

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A Recipe for a Republic: Baking Up the Constitution for 4th Grade

Beyond simple dates and names — kids analyze the Great Compromise and the mechanics of the Three Branches of Government through creative problem-solving.

1. At the Constitutional Convention, delegates from small states like New Jersey worried that large states would have too much power. Which solution created a 'bicameral' (two-house) legislature to please everyone?

Answer: B) The Great Compromise

The Great Compromise created the House of Representatives (based on population) and the Senate (equal representation per state) to balance power.

2. True or False: Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government was so weak it did not even have the power to collect taxes to pay for the army.

Answer: A) True

This was a major flaw; without tax revenue, the central government couldn't pay debts or maintain a national defense.

3. The Constitution divides the government into three branches. Which branch is responsible for 'interpreting' the laws to make sure they follow the Constitution?

Answer: C) Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch, which includes the Supreme Court, reviews laws to determine if they are constitutional.

4. Benjamin Franklin famously said the convention created 'a republic, if you can keep it.' What is the primary difference between a republic and a direct democracy?

Answer: B) In a republic, citizens elect leaders to represent them.

A republic is a form of government where the people's power is exercised through elected representatives.

5. True or False: The Anti-Federalists refused to support the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was promised to protect individual liberties.

Answer: A) True

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Anti-Federalists feared the central government would become too powerful and insisted on explicit protections for citizens.

6. Which of these events proved to leaders like George Washington that the Articles of Confederation were failing and needed to be replaced?

Answer: C) Shays' Rebellion

Shays' Rebellion showed that the central government was too weak to maintain order or help states during an uprising.

7. To prevent any one person from becoming a dictator, the Founders created a system where each branch can block or limit the power of the others. This is called ____.

Answer: B) Checks and Balances

Checks and balances ensure that no single branch (Executive, Legislative, or Judicial) dominates the government.

8. The concept of 'Federalism' means that power is shared between two specific groups. Which two groups are they?

Answer: C) The National Government and State Governments

Federalism is the division and sharing of power between a central national authority and local state governments.

9. James Madison is often called the 'Father of the Constitution' because he arrived with a specific plan for the new government. What was the name of his plan?

Answer: B) The Virginia Plan

Madison's Virginia Plan proposed a strong national government with three branches and was the basis for much of the Constitution.

10. True or False: The 'Preamble' is the section of the Constitution that lists the names of every person who signed the document.

Answer: B) False

The Preamble is actually the introduction that explains the goals and purposes of the government, beginning with 'We the People.'