

A More Perfect Union



The Summer of 1787 - Philadelphia

Vocabulary

1. **Sovereignty:** the right of a country or state to rule itself and manage its own affairs.
2. **Amendment:** a change in wording or meaning in a law or bill.
3. **Bicameral:** a form of government having two legislative bodies (houses)
4. **Unicameral:** a form of government having a single legislative body (house)
5. **Compromise:** a settlement of differences in which each sides make concessions. (give and take)

Philadelphia Convention



Background Information:

Delegates agreed to meet in one of the hottest summers on record - Late May - Sept, 1787

George Washington was chosen to as “Presiding Officer” - helped to give credibility to the convention.****

Delegates agreed to keep their discussions PRIVATE. Locked the windows and doors. James Madison took notes.

Originally asked to “revise” the Articles of Confederation - created a whole new government instead.

Philadelphia Convention

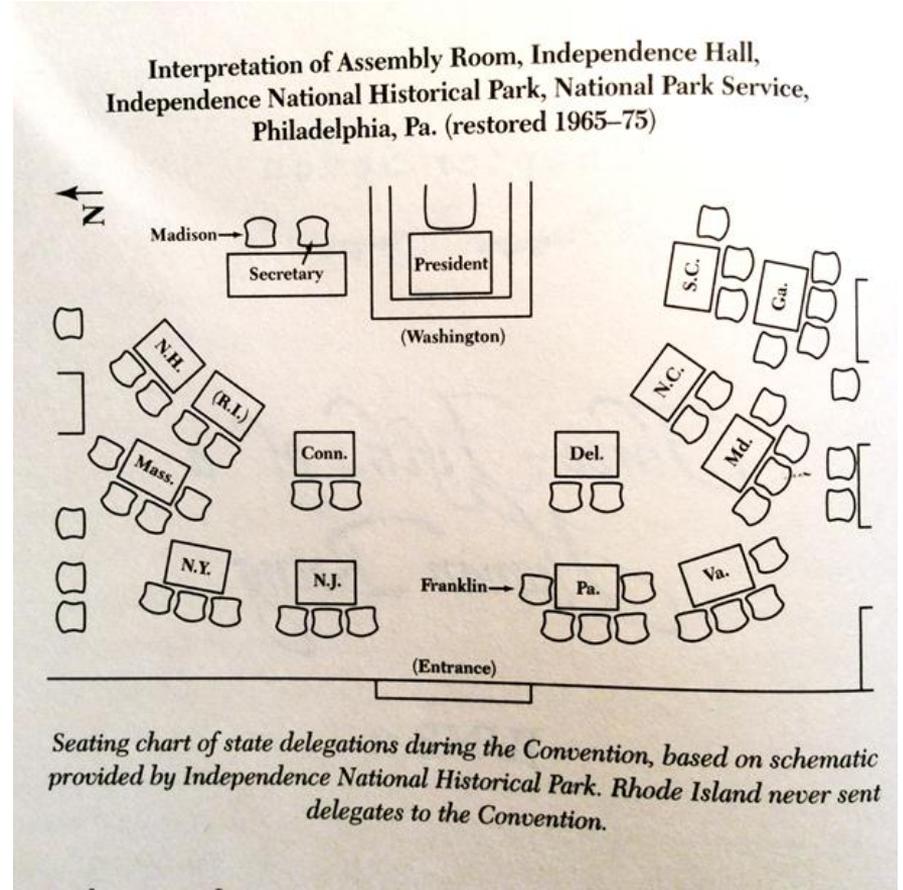
Some famous people who attended:

