

Establishing the New Nation

Lesson 4.2 - The Constitutional Convention

Pages 117-122

Directions: Define the following Key Terms (Use the glossary and text) on a separate sheet of lined paper.

Alexander Hamilton
James Madison
Virginia Plan
New Jersey Plan
Great Compromise
federalism
Three-Fifths Compromise

Directions: Answer the following questions on the same or separate sheet of lined paper. Use complete sentences.

Leaders Assemble at the Convention:

1. **Compare and Contrast** Use T-Chart graphic organizer to take notes about the views of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.
2. **Determine Central Ideas** What weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation did the Constitutional Convention hope to address?
3. **Cite Evidence** What was special about the group of men that met at the Constitutional Convention?
4. **Draw Inferences** Why was the Constitutional Convention “shrouded in secrecy”?
5. **Make Conclusions** Consider the men who gathered for the Constitutional Convention. What were the possible strengths and weaknesses of this group?

Constitutional Compromises:

6. **Compare and Contrast** Use the two-column chart below to show the similarities and differences between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan. Include information about who presented each plan and how the plan imagined the president, the legislature, and the power of the federal and state governments. Then, write a * by any part of either plan that has lasted until today.
7. **Vocabulary: Determine Meaning** What is a *stalemate*? Why did the delegates want to prevent a stalemate in the Constitutional Convention?
8. **Cite Evidence** Did the Great Compromise draw more from the Virginia Plan or the New Jersey Plan? Cite evidence to explain your answer.
9. **Draw Inferences** Why didn't the Constitution say that all men were born free and equal?
10. **Analyze Interactions Among Individuals, Events, and Ideas** How did the Three-Fifths Compromise affect the institution of slavery in subsequent years?