

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Constitutional Convention

Participants

- _____ delegates from _____ states
 - Young (average age _____), professional (1/2 were _____), men of economic substance
 - Revolutionary War _____

Absent from Convention

- Thomas Jefferson
 - ambassador to _____
 - called the convention “an assembly of _____”
- Patrick Henry
 - “smelt a _____”
- Richard Henry Lee
 - proposed of declaration of independence in _____

George Washington

- broke promise to _____ from public life
- cautioned against attending
 - _____ thought convention illegal
 - _____ feared it would be aborted
 - possibly ruin Washington’s _____

Benjamin Franklin

- _____ years old
- infirmed
 - carried into state house (later renamed Independence Hall) on a chair by _____

James Madison

- “_____ of the Constitution”
 - author of _____ Plan
- strong _____
 - _____ should be “subordinately useful”
 - later became strong states _____ advocate
- kept extensive _____
 - source of most of knowledge of convention
 - later _____ by Madison to cushion his previous strong nationalism

Convention Begins

- scheduled for Monday, May 13th
 - only _____ states present
- Friday, May 25th
 - _____ finally present
 - convention begins

Philadelphia in 1787

- 50 miles inland from _____

- hot and humid, like _____
– sealed _____ to preserve secrecy

Voting in Convention

- each state got _____ vote
- needed to get _____ states to participate
 - _____ agreed, promising to “fight another day”

Virginia Plan 1

- formulated in _____ meetings
 - Virginians & possibly Pennsylvanians
 - held at _____ Queen Tavern (see [map](#))
- radically _____ proposals
 - new constitution
 - rejected amending _____
- introduced by Gov. Edmund _____
 - less controversial than Madison

Virginia Plan 2

- set _____ for debate
- discussed in “_____ of the Whole”
 - parliamentary device for allowing _____ without binding votes
 - Washington could participate
 - ordinarily presiding officer is _____
 - still used in U.S. _____ of Representatives
- for more information

Virginia Plan 3

- _____ was most controversial
 - proposal was representation by # of _____ inhabitants
 - _____ threatened to bolt
 - issue was postponed

VP - Bicameral Legislature

- as all states but _____
- 1st house chosen by the _____
 - Elbridge _____ – “the people ... are dupes of pretended patriots.”
 - others wanted _____ election to make the base of the new government broad
 - this passed
- 2nd house chosen by 1st house
 - from _____ of state legislatures
 - this failed

VP – Powers of Legislature

- _____ extend to all cases in which the states are incapable
 - broad, _____ power
 - Madison said he preferred _____ powers, but he doubted it was practical.
- this passed

— small states agreed to fight another day

VP - Executive

- single or _____ not specified
 - great debate
 - _____
 - too great power – “foetus to _____”
 - settled on _____ executive
- ___ year term – later changed to ___ years
- no _____ – later changed

VP – Executive 2

- _____ power
 - original proposal for “council of _____” executive plus some # of judges
 - objection that _____ should not be involved in setting policy
 - objection that it would bias judges who had to _____ legislation
 - compromise – _____ veto w/ legislative _____
- power to _____ other officers

VP - Courts

- _____ court
- _____ courts
- holding office “during good _____”

VP - The Senate

- desire for a check on “temporary _____” of the people
- ___ modes of appointment proposed
 - by 1st branch (the _____)
 - by the _____
 - by the _____
 - by state _____

VP - The Senate 2

- election by _____
 - belief that elected representatives are _____ and more _____ than the people
- debate over role of states
 - _____ wanted states to have no role
 - _____ prevailed – national government compared to the sun and states the _____, each independent in its own orbit
- smaller number produces more _____ body

VP - Large vs. Small States

- really _____ vs. _____
- most _____ state reps were nationalist
 - large states would usually prevail
- exceptions
 - _____ (5th largest) was antinationalist

- influence of Governor Clinton
- Georgia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina part of “_____ state” block
 - assumption that _____ would count according to “_____ ratio” (3/5)

