

4.2

The Constitutional Convention



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Understand the reasons leaders called for the Constitutional Convention.**
- **Summarize the rival plans of government proposed at the convention.**
- **Describe the compromises made in order to reach agreement on the Constitution**

The Convention

12 of the 13 states meet at a special convention at the Philadelphia State House to fix the articles

Alexander Hamilton- He disliked the idea of democracy & praised the British Constitution

James Madison- Believed that only a strong nation could rescue the states & favored republicanism

George Washington- President of the Convention

Compromises

Madison proposed the [Virginia Plan](#)- Government split up in 3 branches & called for a strong President.

William Paterson proposed the [New Jersey Plan](#)- Congress had the power to regulate commerce & could tax.

Delegates eventually compromise between the two plans with the Connecticut Compromise or [The Great Compromise](#).

More Compromise

Federalism- The government powers are divided between the federal government & state governments

Delegates noticed the greatest division between them was North vs South states & the subject of slavery

Constitution would ban Congress from blocking slavery for 20 years.

Three-Fifths Compromise- Counted each slave as $\frac{3}{5}$ ths a person to add to a state's free population to count towards representation

Bill of Rights

States were worried about natural rights & demanded that a Bill of Rights would be added to the Constitution

Eventually, the Constitutional Convention would conclude & the nation would decide on a new government built on the foundation of the Constitution