

Bellwork – 11/3/2017

1. Which of the following might have caused people to oppose the Articles of Confederation?

- A. Congress had the power to collect taxes**
- B. Congress could not pay the soldiers who fought in the revolutionary war**
- C. Congress controlled trade between the states**
- D. Congress granted too much power to the executive branch**

2. Which duty of citizenship is critical to support government services?

- A. Obeying the law**
- B. Serving on a jury**
- C. Serving in the military**
- D. Paying taxes**



TURN IN CURRENT EVENTS!

Constitution

and

Constitutional

Convention

of 1787



In the spring of 1787...

- 55 delegates traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - A delegate is someone chosen to speak for others.
 - Delegates came from every state except Rhode Island.
 - Delegates were business people, landowners, and lawyers.
 - Most were wealthy and educated.
 - Many had served in Congress or state government.
 - No women, African Americans, American Indians, or men who were not landowners took part in the convention.
- They met to discuss how to change the
Articles of Confederation.
- This meeting is now known as the
Constitutional Convention!



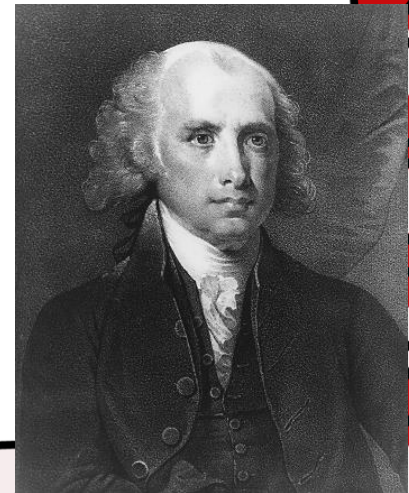
Why Change?...

- The **Articles of Confederation** did not give Congress enough power.
- Some delegates wanted a **federal** system.
 - In a federal system, the states and central government share power, but the central government has more power than the states.

The Virginia Plan

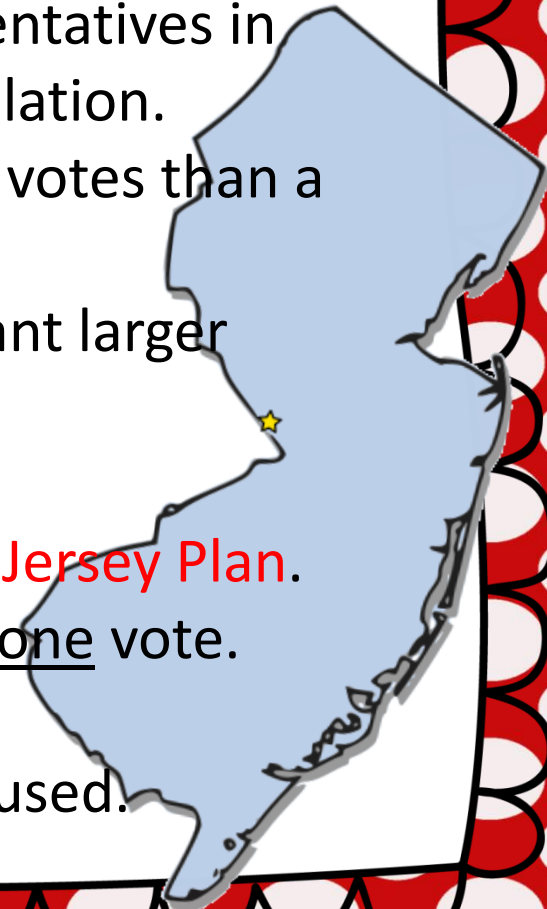
James Madison

- Believed a **republic** was the only type of government that could keep people's rights while still keeping order and peace
 - In a republic, citizens elect leaders to represent them.
- James Madison came up with a plan for the government called the **Virginia Plan**
- Under the Virginia Plan, the government would be split into three parts (or branches)
 - Congress – would make laws
 - Another branch would carry out these laws
 - Another branch would settle legal arguments



The New Jersey Plan

- Delegates accepted most of the Virginia Plan, but did not like one part.
- Madison wanted the number of state representatives in Congress to be based off of each state's population.
- This meant that a large state would get more votes than a smaller state.
- Smaller states did not like this because it meant larger states had more power.
- Delegates from small states created the **New Jersey Plan**.
- In the New Jersey Plan, each state would get one vote.
- Delegates argued over which plan should be used.



The Great Compromise

- **Roger Sherman**, a delegate from Connecticut, came up with a solution.
- He suggested that Congress be divided into two parts called houses.
 - **The Senate** – each state would have an equal amount of representatives
 - **The House of Representatives** – number of representatives would depend on the state's population
- Sherman's idea was called
The Great Compromise.

Slavery

- At the Constitutional Convention, delegates also argued over the issue of **slavery**.
 - Southern delegates wanted slaves to count towards their population count because they would then have more representatives in Congress.
 - Other delegates thought this was an unfair advantage, especially because slaves were treated like property rather than citizens.
- Some delegates also argued to stop the practice of slavery in the United States.
 - Southern delegates said they would not agree to the new government unless they were allowed to continue the practice of slavery.

