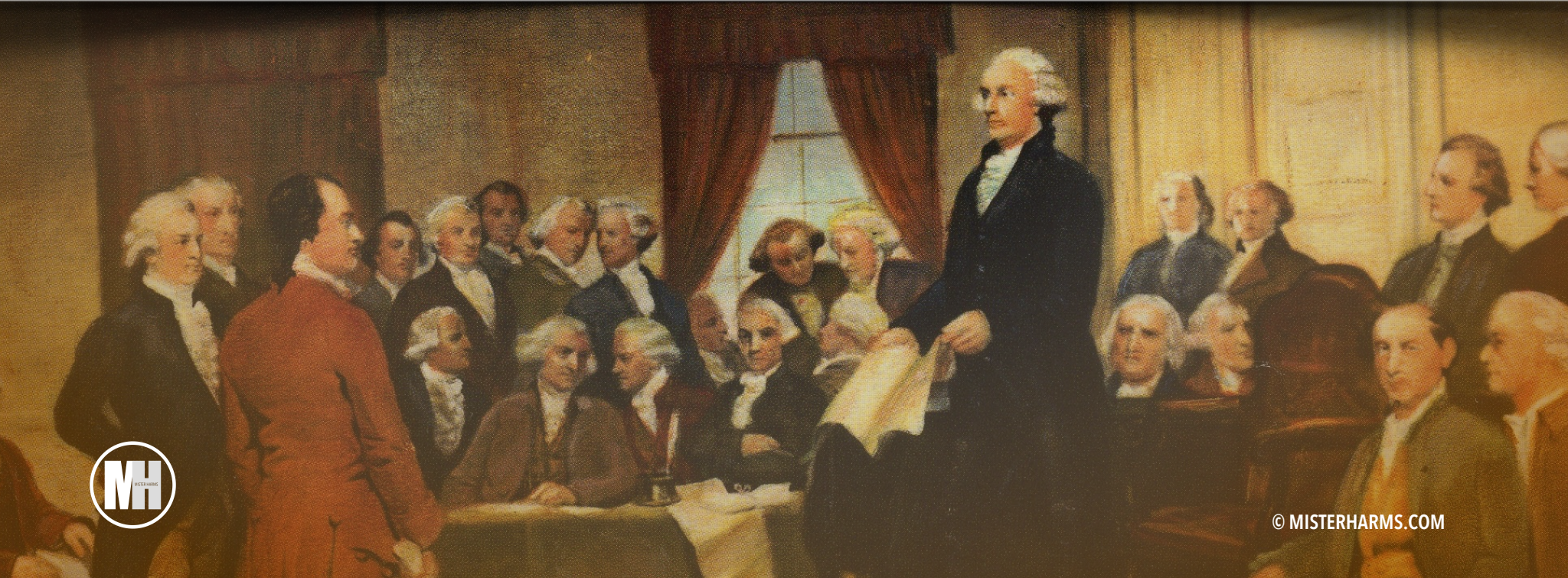




STUDENT NOTES



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Creating the U.S. Constitution

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15 SLIDES
EXPLAINING THE
DETAILS OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION



Philadelphia photos courtesy of MisterHarms



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I. BEFORE THE CONVENTION

A. The colonies were first governed by the **Articles of Confederation** - first constitution of the United States that was weak and unsuccessful.

1. Articles were formed in 1781
2. No single leader or central power
3. No power to tax, pay off debt, settle disputes
4. No central monetary system
5. All 13 states had to agree if changes were made

B. This weak government led to many problems

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VI. THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

- A. 13 of 13 states eventually ratified the Constitution
- B. Delaware was the 1st state and Rhode Island was the 13th
- C. Ratified (or approved by 9 states) June 21, 1788
- D. Effective March 4, 1789

V. POST SIGNING

- A. Although 39 people signed the Constitution in a room, does that mean all the colonies want this new Constitution?
the states need to approve

IV. THE SIGNING

- A. Additional discussion continued from May to September
- B. Final Constitution contained a preamble and seven articles
 1. **Constitution** - Written plan of government
 2. **Preamble**

III. THE PLANS & COMPROMISES

- A. The **Virginia Plan** - first plan proposed at the convention
 1. Proposed by **James Madison** - considered "Father of the Constitution"

II. THE CONVENTION

- A. **Constitutional Convention** - 55 delegates meet to revise the Articles resulting in a new constitution
 1. **Delegates** - representatives to a meeting
 2. **Revise** - to rework or improve
- B. Begins May 1787 at the Philadelphia State House
- C. 12 states attend (Rhode Island does not attend)
- D. **George Washington** - leader of the constitutional convention
- E. Each state would get one vote on each decision
- F. Meetings were hot, 6 days a week, and secretive
- G. Takes over 3 months to complete

