

Creating Constitutions: Things to Know

Why did each of the 13 states create its own constitution? What did these say?

When were the Articles of Confederation written? Who wrote them?

What was the central (national) government under the Articles of Confederation like? Why?

List weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. What conflicts arose because of these weaknesses?

Shay's Rebellion - Who was involved? Why were they angry?

Land Ordinance of 1785 - What was it? What did it do?

Northwest Ordinance of 1787 - What was it? What three things did it do?

The U.S. Constitution:

What ideas ("Constitutional Principles") were important to the men writing it? Why? When was it written? Who wrote it?

What was the Virginia plan? Which kind of states liked this plan? Why?

What was the New Jersey plan? Which kind of states liked this plan? Why?

What was the Great Compromise? Who came up with it?

How did the north feel about counting slaves as people? For taxes? Why?

How did the south feel about counting slaves as people? For taxes? Why?

What was the Three-Fifths Compromise?

What compromise did the north and south make about the slave trade?

Some people thought the president should be elected directly by the people? Why?

Some people thought direct election of the president would create problems. Why (at least two reasons)?

Some people thought the national or state congresses should elect the president. Why?

What is the electoral college? How does it work? How was it a compromise between groups?

What was the Federalist position on the Constitution?

What was the Antifederalist position on the Constitution?

How and when did the Constitution go into effect? (Think: ratification)

Vocabulary:

ratify, republic, compromise, constitution (lower case c), tyranny, bicameral, federalism/federal