

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: 8th Grade Constitution Foundations Quiz

Students achieve baseline recall of early federalism and constitutional principles by identifying key roles, geographic divisions, and fundamental governing concepts.

1. Which large state delayed ratification of the Constitution because it lacked a specific list of individual rights?

Answer: D) Virginia

Virginia was a key state where Anti-Federalists like Patrick Henry argued that a Bill of Rights was necessary to protect citizens from a strong central government.

2. The Land Ordinance of 1785 provided a way to divide and sell federal land into square areas known as _____.

Answer: B) Townships

To organize land in the Northwest Territory, the government divided land into six-mile by six-mile squares called townships.

3. The New Jersey Plan proposed that representation in Congress should be based on each state's population.

Answer: B) False

The New Jersey Plan called for equal representation for every state regardless of size, while the Virginia Plan proposed representation based on population.

4. Who served as the president of the Constitutional Convention, keeping the delegates focused and organized?

Answer: B) George Washington

George Washington was unanimously elected as the presiding officer of the convention due to his high reputation and leadership during the Revolution.

5. James Madison and John Jay were two of the main authors of a series of essays defending the Constitution known as the _____.

Answer: B) Federalist Papers

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The Federalist Papers were written to explain the Constitution and persuade citizens, particularly in New York, to support its ratification.

6. Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government had no permanent executive branch (President) or judicial branch (Supreme Court).

Answer: A) True

The founders initially feared a strong leader, so they created a layout with only a legislative branch, which ultimately proved too weak.

7. Which of these original 13 states was the first to ratify the U.S. Constitution?

Answer: A) Delaware

Delaware is known as 'The First State' because its legislature was the first to approve the new Constitution on December 7, 1787.

8. The system of _____ ensures that no one branch of the government becomes more powerful than the others.

Answer: C) Checks and Balances

The Framers included checks and balances to allow each branch to limit the powers of the other two, such as the presidential veto.

9. The Anti-Federalists generally favored a very strong central government and believed states should have very little power.

Answer: B) False

Anti-Federalists were skeptical of a strong central government and fought for more power to remain with the individual states and the people.

10. Which of these was a major problem the United States faced in the 1780s due to the weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

Answer: A) Too many different types of state money

Because each state could print its own currency, it was very difficult to trade between states and caused massive economic confusion.