

Guided Study Questions: The Articles of Confederation to the Bill of Rights

Students will utilize the US History Review Videos, The ABC US History Review Book, A Nation Conceived in Liberty review book, and their Cornell class notes Standards #5a - #5e (Constitutional Adoption & Implementation) to answer the Guided Study Questions (GSQs).

Standards Covered:

SSUSH5 Investigate specific events and key ideas that brought about the adoption and implementation of the United States Constitution.

- a. Examine the strengths of the Articles of Confederation, including but not limited to the Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and their influence on westward migration, slavery, public education, and the addition of new states.
- b. Evaluate how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and Daniel Shays' Rebellion led to a call for a stronger central government.
- c. Explain the key features of the Constitution, including the Great Compromise, limited government, and the Three-Fifths Compromise.
- d. Evaluate the major arguments of the Anti-Federalists and Federalists during the debate on ratification of the Constitution, The Federalist Papers, and the roles of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.
- e. Explain how objections to the ratification of the Constitution were addressed in the Bill of Rights.

Guided Reading Questions: Constitutional Era (complete for HW)

1. What was the significance of the Land Ordinance of 1785?
2. What role did the Northwest Ordinance play in encouraging the Westward Settlement of the United States and limiting the expansion of slavery? What role did the Northwest Ordinance play in promoting public education in the Northwest Territory? What process did the Northwest Ordinance establish for entering new states into the Union? (How did a territory become a state?) – Answer all 3 Questions
3. What weaknesses in the Federal government under the Articles of Confederation did Shay's Rebellion highlight?
4. What was the purpose of the Philadelphia Convention in the summer of 1787?
5. What were the terms of the Great Compromise? (Identify the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan in leading up to the Great Compromise)
6. Identify or define the Key elements of the US Constitution:
 - a. What is limited government? How does the US Constitution represent a form of limited government?
 - b. How many articles does the US Constitution have?
 - c. What is a "reserved power" according to the Constitution?
 - d. What is an "enumerated power" according to the Constitution?
 - e. What is the elastic clause?
 - f. How many branches of government does the Constitution create? In which order are they listed (list 1 - ??)
 - g. What is a Presidential Veto? Can Congress override the veto? If so, how?
 - h. How many Amendments are there to the US Constitution? What is the process for getting an Amendment ratified?
 - i. Treaties: Which branch negotiates a Treaty? Which branch (house) ratifies a treaty?
7. How did the 3/5 Compromise settle the issue of representation of the southern states within the House of Representatives? Also, what limits did it place on the Atlantic Slave trade?
8. Explain the primary differences between the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists regarding the role of the national government vs. the state governments. Which group (faction) favored the Constitution and which group (faction) favored the Articles of Confederation?
9. Who were the primary authors of the Federalist Papers? What was the purpose of the Federalist Papers? What promise did the Federalists make to the Anti-Federalists regarding a National Bill of Rights? (Answer all 3 Questions)
10. Explain how the Bill of Rights represented a compromise between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.