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3 PAGES OF GUIDED FILL-IN-THE-BLANK STUDENT NOTES

COMPLETE ANSWERS
FOR MODIFIED STUDENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Creating the U.S. Constitution

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I. BEFORE THE CONVENTION

- A. The _____ were first governed by the **Articles of Confederation** - first _____ of the United States that was _____ and _____.
1. Articles were _____ in _____.
 2. No single _____ or central _____.
 3. No power to _____, pay off _____, settle disputes
 4. No central _____ system
 5. All 13 states had to _____ if _____ were made.
- B. This _____ government led to many _____.

II. THE CONVENTION

- A. **Constitutional Convention** - _____ delegates meet to _____ the Articles resulting in a new _____.
1. **Delegates** - _____ to a _____.
 2. **Revise** - to rework or _____.
- B. Begins May _____ at the _____ State House
- C. _____ states attend (_____ does not attend)
- D. **George Washington** - _____ of the constitutional _____.
- E. Each _____ would get _____ vote on each _____.
- F. Meetings were _____ days a week, and _____.
- G. Takes over 3 _____ to _____.

III. THE PLANS & COMPROMISES

- A. The **Virginia Plan** - first _____ proposed at the _____.
1. Proposed by _____ **Madison** - considered "_____ of the Constitution"
 2. Wanted _____ national government with 3 _____
 - a. **Legislative Branch** - to _____ and pass _____ (_____)
 - b. _____ **Branch** - to carry out laws (a _____ & departments)
 - c. **Judicial Branch** - to _____ laws and settle disputes (the _____)
 3. _____ Branch would be **bicameral** - having two _____
 - a. House of _____
 - i. _____ house
 - ii. Number of _____ based on state's _____
 - iii. Members _____ directly by the _____
 - b. Senate
 - i. Number of members based on state's _____
 - ii. Members _____ by the lower _____
 - c. _____ states did not like this _____. Why?

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III. THE PLANS & COMPROMISES

- A. The **Virginia Plan** - first plan proposed at the convention
1. Proposed by **James Madison** - considered "Father of the Constitution"
 2. Wanted strong national government with 3 branches
 - a. **Legislative Branch** - to make and pass laws (congress)
 - b. **Executive Branch** - to carry out laws (a President & departments)
 - c. **Judicial Branch** - to interpret laws and settle disputes (the courts)
 3. Legislative Branch would be **bicameral** - having two houses
 - a. House of Representatives
 - i. Lower house
 - ii. Number of members based on state's population
 - iii. Members chosen directly by the people
 - b. Senate
 - i. Number of members based on state's population
 - ii. Members appointed by the lower house
 - c. Smaller states did not like this plan. Why?

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17 QUESTION REVIEW WORKSHEET FOR POST ASSESSMENT

ANSWER KEYS FOR STUDENT WORKSHEET

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Review Questions

ANSWER KEY

Part I - Questions
Answer the given questions using the notes from the Constitutional Convention

- What was the name of the first constitution that guided the colonists but was rather unsuccessful?
Articles of Confederation
- List three reasons as to why this first constitution in question #1 was unsuccessful?
Answer could include: No single leader or central power / No power to tax, pay off debt, settle disputes / No central monetary system / All 13 states had to agree if changes were made / led to many problems
- What was the main reason as to why the colonists met together at the Constitutional Convention?
To revise the Articles of Confederation
- Where did the Constitutional Convention take place?
Philadelphia State House / Philadelphia / Future home of Independence Hall
- The first plan proposed at the convention was the Virginia Plan. Why did the states not agree with the Virginia Plan?
The Virginia Plan had two houses and both houses were based upon state population. The smaller states were concerned that the larger states would have too much power.
- List two ways in which the New Jersey Plan differed with the Virginia Plan?
The New Jersey Plan had one house instead of two houses
The New Jersey Plan was based on equal representation instead of population
- What aspects within the Great Compromise allowed the colonists to eventually agree with each other and approve of this plan?
The two houses gave power to both large and small states. The House was based on population which favored larger states. The Senate was based upon equal representation which favored the smaller states.
- Explain how slavery was a hot issue even during the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
Slavery caused the colonists to wonder whether or not slaves should be considered as people in the population count. The North did not want slaves counted in the population and the south did want slaves counted in the population.

