

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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?

- A. Each state printed its own money, making it difficult to know the value of your earnings.
- B. The British government still controlled all the banks in the colonies.
- C. Most people preferred to trade using gold and silver instead of paper.
- D. The Constitution forbid merchants from traveling between different states.

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.

- A. Military
- B. Legislative
- C. State-level
- D. Corporate

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

- A. True
- B. False

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'?

- A. It suggested that only large states should be allowed to collect taxes.
- B. It proposed that voting power in Congress should be based on a state's population.
- C. It argued that the capital city should be moved to the southern states.
- D. It wanted to abolish the office of the President entirely.

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.

- A. Religious conversion
- B. Diplomatic voting
- C. Military force
- D. Scientific exploration

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. The President decides to lead the army during a time of war.
- B. The Supreme Court declares a law passed by Congress to be unconstitutional.
- C. A state governor decides to change the school curriculum.
- D. Citizens vote for a new mayor in their local town election.

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.

- A. Refusing to pay taxes
- B. Trading with the British
- C. Criticizing the government
- D. Moving to a different state

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

- A. True
- B. False

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?

- A. It restricted the government to only the powers specifically written down.
- B. It allowed Congress to create new laws to help fulfill its duties, even if not explicitly listed.
- C. It gave the states the right to ignore any federal law they disliked.
- D. It required the government to check with the King of England before making big changes.