

Name: _____

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION VOCABULARY

Nine
Slave trade
Senate
Taxes
Virginia Plan

Philadelphia
two
judicial
House
House of Representatives

Father of the Constitution
Three Fifths Compromise
Great Compromise
Constitutional Convention
James Madison

When 55 delegates from 12 states met in _____ (1) in May 1787, they intended to make changes in the Articles of Confederation. However, _____ (2), nicknamed _____ (3) convinced them that they needed a new plan of government. The meeting in Philadelphia that gave birth to the present US Constitution is now known as the _____ (4).

James Madison proposed a strong national government of three branches – the legislative, executive and _____ (5). Large and small states objected to the way the legislative branch would be organized under Madison's _____ (6) because the small states believed it was unfair. After much heated debate, the convention agreed to have two houses in the legislative branch. Each state would have _____ (7) members in the upper house, called the _____ (8). Members of the lower house, called the _____ (9) were to be based on the state's population.

The South wanted slaves to be counted for representation in the House of Representatives, but did not want them counted for purposes of _____ (10).

The North did not want slaves to be counted for representation in the _____ (11), but did want them counted for taxation purposes. The debate was solved by the _____ (12). Another compromise concerning slaves, was that Congress would not outlaw the _____ (13) for another 20 years.

When the delegates signed the new constitution, it was submitted to the states for ratification. Three fourths, or _____ (14) of the thirteen states were needed for ratification (approval).

Name: _____

CONSTITUTION VOCABULARY PART II

Federalist Papers
James Madison
Bill of Rights
Virginia Plan
Republic

Northwest Ordinance (1787)
Federalism
Articles of Confederation
Three Fifths
Compromise Constitution

Constitutional Congress
Northwest Territory
New Jersey Plan
Great Compromise
Shay's Rebellion

Directions: Read the story and fill in the answer using the word bank above.

Support for strengthening the national government increased after _____
_____ (1) broke out among Massachusetts farmers in 1786. At the
_____ (2) in Philadelphia the following spring, one of the
leaders was _____ (3), who became known as “Father
of the Constitution.” He and others attempted to establish a _____ (4), meaning a country in
which people chose representatives to govern for them. The new government was based on _____
_____ (5), a system of government in which power if shared between the federal government and the states.
Before it was ultimately ratified, the framers created a _____ (6) to protect citizens from
the powers of the national government and to protect their individual rights and freedoms.

Directions: Use the answer box above to fill in the appropriate blank.

1. A set of essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay defending the Constitution ____

2. Law that modeled the rules for statehood in the Northwest Territory _____
3. Proposal for a one-house, equal representation legislature _____
4. Agreement about how to count slaves for purposes of taxation and representation

5. Agreement on legislative representation, which included a two-house legislature, made up of the Senate and
the House of Representatives _____
6. This is the region from the Appalachian Mountains west to the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River

7. Proposal for a two- house legislature based on population _____