George Washington

James Madison

Alexander Hamilton

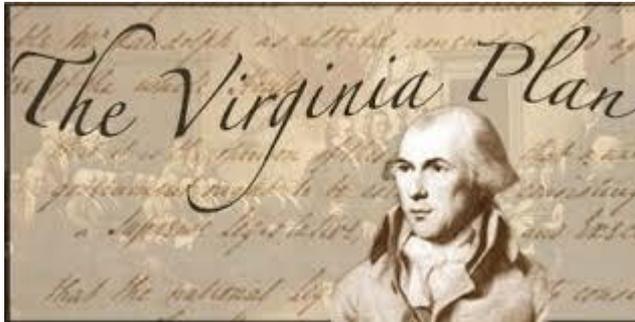
Benjamin Franklin



Philadelphia Convention

6. James Madison developed a plan of government named the VIRGINIA PLAN which included the following ideas:

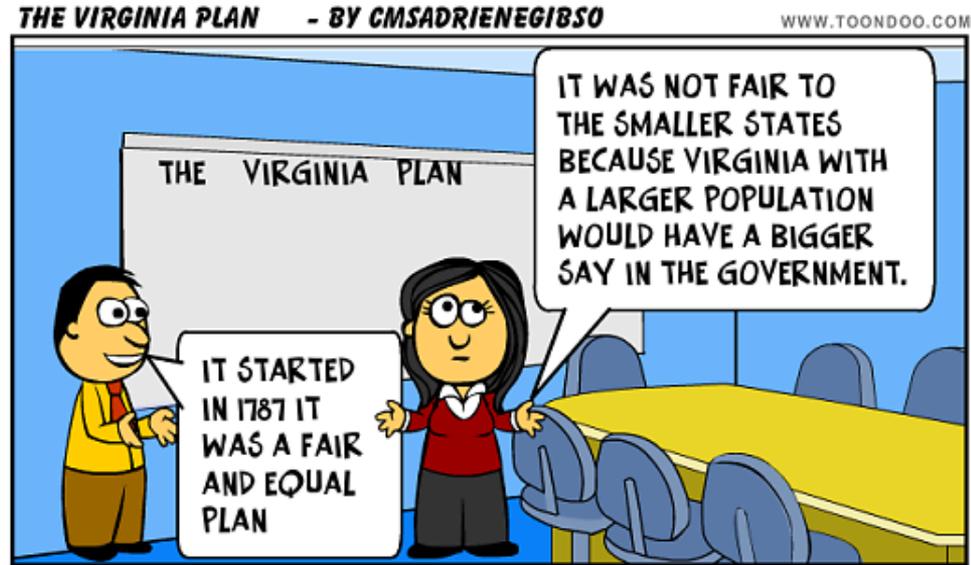
- A. BICAMERAL (TWO HOUSES) legislature -
- B. A national JUDICIARY (court system)
- C. AN EXECUTIVE branch, headed by a president.
- D. State laws would be SUBJECTED TO CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND POSSIBLE VETO.



Philadelphia Convention

7. Why were small states concerned with Madison's plan?

They were concerned that their states would lose influence / power because of the proposed proportional (**based on population**) membership of the bicameral legislature. They would not have as many representatives as the larger states.



Philadelphia Convention

8. William Patterson came up with a plan more favorable to the small states known as the NEW JERSEY PLAN

Which included the following ideas:

- A. UNICAMERAL (ONE HOUSE) legislature
- B. National govt had the power to TAX
- C. A national JUDICIARY (court system)
- D. Created an EXECUTIVE (plural with members selected by congress) branch.



William Patterson

Compromising Toward Our Constitution

9. Who came up with the Connecticut Compromise? ROGER SHERMAN

Also known as THE GREAT COMPROMISE

What was the major change in the compromise?

It established a **BICAMERAL** Legislature -

The House of Representatives based on **POPULATION**

The Senate - **EQUAL** (2 Senators)

It also established EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL Branches



Roger Sherman

Compromising Toward Our Constitution

10. Define **Supremacy Clause** - the clause in the U.S. Constitution establishing the Constitution, federal statutes, and U.S. treaties as the highest form of law in the American legal system, mandating that state judges uphold them even if state laws or constitutions conflict. The “**supreme law of the land**”.

11. The convention place limitations on congress by **enumerating** (listing) the powers of the legislature. They also placed limits on the States - they include:

- A. Prohibits states from printing money/coins
- B. Prohibits states from engaging in diplomacy (treaties with other countries)
- C. Prohibits states from imposing duties (taxes) on imports

