

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A Crisp Crackle of Parchment: 3rd Grade Constitution Case

Students construct a New Republic by balancing power, designing fair rules, and solving the complex puzzle of a growing nation's first steps.

1. Imagine you are a builder in 1787. Instead of wood, you are using 'Checks and Balances' to build a government. Why is this important?

Answer: A) To make sure one person doesn't become like a king with too much power

Checks and balances were designed to distribute power so that no single branch of government could dominate the others, preventing tyranny.

2. The beginning of the Constitution is a famous introduction that starts with the words 'We the _____.'

Answer: C) People

The Preamble starts with 'We the People' to show that the government's power comes from the citizens, not a monarch.

3. Benjamin Franklin believed the Constitution was perfect and didn't need any more changes after it was signed.

Answer: B) False

Franklin famously noted that while it was the best they could do, he expected it to be updated, which is why we have an amendment process.

4. During the debates, small states were worried they would be ignored. Which part of the new government gave every state exactly two 'voices' regardless of size?

Answer: C) The Senate

The Senate was created to give equal representation to every state, satisfying the concerns of smaller states like Delaware and New Jersey.

5. If the President disagrees with a law passed by Congress, they can use a power called a _____ to try and stop it.

Answer: A) Veto

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The veto is a key executive check on the legislative branch, allowing the President to refuse to sign a bill into law.

6. The 'Rising Sun' on George Washington's chair at the convention symbolized the hopeful start of the new United States.

Answer: A) True

Benjamin Franklin remarked at the end of the convention that he finally knew the sun carved on Washington's chair was rising, not setting, on the nation.

7. Abigail Adams famously asked her husband John to 'Remember the Ladies.' This shows that during the Early Republic:

Answer: B) Some people were already thinking about fairness and rights for everyone

Abigail Adams' letter is a primary source showing that the debate over rights and representation included voices advocating for women, even if they weren't granted those rights yet.

8. To make sure the Constitution could change as the world changed, the creators added a way to make _____ or additions.

Answer: B) Amendments

Amendments allow the Constitution to be a 'living document' that can be altered through a formal legal process.

9. The Supreme Court's main job is to lead the army during times of war.

Answer: B) False

The Supreme Court's job is to interpret the laws and the Constitution; the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the military.

10. If you were living in 1790, why would the 'Freedom of the Press' in the Bill of Rights be important to you?

Answer: A) It allowed you to print newspapers that criticized the government without being arrested

Freedom of the press ensures that information and opinions can be shared openly, which is essential for a functioning democracy.