



AMERICAN HISTORY



THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Name: _____

Date: _____

Multiple Choice

1. What was the primary goal of the Constitutional Convention in 1787?
 - a) Drafting the Declaration of Independence
 - b) Amending the Articles of Confederation
 - c) Writing the Bill of Rights
 - d) Dissolving the Continental Congress
2. Which state refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
 - a) New Jersey
 - b) Virginia
 - c) Rhode Island
 - d) Maryland
3. The Articles of Confederation failed primarily because:
 - a) They created a central government with too much power.
 - b) They lacked a clear definition of federal and state powers.
 - c) They imposed excessive taxes on states.
 - d) They excluded smaller states from representation.
4. What event highlighted the financial instability under the Articles of Confederation?
 - a) Boston Tea Party
 - b) Shays' Rebellion
 - c) Battle of Saratoga
 - d) Whiskey Rebellion
5. What was the primary purpose of Benjamin Franklin's speech during the Constitutional Convention?
 - a) To introduce the Virginia Plan
 - b) To argue for equal representation for states
 - c) To call for prayer and unity among delegates
 - d) To propose the Connecticut Compromise



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6. What was the key feature of the Virginia Plan?
- a) Equal representation for states in Congress
 - b) A unicameral legislature
 - c) Representation based on population in a bicameral legislature
 - d) The abolition of slavery
7. The Connecticut Compromise combined elements of which two plans?
- a) Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan
 - b) New Jersey Plan and Rhode Island Plan
 - c) Virginia Plan and Franklin Plan
 - d) New York Plan and Massachusetts Plan
8. The Three-Fifths Compromise addressed:
- a) The taxation of imported goods.
 - b) The counting of enslaved individuals for representation and taxation.
 - c) The equal representation of states in the Senate.
 - d) The establishment of a federal court system.
9. Which of the following is true about the Three-Fifths Compromise?
- a) It defined enslaved individuals as property in the Constitution.
 - b) It treated all enslaved individuals as citizens for representation.
 - c) It limited the political power of slaveholding states.
 - d) It was primarily designed to increase taxation of non-slaveholding states.
10. Who proposed the Connecticut Compromise?
- a) James Madison
 - b) George Washington
 - c) William Paterson
 - d) Roger Sherman



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Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think some states, like Rhode Island, were hesitant to join the Constitutional Convention? Do you think their concerns about a stronger central government were valid? Why or why not?
2. Shays' Rebellion was one of the major events that showed the deficiency of the Articles of Confederation. How do you think this event influenced the decision to create a new Constitution?
3. The delegates had to balance the needs of large states and small states when designing Congress. If you were a delegate, would you support the Virginia Plan, the New Jersey Plan, or the Connecticut Compromise? Why?
4. The Three-Fifths Compromise was a controversial solution to the issue of representation. Do you think it was fair or unfair? How would you have handled the debate over representation of enslaved people differently?
5. Benjamin Franklin's speech encouraged delegates to pray and work together despite their disagreements. Why do you think unity was so important to the success of the convention? How can we apply that lesson today when we have disagreements?





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Answer Key

- 1.b) Amending the Articles of Confederation
- 2.c) Rhode Island
- 3.b) They lacked a clear definition of federal and state powers.
- 4.b) Shays' Rebellion
- 5.c) To call for prayer and unity among delegates
- 6.c) Representation based on population in a bicameral legislature
- 7.a) Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan
- 8.b) The counting of enslaved individuals for representation and taxation.
- 9.c) It limited the political power of slaveholding states.
- 10.d) Roger Sherman