The three-fifths Rule

- To settle the issue of slaves being a part of a state's population, the **Three-Fifths Rule** was made.
 - This meant that every **5** slaves would be counted as **3** free people.
- It was also agreed that the slave trade would continue until 1808.

5 slaves = **3** free people



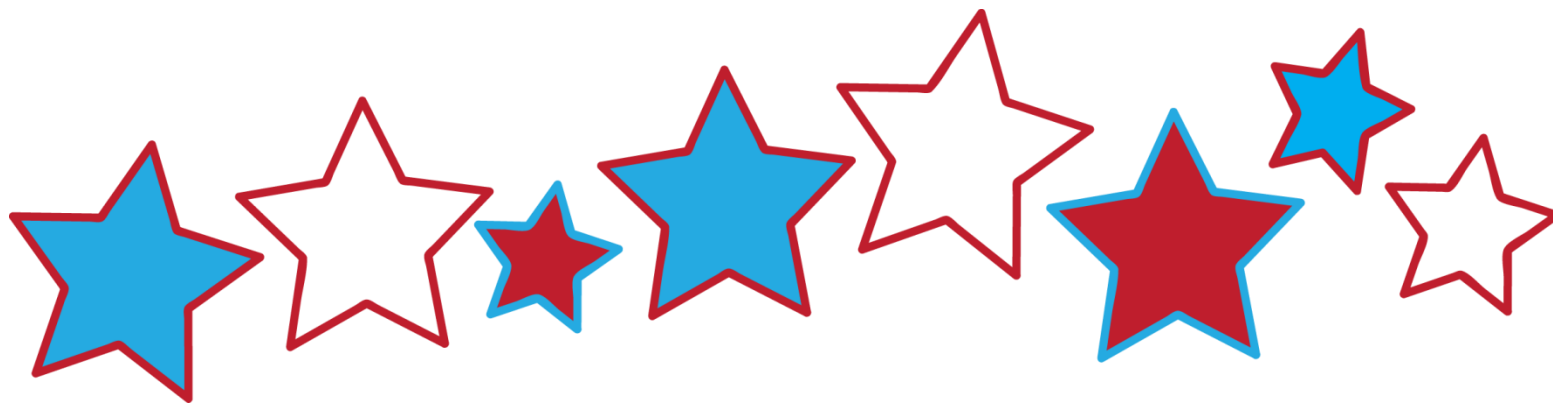
Ratifying the constitution

- The **Constitution of the United States** was signed on September 17, 1787.
 - It was based on James Madison's Virginia Plan.
- Before the Constitution could be used, it needed to be **ratified** by at least nine states.
 - To ratify something means to accept it.



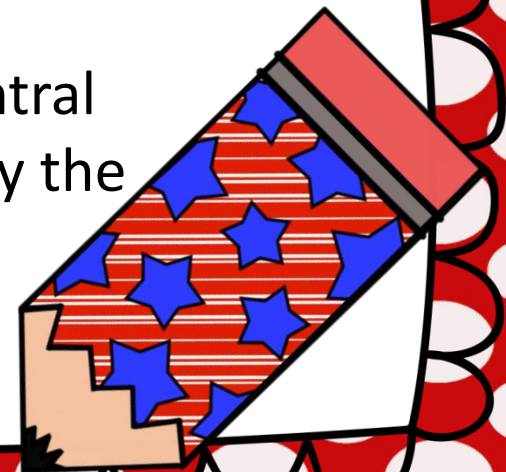
federalists

- Supporters of the Constitution
- They had to teach the public about the Constitution because people were shocked that instead of making changes to the Articles of Confederation, an entirely new government plan was made.



The Federalist

- To help teach the people about the Constitution, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote a series of essays called *The Federalist*.
- These essays helped explain how the system would work and why it was so important for the new nation to have a federal system.
- *The Federalist* essays emphasized a strong central government and how one would be created by the Constitution.



Antifederalists

- People who were against the Constitution were called *Antifederalists*.
- They felt that a strong central government was a threat to their liberty.
- They were concerned that the Constitution had no Bill of Rights.
 - The Bill of Rights listed the rights of individuals.

Ratifying the constitution

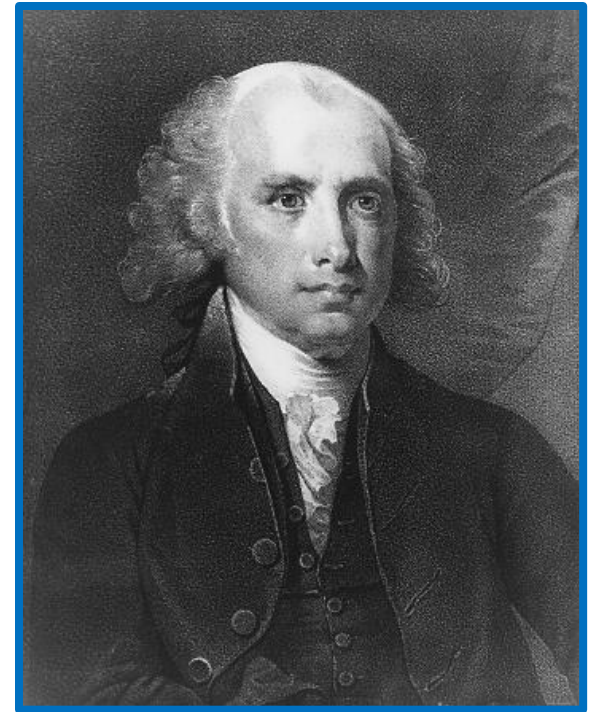
- State representatives each met in their own meetings.
- Delaware was the first to ratify, or accept, the Constitution.
- In June 1788, New Hampshire was the ninth state to ratify the Constitution.
 - Remember, nine states needed to ratify the Constitution before it could be used.
- In the end, all 13 states ratified the Constitution.



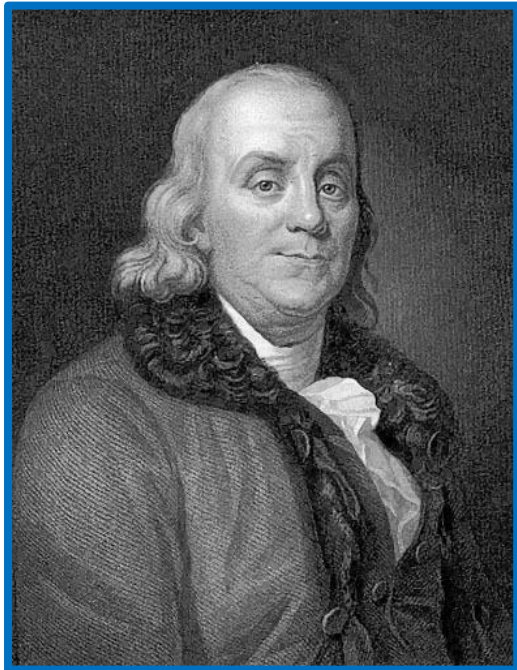
Important People

James Madison

- Delegate from Virginia
- Member of Congress
- Wanted to do more than change the Articles of Confederation
- Had a plan for the new government, called the Virginia Plan.
- Wrote essays called *The Federalist* to help people better understand the Constitution.



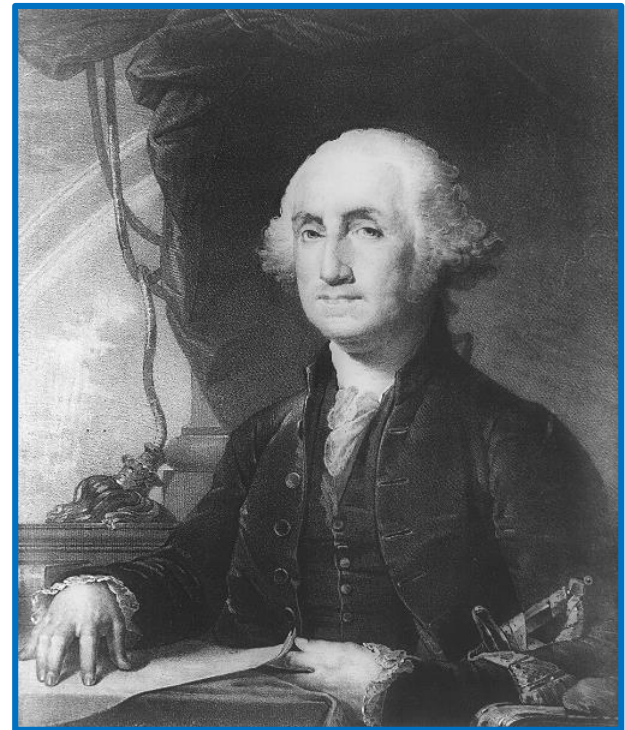
Benjamin Franklin



- Delegate from Pennsylvania
- Felt executive power was too big to be placed in the hands of one person
- Felt a committee would be better
- Helped delegates reach a compromise at the Constitutional Convention on many different topics

George Washington

- Delegate from Virginia
- President of the Convention
 - Voted by delegates
- Favored a strong central government
- Was elected as the First President of the United States



Roger Sherman

- Delegate from Connecticut
- Suggested dividing Congress into two parts, called houses.
- Sherman's suggestion became known as the Great Compromise.



Summary

- Delegates met to discuss **Articles of Confederation** in 1787.
- Instead, they wrote the **Constitution**, which was a new plan for the government.
- It was based on James Madison's **Virginia Plan**.
- Delegates made several compromises before agreeing on a plan.
- After **Federalists and Antifederalists** disagreed and argued, the **Constitution** was ratified in June of 1788.



Why it matters...

The Constitutional Convention
created the government in
which the United States still has
today!