

Name: _____ Date: _____

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?

- A. Rhode Island
- B. Georgia
- C. New Jersey
- D. Virginia

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

- A. Parish blocks
- B. Townships
- C. Counties
- D. Colonies

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. George Washington
- C. Alexander Hamilton
- D. John Adams

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

- A. Liberty Letters
- B. Federalist Papers
- C. Common Sense
- D. Articles of Union

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

- A. True

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B. False

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

- A. Delaware
- B. Maryland
- C. Pennsylvania
- D. South Carolina

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

- A. States' Rights
- B. Direct Democracy
- C. Checks and Balances
- D. The Cabinet

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Too many different types of state money
- B. Lack of land for new farmers
- C. A President with too much power
- D. Too many federal taxes