WHAT WAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

Watch this History Channel Video then answer the question above!

THE GREAT COMPROMISE:
One of the first issues to be resolved was representation to the new government. The Articles of Confederation had allowed each state equal representation and equal say, despite size or population and this did not sit well with the largest states (Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania). The smaller states feared losing say in the federal government and so continued to support equality in representation.

**New Jersey Plan:**
- One house legislature (unicameral)
- Equal representation in Congress
- Supported by smaller states who feared losing power in federal the federal government

**Virginia Plan:**
- Two house legislature (bicameral)
- Representation to Congress based on population
- Supported by larger states

**THE GREAT COMPROMISE:**
- Two house legislature (bicameral)
- Equal representation in the upper house of Congress (Senate)
- Representation in the lower house of Congress (House of Representatives) to be proportional to population

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

IS THIS STILL IN EFFECT TODAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?
THE 3/5ths COMPROMISE:
A fundamental economic and social division began to erupt over the issue of slavery. The southern, agriculturally based states relied heavily on slavery and slaves constituted a significant portion of their populations. The northern states opposed counting slaves for representation in government because they were not citizens and their population could easily be increased, tipping control of the federal legislature to the southern states.

**Southern States:**
- Wanted slaves counted as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- Opposed counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation.

**Northern States:**
- Opposed counting slaves as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- Favored counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation.

**THE 3/5ths COMPROMISE:**
- 3/5ths of slaves counted as population in determining representation to the House of Representatives.
- 3/5ths of slaves would be counted for the purpose of determining taxation.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

IS THIS STILL IN EFFECT TODAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?
COMPROMISES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REVIEW

USE THESE FLASHCARDS FOR HELP!

THE PRESIDENCY COMPROMISE:
Nearly all of the delegates could agree on the need for a president, to serve as a central figure and executive of the new nation. The disagreement arose over the power and service of such an office. Some delegates, fearing the rise of king-like president advocated for a weak official, who would be limited to a single one-year term. Others argued the need for a powerful figure who would be elected, but serve for life. Debates also raged about how best to elect the president and what role the people of the nation should serve in his selection.

State's Rights Supporters:
- Wanted state legislatures to elect the president
- Favored a shorter presidential term
- Favored limits on number of terms served

Federal Power Supporters:
- Wanted direct election of president by qualified voters
- Favored a longer term of service
- Favored no limits on number of terms

PRESIDENCY COMPROMISE:
→ Indirect election of the president by the Electoral College
→ 4 year terms of service
→ No limits on number of terms**

**Presidential terms would be limited to two by the 22nd amendment in 1951

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

IS THIS STILL IN EFFECT TODAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?
Remember ratify means to pass!

RATIFICATION DEBATES:
Immediately following the Constitutional Convention the delegates to Philadelphia brought the newly crafted Constitution to their home states for ratification (or approval). Most states held special ratification conventions, with elected officials representing counties or regions throughout the state. The New York ratifying convention was held in the city of Poughkeepsie.

While many of the smaller states quickly ratified the new Constitution, the debate in the two largest and most important states, New York and Virginia, raged on for months. The debate in New York was particularly divisive. The Constitutional supporters, the Federalists, took the debate into the public forum of the press, publishing a series of pro-ratification essays collectively known as the Federalist Papers. While the Federalist Papers were simply signed "Publius" they were the work of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay and they still stand today as some of the greatest commentary on the meaning and intent of the Constitution's chief authors.

The Anti-Federalist opposition to ratification was strong and while all of the states eventually accepted the new government, states such as Virginia and Massachusetts did so only after attaching recommendations concerning the addition of a Bill of Rights. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were added soon after ratification and became the U.S. Bill of Rights and stand as the Anti-Federalists greatest contribution to the Constitution they so opposed.

Federalists:
- Favored ratification of the Constitution
- Favored a powerful federal government
- Argued a Bill of Rights was not needed, as federal power was limited
- “The Federalist Papers”

V.

Anti-Federalists:
- Opposed ratification of the Constitution
- Wanted a weak federal government that would not threaten states rights
- Wanted a Bill of Rights to declare and protect the rights of the people

RATIFICATION:
- Federalists promise addition of a Bill of Rights
- Ratification succeeded, new government formed 1789
- James Madison drafts 10 amendments to the Constitution, these become the U.S. Bill of Rights
EXTRA COMPROMISES - YOU DON’T NEED TO KNOW THIS FOR THE TEST, BUT IT IS INTERESTING AND RELATES TO THE ISSUE OF SLAVERY

THE TRADE (COMMERCE) COMPROMISE:
Again a regional disagreement arose, in this case over the issue of trade and its regulation. The northern, more industrial states saw the regulation of trade by the federal government as essential to the smooth working of a national economy. The southern states feared regulation of trade would not only threaten the sale of slaves, but also the essential export of their agricultural products (chiefly cotton and tobacco).

**Southern States:**
- Favored state control over the regulation of all trade
- Feared a federal ban on the slave trade
- Feared a federal duty on agricultural exports

**Northern States:**
- Favored federal regulation of all trade
- Wanted the federal government to have the power to collect duties and tariffs

**THE TRADE COMPROMISE:**
- Federal regulation of interstate (between states) and international trade
- State regulation of intrastate (within a state) trade
- No export duties to be passed for 20 years
- No ban on the slave trade for 20 years