

Summer of 1787: The Convention

Mission: The young nation is falling apart under the Articles of Confederation. As a delegate, help write a new plan of government. Keep BOTH large and small states on board, build a strong nation, and protect liberty. Every choice is a trade-off!

Big question: Why was the Constitution written, and how did compromise shape our government?

★ Warm-up: Class compromise

Big group vs. small group: how do you decide?

Big group wants votes by headcount ✓ **Bigger group wins every time.**

Small group wants one vote per group ✓ **Small group has equal power.**

Key vocabulary

Articles of Confederation	The first U.S. plan of government, which was too weak.
Compromise	Each side gives up something to reach an agreement.
Ratify	To formally approve.
Federalist / Anti-Federalist	Supporters / opponents of the new Constitution.

1 Box 1

Write the Constitution

In the simulator: Make all 5 decisions.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

The compromise

Which decision raised BOTH the large-state and small-state meters?

☐ The Great Compromise ☐ Population-only representation ☐ A leader for life

✓ **The Great Compromise**

3 Box 3

Weak Articles

What were problems with the Articles of Confederation? Choose all.

Choose all that apply.

☐ Congress couldn't collect taxes ☐ No national army ☐ The President had too much power

☐ States acted like separate countries

✓ **Congress couldn't collect taxes; No national army; States acted like separate countries**

Why a Bill of Rights?

Why did the promise of a Bill of Rights raise the ❤️ meter?

☐ It protects individuals from government abuse ☐ It gave states more money ☐ It made the President stronger

✓ **It protects individuals from government abuse**

4 Box 4

The power of compromise

Explain how compromise made the Constitution possible. Use two examples.

Example 1

Look for: Explains the Great Compromise; at least 12 words

Example 2

Look for: Names another compromise or decision; at least 12 words

Conclusion

Look for: at least 10 words

5 Box 5

Legend: compromise today Legend only

Describe a disagreement in your school or community and propose a compromise modeled on the Great Compromise.

Look for: at least 30 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

Why was the Constitution written, and how did compromise shape our government?

Look for: The Articles of Confederation created a weak government, so delegates wrote the Constitution in 1787. Compromises like the Great Compromise (House by population, Senate with equal votes), a President with limited terms, checks and balances, and the promise of a Bill of Rights made agreement possible.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	12D-E
 Investigator	1AK-I
 Legend	TW6-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "The President is the boss of the whole government." The three branches are equal and check each other.

- "The Bill of Rights gives people rights." It protects rights people already have from government interference.
- "Freedom of speech means you can say anything anywhere with no consequences." It limits government, not every consequence.