



Government Virtual Learning

12th grade Government

The Constitutional Convention

April 13, 2020



Lesson: April 13, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Learning Target: I can explain how the central debates during the Constitutional Convention were resolved

#1

Warm Up

#2

- Why is it important to *compromise*? If I want to eat mexican food and you want Italian food, where would we go that would be a good *compromise* for us both?

Let's go to the Golden Corral!

Write 1
compromise that
may have been
debated between
the states

- Now think about being the governor of one of the 13 States after the American Revolution, and you need to compromise with other state leaders or delegates. What type of compromises would those men have to make in order to create a new unified government?

Lesson Activity pt. 1



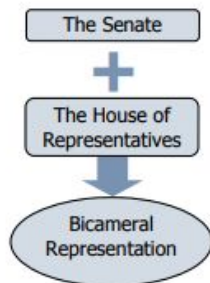
During the American Revolution, the Founding Fathers met to develop a government that would take over as soon as the British left. By 1777 they had created the Articles of Confederation. This was the original plan for the government of the United States – but it only created a loose **alliance**, or group, of separate state powers. After ten years, the Founding Fathers realized that the Articles of Confederation were too weak to work! They didn't give the government the right to collect taxes or regulate trade. The Founders decided they needed to change the Articles of Confederation to produce a stronger central government. They met once again and quickly decided they would need an entirely new document to do the job.

Where Do We Start?

The Founding Fathers wanted a government that had greater authority with the states. They assembled in Philadelphia on May 14, 1787 to work out how this new government would work. They agreed on a **federalist** government, where a central power would oversee *and* share authority with the states. To make sure the federal government did not gain too much power – they created three branches to provide for checks and balances. The legislative would make the laws, the judiciary would interpret the laws, and the executive would enforce the laws. This solved many problems, but one large issue remained- how would the states be represented in this new federal government?



Lesson Activity pt. 2



Moving Forward

At first, the bigger states wanted the population of a state to determine the amount of representation. But the smaller states called foul! The bigger states would end up deciding the laws for everyone. The smaller states suggested that each state have an equal number of representatives. But that would end up giving smaller states too much power. Finally delegates from Connecticut submitted a solution – why not have two houses make up the legislative branch? The Senate would have an equal number of representatives from each state. Representation in the House of Representatives would be based on the state's population. This model is called **bicameral representation** and helped the delegates find a compromise.

Wrapping Up

Between May and September, the delegates compromised on many issues in order to unite and build a strong national government. They decided the office of the executive would consist of one person and that the national government would have the power to tax and regulate trade between the states. These decisions determined that the new federal government would have more authority than before. There were still several delegates that disagreed with the way the federal and state governments would share power. These delegates' concerns would be addressed when the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1789.



Looking Ahead

Once the new Constitution was signed, many saw a bright future ahead for the United States. The document guarantees a government with three branches based on a system of checks and balances. The delegates of the Convention successfully created a government that addressed the needs of small and large states alike, while providing for a federal government that would tie them together.



Independence Hall,
Philadelphia

Lesson Activity pt. 3

Let's fix it! The Founding Fathers gathered to fix the Articles of Confederation which left the United States weak and broke! Draw a line to match the weakness found in the Articles with the solutions proposed in the Constitution.

The Articles of Confederation

A loose alliance of separate powers.

The states had all the power.

All states had one vote—regardless of size.

No executive office to enforce laws.

Only states could collect and use taxes.

The Constitution

The federal government would consist of three branches; the executive, legislative, and judicial.

The national government has the power to tax.

A federalist government where a central power would share authority with the states.

A strong national government unifying the states.

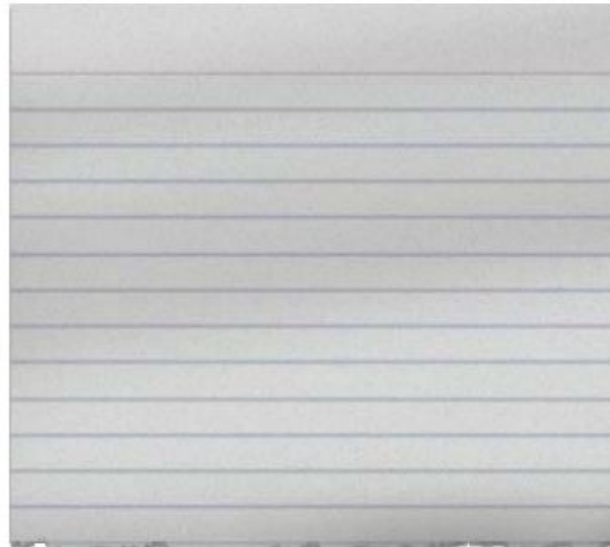
A bicameral legislature made of the House and Senate.

Practice 1

Just Strong Enough. The Founding Fathers wanted to build a stronger federal government but they made sure it would never become *too* powerful. Read each item and determine if it was meant to strengthen the central government (write the letter "S") or if it was meant to limit the central government, (write the letter "L").

- ___ 1. The Bill of Rights guarantee that the government will protect the rights of individuals and states.
- ___ 2. The federal government will be divided into three branches to provide checks and balances.
- ___ 3. A federal government guarantees that the central power will oversee and share power with the states.
- ___ 4. Bicameral representation will guarantee that neither the small states nor large states end up with too much power in the legislative branch.
- ___ 5. The federal government will have the power to coin money and regulate trade.
- ___ 6. The Executive office of the federal government will consist of one person, the president.

What do you see? Through out the Convention, Washington sat in a chair that had half of a sun carved into the back. At the signing of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun." What do you think he meant by this?



Reflection

PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

The people establish government and are the source of its power.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Government powers are restricted to protect individual rights.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

The power to govern is divided among executive, legislative, and judicial branches to prevent the concentration and abuse of power by any one branch.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Each branch of government has the authority to check, or restrain, some powers of the other two branches.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

The judiciary has the power to strike down laws and other government actions as invalid under the Constitution.

FEDERALISM

The rights of the states are protected by dividing powers between the national government and the state governments.

Looking at the list of principles of the constitution on the left, which principle was introduced at the convention that allowed states to keep power but also enabled the central government more power to rule?

States and National Government both have power to govern =