

Creating the Constitution

What is the proper role of a national government?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Articles of Confederation	Constitution of the United States
Constitutional Convention	Great Compromise
Northwest Ordinance	Electoral College

PREVIEW

In *anarchy*, there are no rules. Individuals can do as they please, but there is no system of government to protect them from the actions of others.

In a *monarchy*, one individual holds most of the political power. The monarch can promote stability, but this is done at the expense of the rights of those he or she rules.

In your notebook, create simple illustrations to represent anarchy and monarchy. Then answer this question: *In your opinion, which is a more powerful threat to liberty: anarchy or monarchy? Why?*

READING NOTES

Read each section, and then follow the instructions to complete your Reading Notes.

Section 2

For each question below, make a quick sketch of an American who would be affected by that topic—for example, a settler, a woman, a politician, or an African American. In a voice bubble, write a response to the question in the first person, as if the character is actually speaking.

Question 1: In what ways are state constitutions similar to one another? In what ways are they different?

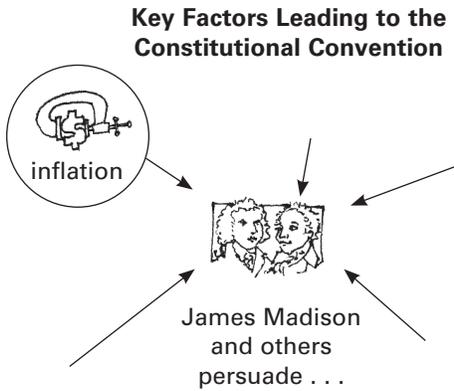
Question 2: Why were the Articles of Confederation written? What potential shortcomings did they have?

Question 3: What was the Land Ordinance of 1785? How might it benefit Americans?

Question 4: What effect did the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 have on the spread of slavery?

Section 3

Create a spoke diagram similar to the one below. Use written and visual information to represent five key factors that eventually led to the convening of the Constitutional Convention. One example is given for you. Also complete the sentence at the center of the diagram.



Section 4

Create the table below in your notebook. For each of the three compromises, briefly explain what the problem was. Then list the different solutions that were debated and describe the final compromise solution.

Compromises of the Constitutional Convention

Compromise	Problem	Conflicting Ideas	Solution
Great Compromise			
Three-Fifths Compromise			
Electoral College			

Section 5

In a well-written paragraph, respond to this question: *If you had lived during the time of the Constitutional Convention, would you have supported or opposed ratification of the new Constitution?* Make sure your paragraph includes these things:

- a clear topic sentence that communicates the main idea of your paragraph
- one or two pieces of evidence (such as facts, quotes, or examples) from the reading to support your topic sentence
- one or two sentences that explain how your evidence supports your topic sentence

P R O C E S S I N G

Create a handbill that might have been used to encourage people to support ratification of the Constitution. Your handbill must include these things:

- a catchy slogan that metaphorically compares the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution. For example, *The Articles were like a sapling bending in the wind, but the Constitution is like a towering oak tree—strong and steady.*
- three ways that the framers of the Constitution created a more effective national government.
- an illustration to accompany each of those three explanations.
- a one- or two-sentence statement by one of the framers, such as James Madison, that enthusiastically endorses the Constitution.
- creative touches to make your handbill visually appealing, such as a decorative border.