

America's Fight for Independence

From Confederation to Republic 1777-1791

Students are expected to know the events listed below and all the important people who played a role in shaping the event. Subtopics A-E will be covered in Round One and Subtopics F-I will be covered in Round Two.

Round One-From a Shaky Start to.....

- A. The Articles of Confederation
 - 1. The creation of the Confederation
 - 2. Ratification process

- B. The Strengths of the Confederation government
 - 1. Land Ordinance of 1785
 - 2. Northwest Ordinance
 - 3. States working together

- C. The Weaknesses of the Confederation government
 - 1. The Power to tax
 - 2. The Power to regulate commerce
 - 3. No federal court system

- D. **Jr/Sr Only** Comparison between Articles of Confederation and Constitution
 - 1. Provisions of Articles retained in Constitution (i.e., full faith and credit clause, extradition, etc.)
 - 2. Provisions of Articles rejected by Constitution (i.e., term limits, state militia quotas, etc.)

- E. The Road to Philadelphia
 - 1. Annapolis Convention
 - 2. Shays's Rebellion

Round Two-A Firm League of Friendship

F. Influences on the Drafters of the Constitution.

a. Documents

1. Magna Carta
2. 1689 English Bill of Rights

b. State constitutions

Jr/Sr Only - Other Influences on the Framers

c. Foreign Thinkers

1. John Locke-*Two Treatises of Government*
2. Montesquieu-*The Spirit of Law*
3. Rousseau-*The Social Contract*

G. Toward a More Perfect Union -The Philadelphia Meeting/Constitutional Convention May-Sept, 1787

1. The Constitutional Convention- General facts-who, what, when, and where.

2. These eight delegates, James Madison, Edmund Randolph, William Paterson, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, John Dickinson, Robert Morris and Roger Sherman

- a. Their previous political experiences
- b. Contributions to the Constitution.

H. The Great Debates and Compromises

1. Representation in the Legislative Branch

- a. Virginia Plan
- b. New Jersey Plan
- c. Connecticut Compromise

2. Who Counts for Representation and Direct Taxes

- a. Northern Plan
- b. Southern Plan
- c. 3/5th Compromise

3. Separation of Powers

- a. Virginia Plan
- b. New Jersey Plan
- c. Three Branches Compromise

4. Election of President
 - a. Sherman/Dickinson/Martin Plan
 - b. Wilson/Morris/Madison/Hamilton Plan
 - c. Electoral College Compromise

- I. The Clash of the Titans
 1. Ratification of the Constitution
 - a. Federalists vs. Anti-federalists – Federalist Papers 10, 51 & 78
 - b. Compromise of the Bill of Rights
 - (1) Rights protected by the first ten Amendments
 - (2) **Jr/Sr Only** - Influences on the drafters of the Bill of Rights
 - (a) Reaction to British treatment of colonists
 - (b) Magna Carta
 - (c) 1689 English Bill of Rights
 - (d) 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights