THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

HMH

Important Terms
Match the terms in the right column with the descriptions in the left column.

1 The word used to refer to the people who attended the Constitutional Convention

2 The man who drafted the Virginia Plan

3 The number of senators in each state

4 The type of representation in the House of Representatives

5 The name of the part of Congress that was originally designed to represent the people

Two

Proportional

Delegates

House of Representatives

James Madison

Reviewing Facts
Are the following statements true or false?

1 In the Great Compromise, the delegates agreed that the states would have equal representation in the House of Representatives.

2 The delegates agreed that Congress should have power to legislate in all areas in which the states were incompetent.

3 The delegates decided that each woman in a state should count as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of representation.

Reviewing Main Ideas
Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1 The Constitutional Convention was not open to the public. Why do you think the delegates chose to meet privately? What do you think of the advantages of secrecy might be? What might be the disadvantages?

2 Why did the founding fathers believe that they had to place limits on the power of the popularly elected part of Congress?

3 State two ways in which the Constitution was different from the Articles of Confederation.

Understanding Concepts

1 The Constitutional Convention brought together 55 men from all over the country to represent their states. The youngest delegate was Jonathan Dayton (who was 26 in 1787); the oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin, at 81. Most of the delegates were well-educated landowners who had worked in national or state politics in the 1770s and 1780s.

If you were holding a convention to revise the constitution or charter of your school, who would you invite? Make a list of all the groups you would like to see represented at such a convention. What other characteristics would you take into account when choosing delegates?

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