Compromising Toward Our Constitution

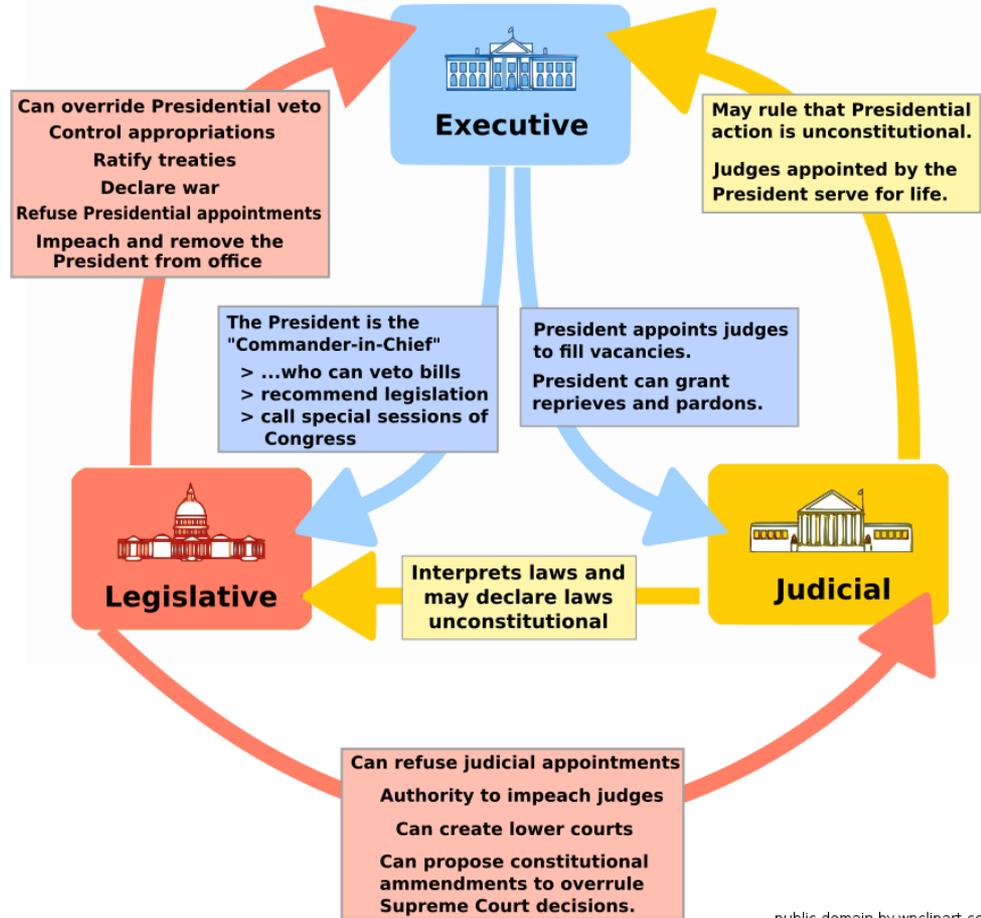
12. Define **Federalism** - Both states and the federal government retain significant powers and responsibilities.

13. What are **Checks and Balances**? Give 2 examples.

A system in which each branch of government is able to check, or control, the actions of the other branches.

1. The president can recommend legislation to congress and also VETO.
2. The Senate can ratify treaties negotiated by the executive branch.

US Government Checks and Balances



Compromising Toward Our Constitution

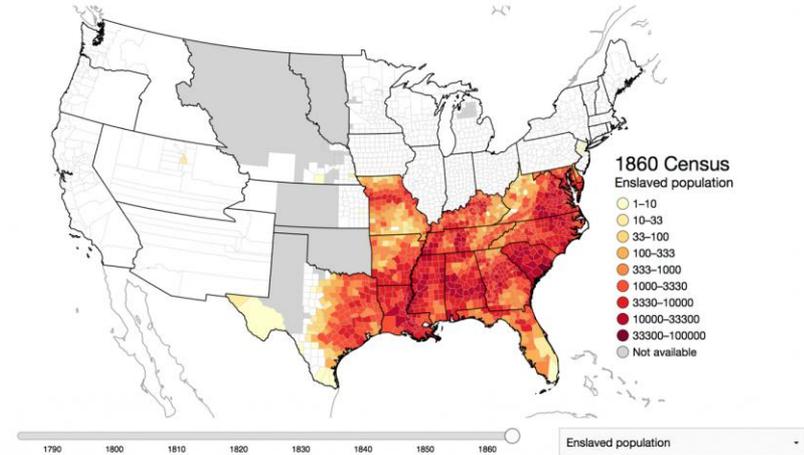
14. Explain the **Three-Fifths Compromise**:

A VERY difficult issue for the delegates to resolve.

Southern (Slave States) wanted to have slaves count as “population” for representation in the legislature.

Northern States disagreed - if slaves are “property” they should not count in population for representation because slaves aren’t treated as equal political citizens.

The Spread of U.S. Slavery, 1790–1860



Compromising Toward Our Constitution

14. Explain the **Three-Fifths Compromise**:
Continued. . .

The compromise counted five (5) slaves as three (3) in representation calculations.

It did FAVOR the South by greatly enhancing its national power.



Compromising Toward Our Constitution



15. How did the Framers address the Slave Trade issue?

The Atlantic slave trade caused more debate in the convention.

It was agreed allow the slave trade to continue until **1808** - then Congress can call for its end. They also included an article requiring the **return of escaped slaves** to their owners.

Compromising Toward Our Constitution

16. Explain what the Judiciary Act of 1789 accomplished.

The details in Article III in the Constitution were not clear.

Congress passed this law to **establish our Supreme Court and other federal district courts.**



Compromising Toward Our Constitution

17. Who recommended a Bill of Rights to be included in the Constitution? Was it added?

George Mason, NO - Not until after the ratification. Some states ratified the Constitution with a condition that a Bill of Rights would be added soon.

18. How many states were needed to

Ratify the Constitution?

Nine states.



The Preamble



Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.