



ISD Virtual Learning

Government

April 14, 2020



Sociology

Lesson: April 14, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Evaluate the decision of the “compromise” known as the ⅓ Compromise.

Warm Up

Today we will be trying to answer the question “**Was it necessary to create the US Constitution?**”. Let’s start generating some brainstorming by answering some OPINION true or false questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions.

1. Everyone should follow the Constitution all the time even if it disagrees with their morals.
2. The Constitution is still applicable hundreds of years later.
3. We should rewrite the Constitution to meet up with modern problems (i.e. the internet).
4. People would be kind to one another and respect each other even without laws.

Learn Activity

If you need to review the Constitutional Convention, please watch the video to the right.

Take notes on what disagreements led to **COMPROMISES**.



Practice

Despite gaining independence, the United States had several problems. Unfortunately, the national government under the Articles of Confederation seemed to weak to govern. There were commercial disputes between states, Congress lacked the power to levy and collect taxes to pay for national expenses, and Shay's Rebellion was linked to the AoC with the government not able to pay their debts.

Directions: On the following slides are documents. Using the information in the documents provided (and questions included) and your knowledge, write a short summary that includes 2 ARGUMENTS and EVIDENCE from the sources that answers the question:

**Was it necessary to create the US
Constitution?**

Document 1

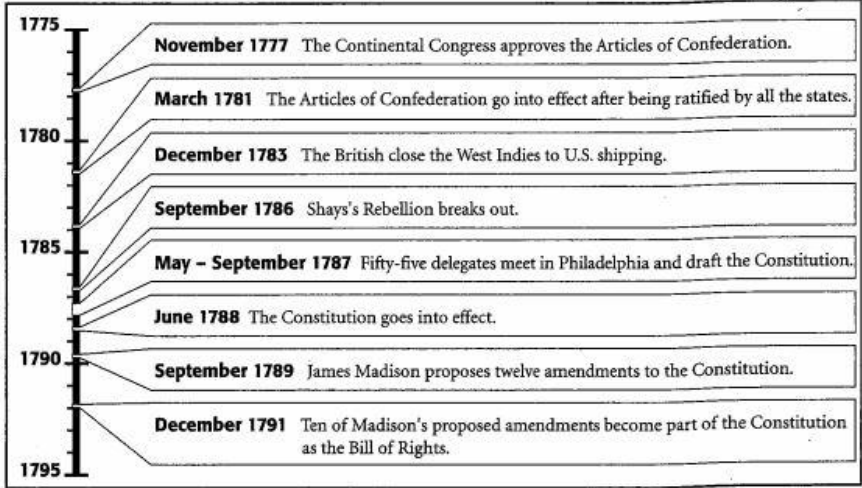
AMERICAN EXPERIMENTS IN SELF GOVERNMENT



Guiding Questions:

1. What ongoing event led to the adoption of the Articles of Confederation? When did the Articles of Confederation go into effect?
2. How many years was the US governed by the AoC?

AMERICAN EXPERIMENTS IN SELF GOVERNMENT



Guiding Questions: **ANSWERS**

1. What ongoing event led to the adoption of the Articles of Confederation? When did the Articles of Confederation go into effect?
a. After the Revolutionary War in which the US gained independence from Great Britain, the US needed a way to govern and move forward. The AoC went into effect in 1781.
2. How many years was the US governed by the AoC?
a. 7 years

Document 2

We have probably had too good an opinion of human nature in forming our confederation. Experience has taught us, that men will not adopt and carry into execution, measures the best calculated for their own good without the intervention of a coercive power. I do not conceive we can exist long as a nation without having lodged somewhere a power which will pervade the whole Union in as energetic a manner, as the authority of the different state governments extend over the several States. To be fearful of vesting Congress, constituted as that body is, with ample authorities for national purposes, appears to me the very climax of popular absurdity and madness. . . .

What astonishing changes a few years are capable of producing! I am told that even respectable characters speak of a monarchical form of government without horror. From thinking proceeds speaking, thence to acting is often but a single step. But how irrevocable and tremendous! What a triumph for the advocates of despotism to find that we are incapable of governing ourselves, and that systems founded on the basis of equal liberty are merely ideal and fallacious!

—George Washington (August 15, 1786)

Guiding Questions:

1. What does Washington argue is the problem with national government under the Articles of Confederation? In his opinion, what must be done to fix this?
2. According to Washington, what must be taken into account when forming a gov?

We have probably had too good an opinion of human nature in forming our confederation. Experience has taught us, that men will not adopt and carry into execution, measures the best calculated for their own good without the intervention of a coercive power. I do not conceive we can exist long as a nation without having lodged somewhere a power which will pervade the whole Union in as energetic a manner, as the authority of the different state governments extend over the several States. To be fearful of vesting Congress, constituted as that body is, with ample authorities for national purposes, appears to me the very climax of popular absurdity and madness. . . .

