

U.S. HISTORY STUDY GUIDE

CREATING THE CONSTITUTION, 1781-1789

GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (YOUR OBJECTIVES FOR THIS CHAPTER):

SSUSH5 Investigate specific events and key ideas that brought about the adoption and implementation of the United States Constitution.

- Examine the strengths of the Articles of Confederation, including but not limited to the Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and their influence on westward migration, slavery, public education, and the addition of new states.
- Evaluate how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and Daniel Shays' Rebellion led to a call for a stronger central government.
- Explain the key features of the Constitution, including the Great Compromise, limited government, and the Three-Fifths Compromise.
- Evaluate the major arguments of the Anti-Federalists and Federalists during the debate on ratification of the Constitution, The Federalist Papers, and the roles of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.
- Explain how objections to the ratification of the Constitution were addressed in the Bill of Rights.

KEY TERMS: Define in meaningful terms

Alexander Hamilton a prominent Federalist and one of the authors of the Federalist essays

Antifederalists those who opposed ratification of the Constitution

Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union a plan adopted in 1777 for a loose union of the states under the authority of Congress

bicameral legislature a lawmaking body with two houses

Bill of Rights the first ten Amendments to the Constitution including written lists of freedoms guaranteed to citizens by government

checks and balances a system designed to prevent any one of the three branches from becoming too powerful

electoral college group of people chosen from each state to indirectly elect the President and Vice President

federal national

federalism a system of government in which government power is divided between the federal (national) government and the state governments

Federalists those who supported ratification of the Constitution

Great (or Connecticut) Compromise a compromise that solved the problem of representation in Congress by creating one legislative house based on population and another house with two members per state

James Madison a prominent Federalist and one of the authors of the Federalist essays

John Dickinson leader and contributor to the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

John Hancock a prominent Antifederalist

John Jay a prominent Federalist and one of the authors of the Federalist essays

Land Ordinance of 1785 law which designed a system for managing and settling lands in the Northwest Territory

limited government principle that the government has only as much power as the people give it

New Jersey Plan proposal for a unicameral legislature with each state having one vote

Northwest Ordinance of 1787 law which provided a basis for governing the Northwest Territory

Northwest Territory vast region north of the Ohio River and west of Pennsylvania to the Mississippi River

Patrick Henry a prominent Antifederalist

popular sovereignty rule by the people

ratification official approval

republic form of government in which officials are elected by the people

Samuel Adams a prominent Antifederalist

separation of powers a term for dividing powers of government among branches

Shays' Rebellion a rebellion against the state government of Massachusetts by farmers protesting taxes and foreclosures

The Constitution of the United States document that replaced the Articles of Confederation as the basis for the U.S. government

The Federalist 85 essays that explained and defended the Constitution

Three-fifths Compromise a compromise that solved the problem of how enslaved people were to be counted in determining taxation and representation in Congress

unicameral legislature a lawmaking body with a single house

Virginia Plan proposal for a bicameral legislature with representation based on population

KEY IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

- Problems with the Articles of Confederation that drove the Framers to write the U.S. Constitution
 - The central government did not have the power to tax.
 - Congress had no power to control or regulate interstate commerce or foreign trade.
 - Each state had one vote in Congress, no matter the size of its population.
 - A 2/3 majority was required to pass laws.
 - Amendment of the Articles required unanimous consent of the states.
 - The central government did not have the power to enter into treaties.
 - No executive or judicial branches

- Major Principles of Government in the U.S. Constitution:
 1. Popular Sovereignty
 2. Republicanism
 3. Limited Government
 4. Federalism
 5. Separation of Powers
 6. Checks and Balances
 7. Individual Rights
- Organization and sections of the United States Constitution:
 - Preamble
 - Article I: legislative branch
 - Article II: executive branch
 - Article III: judicial branch
 - Article IV: relations between the States
 - Article V: the amendment process
 - Article VI: constitutional supremacy
 - Article VII: ratification process
 - Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10)
 - Other Amendments
- Key features of the United States Constitution (drafted 1787; government into effect in 1789):
 - legislative processes
 - state representation
 - election of government officials
 - checks and balances
 - separation of powers
 - limitation of powers
 - revenue and taxation
 - pay and privileges of government officials
 - terms of office
 - international relations: treaty making and declaration of war
 - executive orders
 - court jurisdiction
 - territories and new states

SAMPLE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Explain the provisions of the following:

1. Great (or Connecticut) Compromise: _____

2. Three-fifths Compromise _____

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Contrast the viewpoints of Federalists and Antifederalists regarding ratification of the Constitution.
2. Discuss how Shays' Rebellion highlighted the need for a stronger national government.
3. During the debates at the Constitutional Convention, in what ways were the states divided geographically?
4. Explain the factors that worked against the Antifederalists in the debate over ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
5. Discuss the concept of separation of powers. Where did it come from, and how is it practiced in our government as prescribed by the U.S. Constitution?
6. Discuss the checks and balances each of the branches of government have on each other as set forth in the Constitution.
7. What is the Bill of Rights, why was it created, and for what did it provide?