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to move forward in creating a great nation. By being willing to compromise, we can learn from the Founding Fathers that we can work together as a nation and find common ground. If we don't compromise a little, we may never make progress.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Review Questions

Part I - Questions
Answer the given questions using the notes from the Constitutional Convention

- What was the name of the first constitution that guided the colonists but was rather unsuccessful?
- List three reasons as to why this first constitution in question #1 was unsuccessful?
- What was the main reason as to why the colonists met together at the Constitutional Convention?
- Where did the Constitutional Convention take place?
- The first plan proposed at the convention was the Virginia Plan. Why did the states not agree with the Virginia Plan?
- List two ways in which the New Jersey Plan differed with the Virginia Plan?
- What aspects within the Great Compromise allowed the colonists to eventually agree with each other and approve of this plan?
- Explain how slavery was a hot issue even during the Constitutional Convention of 1787?

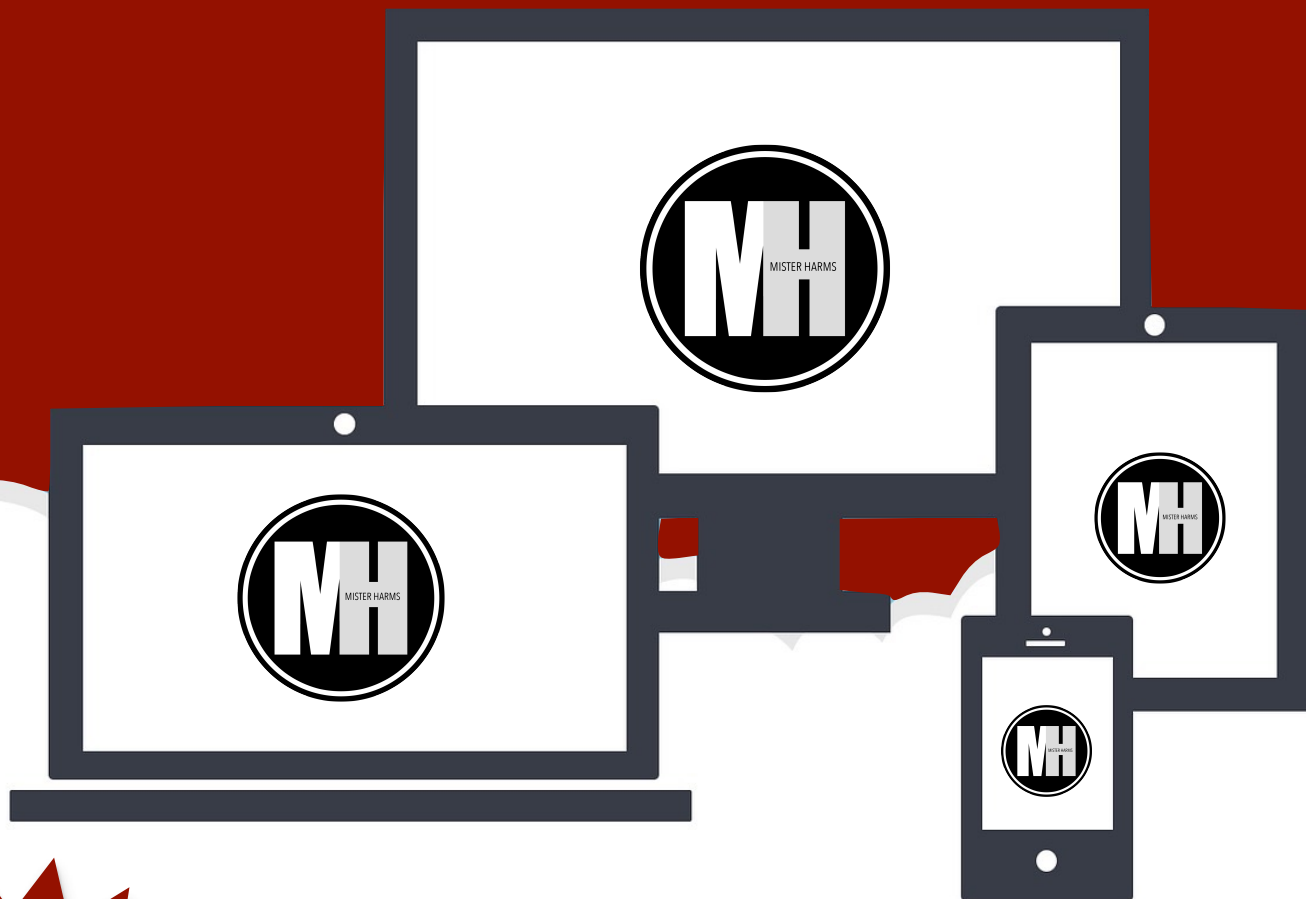
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