What astonishing changes a few years are capable of producing! I am told that even respectable characters speak of a monarchical form of government without horror. From thinking proceeds speaking, thence to acting is often but a single step. But how irrevocable and tremendous! What a triumph for the advocates of despotism to find that we are incapable of governing ourselves, and that systems founded on the basis of equal liberty are merely ideal and fallacious!

—George Washington (August 15, 1786)

Guiding Questions: **(Answers)**

1. What does Washington argue is the problem with national government under the Articles of Confederation? In his opinion, what must be done to fix this?
 - a. **Different states have their own rules and it is very confusing as to follow which law should be followed. We need to be a cohesive nation.**
2. According to Washington, what must be taken into account when forming a gov?
 - a. **We don't need another monarchy! We need people to feel equal liberty.**

Document 3

Resolution of Congress

February 21, 1787

Whereas there is provision in the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union for making alterations therein by the Assent of a Congress of the United States and of the legislatures of the several States; And whereas experience hath evinced (shown) that there are defects in the present Confederation, as a means to remedy which several of the States and particularly the State of New York by express instruction to their delegates in Congress have suggested a convention for the purposes expressed in the following resolution and such Convention appearing to be the most probable means of establishing in these states a firm national government.

Resolved that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a Convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several states be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the states render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and the preservation of the Union.

Guiding Questions:

1. What is the purpose of the convention to be held in Philadelphia in May 1787?
2. Why is a convention necessary? What demonstrates that such a convention is necessary?

Resolution of Congress

February 21, 1787

Whereas there is provision in the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union for making alterations therein by the Assent of a Congress of the United States and of the legislatures of the several States; And whereas experience hath evinced (shown) that there are defects in the present Confederation, as a means to remedy which several of the States and particularly the State of New York by express instruction to their delegates in Congress have suggested a convention for the purposes expressed in the following resolution and such Convention appearing to be the most probable means of establishing in these states a firm national government.

Resolved that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a Convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several states be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the states render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and the preservation of the Union.

Guiding Questions: **Answers**

1. What is the purpose of the convention to be held in Philadelphia in May 1787?
 - a. **Fix defects in the present Confederation (fix problems)**
2. Why is a convention necessary? What demonstrates that such a convention is necessary?
 - a. **It is necessary for every state to be present and to have a say in the new government so that everyone is in agreement and it sticks.**

Document 4

We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

—Preamble to the Constitution
of the United States

Guiding Questions:

1. According to the Preamble, what is the origin of political power?
2. Why was the Constitution written, according to the Preamble?

Document 4

We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

—Preamble to the Constitution
of the United States

Guiding Questions: Answers

1. According to the Preamble, what is the origin of political power?
 - a. **The PEOPLE**
2. Why was the Constitution written, according to the Preamble?
 - a. **The Preamble was written to clearly outline the goals of the Constitution and to hold everyone accountable for the mission of the United States. We can point back to the Preamble and say that it should guide what we do in government.**

Document 8

(T)he great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department (of government), consists in giving to those who administer each department, the necessary constitutional means, and personal motives, to resist encroachments of the others. The provision for defence must in this, as in all cases, be made commensurate (equal) to the danger of attack. Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place. It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary should be necessary to controul the abuses of government. But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections of human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. . . . In framing a government to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to controul the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to controul itself. A dependence on the people is no doubt the primary controul of government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.

—“Publius” (James Madison), *The Federalist No. 51*
(February 5, 1788)

***note: we are skipping some documents, so this is doc 8!*

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the two Constitutional principles that Madison is referring to in the passage to the left?
2. Why is it necessary for the Constitution to create “auxiliary precautions” against the concentration of power?

(T)he great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department (of government), consists in giving to those who administer each department, the necessary constitutional means, and personal motives, to resist encroachments of the others. The provision for defence must in this, as in all cases, be made commensurate (equal) to the danger of attack. Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place. It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary should be necessary to controul the abuses of government. But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections of human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. . . . In framing a government to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to controul the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to controul itself. A dependence on the people is no doubt the primary controul of government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.

—“Publius” (James Madison), *The Federalist No. 51*
(February 5, 1788)

Guiding Questions: **ANSWERS**

1. What are the two Constitutional principles that Madison is referring to in the passage to the left?
 - a. **Checks and Balances “devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government” and Separation of Powers “If men were angels, no government would be necessary”**
2. Why is it necessary for the Constitution to create “auxiliary precautions” against the concentration of power?
 - a. **Because people can make bad decisions and they may get too power hungry if there are not precautions**

Now...

Using the information in the documents provided (and questions included) and your knowledge, write a short summary that includes 2 ARGUMENTS and EVIDENCE from the sources that answers the question:

Was it necessary to create the US Constitution?

Steps to writing:

1. Decide, was it necessary to create the US Constitution or not?
2. List three reasons from the documents you looked at to support your answer to question one. (can quote)
3. Write a thesis to answer the question to left.
4. Write out 4-5 sentences that incorporate your evidence.