



Chapter 8 Study Guide – Creating the Constitution

8.1 Introduction

1. Why was James Madison doubtful that the states could ever work together after the Revolution?
2. Describe the difference between how the Articles of Confederation worked on paper and how they worked in reality.

8.2 Early Quarrels and Accomplishments

1. What was the cause of most disagreements between states? What could Congress do about this situation?
2. Describe the provisions of the Land Ordinance of 1785. What problem(s) arose?
3. How did the Northwest Ordinance solve this problem?

8.3 Shays's Rebellion and the Need for Change

1. What occurred when states started printing their own paper currency?
2. Who was hurt most by the money shortage? Why?
3. What did Daniel Shays and his followers do in response? How did Massachusetts react?
4. Why were many Americans concerned by the actions of Shays and his supporters?
5. How did Congress react to Shays's Rebellion?

8.4 Opening the Constitutional Convention

1. When and where did the Constitutional Convention meet? What was the group's first act?

2. Five revolutionary leaders did not attend the Convention. Why not?
3. How do we know that James Madison was a respected and influential member of the Convention?
4. Why did the delegates decide to maintain secrecy at the Convention? What “accident” was an example of what could happen if the delegates were not careful?
5. What beliefs did the delegates share? What ideas divided them?

8.5 How Should States Be Represented in the New Government

1. Describe the Virginia Plan.
2. Describe the New Jersey Plan.

8.6 The Great Compromise

1. Describe Roger Sherman’s major contribution to the Constitutional Convention.

8.7 How Should Slaves Be Counted

1. According to the southern delegates, when should slaves be counted as property and when should they be counted as people?
2. Why was the southern opinion a problem for northern delegates?
3. What changes occurred in the South after many northern states passed laws ending slavery?

8.8 The Three-Fifths Compromise

1. How did the Three-Fifths Compromise contradict the Declaration of Independence?

2. What two limitations were placed on Congress regarding trade?
3. What was the “fugitive slave clause”?

8.9 How Should the Chief Executive Be Elected?

1. Why were some delegates uncomfortable with the idea of a single chief executive?
2. What limitations were placed on the chief executive?
3. Describe the disagreement over how the chief executive would be elected.

8.10 The Electoral College

1. Describe the Electoral College system.
2. The framers of the Constitution were concerned that the average voter would not know enough about all of the candidates to be able to choose sensibly. What improvements and changes occurred that the framers could not have anticipated?

8.11 The Convention Ends

1. How was the Constitution to be ratified? Who would ratify it?
2. Why did several delegates not sign the Constitution?

8.12 The Constitution Goes to the Nation

1. What is a “federal” system of government?
2. Who were the Federalists? What did they say and do to convince people to approve the Constitution?

3. Who were the Anti-Federalists? What were they concerned about?

8.13 Summary

1. What success did the Articles of Confederation have in implementing the ideals of the Declaration of Independence?

2. Why do you think the people sided with the Federalists over the Anti-Federalists?