

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Fixing the Founding for 4th Grade

Evaluate the complex trade-offs and structural failures that forced early American leaders to redesign the national government through original analysis of historical scenarios.

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**1. Imagine you are a merchant in 1785 trying to sell goods in both New York and New Jersey. Why was the lack of a national currency under the Articles of Confederation a 'hard' problem for you?**

**Answer:** A) Each state printed its own money, making it difficult to know the value of your earnings.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the central government couldn't regulate money, causing economic chaos as states issued competing currencies.

**2. In 1787, delegates debated how much power the president should have. They eventually decided on a system where the \_\_\_\_\_ branch could check the president's power to ensure no one person became too much like a king.**

**Answer:** B) Legislative

The Legislative branch (Congress) was given powers like impeachment and control over funding to balance the power of the Executive branch.

**3. The Anti-Federalists refused to support the new Constitution because they believed it gave the state governments too much control over individual citizens.**

**Answer:** B) False

False. Anti-Federalists actually worried the \*federal\* (central) government was becoming too powerful and would take away individual rights.

**4. If you were a delegate from a small state like Delaware during the Constitutional Convention, why would you have fought against the 'Virginia Plan'?**

**Answer:** B) It proposed that voting power in Congress should be based on a state's population.

The Virginia Plan favored large states; small states feared they would lose their voice if representation was only based on population.

**5. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 was a significant challenge for the Early Republic because it forced Native American tribes to cede land in the Northwest Territory, proving the new government used \_\_\_\_\_ to expand its borders.**

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**Answer:** C) Military force

Following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, the U.S. government used military victory to pressure tribes into signing over vast territories.

**6. Benjamin Banneker, a free Black scientist, challenged Thomas Jefferson's views on equality during the Early Republic era.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. Banneker wrote to Jefferson to point out the contradiction between the Declaration of Independence and the continued existence of slavery.

**7. Which scenario best illustrates the 'checks and balances' system created by the Constitution?**

**Answer:** B) The Supreme Court declares a law passed by Congress to be unconstitutional.

Judicial review is a key check where the courts ensure the legislative branch does not violate the Constitution.

**8. During the 'Quasi-War' with France, the U.S. government passed the Sedition Act. This was controversial because it allowed the government to punish people for \_\_\_\_\_, which many felt violated the 1st Amendment.**

**Answer:** C) Criticizing the government

The Sedition Act made it a crime to write or say 'false, scandalous, and malicious' things about the government, attacking freedom of the press and speech.

**9. The Constitution was immediately perfect and did not need any changes once it was signed in 1787.**

**Answer:** B) False

False. The Constitution was a series of compromises and was almost immediately updated with the Bill of Rights to protect individual freedoms.

**10. How did the 'Elastic Clause' (Necessary and Proper Clause) in the Constitution change the power of the federal government compared to the Articles of Confederation?**

**Answer:** B) It allowed Congress to create new laws to help fulfill its duties, even if not explicitly listed.

The Elastic Clause allows the government to expand its reach to handle new challenges, whereas the Articles of Confederation were rigid and weak.