

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ratification Race: The Great Governance Quest for 6th Grade

Go beyond memorizing dates to analyze the intense regional power struggles and ideological friction that nearly derailed the United States Constitution.

1. During the ratification debates, Mercy Otis Warren and other Anti-Federalists argued that the proposed Constitution was dangerous because it lacked which specific feature?

Answer: B) A clear Bill of Rights to protect individual liberties

Anti-Federalists like Mercy Otis Warren feared a strong central government would mirror British tyranny unless specific protections for individual rights were written directly into the document.

2. The ____ was a diplomatic crisis during John Adams' presidency where French agents demanded bribes, leading many Americans to call for war.

Answer: C) XYZ Affair

The XYZ Affair occurred when three French agents (labeled X, Y, and Z in reports) demanded a bribe before negotiating, causing a surge in American nationalism and federalist power.

3. True or False: The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was significant because it established a path to statehood and prohibited slavery within the new territory.

Answer: A) True

Despite the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, the Northwest Ordinance was a major achievement that set the precedent for how the U.S. would expand westward without slavery in those specific lands.

4. In his 'Farewell Address,' George Washington specifically warned the young nation against the 'baneful effects' of which development?

Answer: B) The growth of permanent foreign alliances and political parties

Washington feared that 'factions' (political parties) and 'entangling alliances' with European powers would divide and destroy the fragile new republic.

5. The ____ proposed at the Constitutional Convention argued for a unicameral legislature where every state had equal representation, regardless of population.

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Answer: C) New Jersey Plan

William Paterson's New Jersey Plan sought to protect the influence of smaller states by maintaining the 'one state, one vote' system found in the Articles of Confederation.

6. True or False: The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions argued that states had the right to 'nullify' or cancel federal laws they deemed unconstitutional.

Answer: A) True

Written by Jefferson and Madison, these resolutions were a response to the Alien and Sedition Acts and introduced the controversial idea that states could challenge federal authority.

7. Which of the following best analyzes the primary reason why the Articles of Confederation failed to solve the nation's post-war economic crisis?

Answer: B) The government lacked the power to tax states to pay off national debts

Under the Articles, the Confederation Congress could only 'request' money from states, leaving the national government bankrupt and unable to maintain order or pay soldiers.

8. To convince the public to support the new Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote a series of 85 essays known as ____.

Answer: B) The Federalist Papers

The Federalist Papers remain the most important historical source for understanding the intended meaning and philosophy behind the U.S. Constitution.

9. How did the 'Great Compromise' (Connecticut Compromise) resolve the conflict between large and small states regarding representation?

Answer: C) By creating a two-house legislature with one house based on population and one based on equality

The Great Compromise balanced the Virginia Plan (population-based) and the New Jersey Plan (statewide equality) by creating the House of Representatives and the Senate.

10. True or False: Under the original Constitution (before amendments), the President of the United States was elected directly by a popular vote of all citizens.

Answer: B) False

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The framers established the Electoral College because they were wary of 'direct democracy' and wanted a buffer between the general population and the selection of the President.