VP - Representation 1

- Virginia, Pennsylvania & _____ had 45% of the national population
 - fear that they would rule everything
- small states wanted _____ representation
- large states argued for _____ via proportional representation
- small states proposed _____ the nation into 13 equally sized states –
 - probably not serious
 - it exploded the “_____” argument

VP - Representation 2

- small states would not agree to union if representation _____
- large states would not agree if it wasn't
- tempers flared at the impasse
- resolutions for _____ representation in each house, though, passed

New Jersey Plan

- proposed at this point
 - after a revised _____ Plan was already in place
- small states argued that the Committee had exceeded the delegates _____
- more _____, less national, plan
- New Jersey plan defeated ___ - ___

End of Committee of the Whole

- Wed., June 20th
- now sitting as the _____
- all the proposals of the committee now had to be debated and voted again
- removed the term “_____ government” from the plan
 - substituted “government of the _____”

Luther Martin's Argument

- _____ states would rule in proportional scheme
- states would be _____

Madison's Argument

- 1st – states were giving up _____ in order to form any constitution
- 2nd – Virginia, Pennsylvania & Massachusetts did not have _____ interest

Franklin's Proposal

- “We feel our own want of political _____, since we have been wandering around in search of it. ... How has it happened that we have not thought of applying once to the _____ of _____ to illuminate our understandings?”
- Proposed appointing a clergyman and opening each session with _____.

Franklin's Proposal 2

- fear that it would appear that convention was in _____ if a clergyman were appointed
- Hamilton – “no time to apply for _____”
– tongue in cheek comment
- no _____ to hire clergyman
- motion failed, but reminder that they were, despite strong opinions, _____ humans

Proposal for a Committee

- to avoid an end to the convention, refer the matter to a committee
- _____, Wilson and other opposed because they knew a compromise would be offered
- resolution passed
- committee met for _____ days

The Great Compromise

- a.k.a. _____ Compromise
- committee's proposal brought by Elbridge _____
- _____ representation in the House
- equal representation in the _____
- 3/5 rule applies to _____
- money bills must originate in the _____

Voting on Great Compromise

- passed ___ to ___ on July 16th, with Massachusetts divided
- not voting
 - _____ – no delegates
 - New Hampshire – delegates not yet present
 - New York – delegates had _____ in protest over convention's nationalism
 - all three states were small state allies
 - would have voted in favor

Supremacy Clause

- proposal for national _____ of state laws defeated 7-3
- Luther Martin proposed instead the “_____ clause”
 - had been part of _____ plan
 - makes Constitution, national laws, treaties of U.S. “_____ law of the land”
 - passed without _____

Harmony at last!

- after Great Compromise, small states supported strong _____ government
- Madison: real issue had been representation, not national _____
- other business not controversial
 - elimination of _____ term executive

Committee on Detail

- 10 days given to write a final _____
- _____ and others went trout fishing
- goals

— only _____ provisions in Constitution

— _____

— _____

- draft by George _____ of PA

Report of Committee on Detail

- established the _____ for the branches
- delineated the specific _____ of _____
 - and “necessary and proper” or _____ clause
- debated for more weeks

Committee on Style

- given charge on September 10th
- took _____ days to write final draft
 - Gouverneur _____ (PA) wrote the text
 - wrote the _____ himself

Final Passage – Sept. 17th

- refused to sign
 - Edmund _____ – VA Gov. who had introduced the VA plan thought the national government too powerful
 - George _____ – VA, author of VA Bill of Rights, on which US version is patterned
- _____ – delegates should “doubt their own infallibility”
- Constitution passed _____, but 5 delegates refused to sign

Franklin

- _____ as he signed the Constitution
- Painters, he said, found it difficult to distinguish a rising from a setting sun. He had often wondered about the sun in the picture behind Washington’s chair.
 - “Now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a _____ and not a setting _____.”

The End

- Madison: “The business being closed, the members adjourned to the City _____”