

 Summer of 1787: The Convention

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

My level: ☐  Explorer ☐  Investigator ☐  Legend

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

Small group wants one vote per group

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.

 Box 1

Write the Constitution

In the simulator: Make all 5 decisions.

What did you notice?

 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

 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

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

4 Box 4

The power of compromise

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

Example 1

Example 2

Conclusion Start: "Without compromise,..."

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.

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

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

Completion code:

Shown on the last screen of the simulator.