

Constitution Vocabulary

1. *ratify – to approve something
2. *amend - modify formally, as a legal document or legislative
3. Articles of Confederation - the original constitution of the U.S., ratified in 1781, which was replaced by the U.S. Constitution in 1789.
4. Constitution - the basic written set of principles and precedents of federal government in the U.S., which came into operation in 1789 and has since been modified by twenty-seven amendments.
5. Constitutional Convention – a meeting in Philadelphia that resulted in the Constitution, where problems were addressed and most importantly, to revise the Articles of Confederation and eventually they decided to create a new government rather than revise the old one.
6. Great Compromise – an agreement reached between the large and small states during the Constitutional Convention, and it defined the legislative structure and representation that each state would have under the United States Constitution. It proposed a bicameral legislature, resulting in the current United States Senate and House of Representatives.
7. 3/5th compromise – it said, "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons."
8. *Federalists - Statesmen and public figures supporting ratification of the proposed Constitution of the United States between 1787 and 1789. The Federalist Papers are documents associated with their movement.
9. Anti-Federalists - The first Anti-Federalist movement of the 1780s opposed the creation of a stronger national government under the Constitution and at one time sought to leave the government under the Articles of Confederation intact.
10. *Federal system - a governmental form in which authority is divided between a central government and various local governments.
11. *George Washington - In 1787, he chaired the convention
12. Alexander Hamilton - U.S. politician. He established the U.S. central banking system as secretary of the treasury 1789–95 under President George Washington and advocated a strong central government
13. Benjamin Franklin - American statesman, inventor, and scientist. He was the only individual to sign all three principal documents of the new nation: the Declaration of Independence, the treaty with Great Britain that ended the American Revolution, and the U.S. Constitution.
14. Preamble - the introductory part of a statute or deed, stating its purpose, aims, and justification.
15. *Congress - the national legislative body of the U.S., meeting at the Capitol in Washington, DC. It was established by the Constitution of 1787 and is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
16. electors - a person who has the right to vote in an election
17. *bicameral legislature – a legislature with two representatives for each state.

18. *checks and balances - counterbalancing influences by which an organization or system is regulated, typically those ensuring that political power is not concentrated in the hands of individuals or groups.
19. *supremacy clause – Article 6, Clause 2 of the Constitution and it establishes the Constitution, Federal Statutes, and U.S. treaties as "the supreme law of the land."
20. *judicial review - review by the U.S. Supreme Court of the Constitutional acceptance of a legislative act.
21. *Necessary and Proper clause – in article one, clause 18 of the Constitution and it said the Congress has the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution.
22. popular sovereignty - is the belief that the state is created by and therefore subject to the will of its people, who are the source of all political power.