Objectives

1. Identify the Framers of the Constitution and discuss how they organized the Philadelphia Convention.
2. Compare and contrast the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan.
3. Summarize the convention’s major compromises and the effects of those decisions.
4. Describe the delegates’ reactions to the Constitution.
• **Framers**: the individuals who attended the Philadelphia Convention

• **Virginia Plan**: a plan offered at the Convention that called for a central government with three branches, with each state’s representation in a bicameral legislature based mainly on population

• **New Jersey Plan**: a plan calling for a central government with a unicameral legislature and equal representation of all the states.
• **Connecticut Compromise**: an agreement to divide Congress into two houses, one with representation based on state population and one with equal representation for all states.

• **Three-Fifths Compromise**: an agreement to count each slave as three fifths of a person when determining state population.

• **Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise**: an agreement forbidding Congress from taxing state exports or interfering with the slave trade for at least 20 years.
What compromises enabled the Framers to create the Constitution?

- The Connecticut Compromise
  - This compromise dealt with how to determine the representation of states in the national legislature.
- The Three-Fifths Compromise
  - This compromise dealt with issues arising from slavery.
- The Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise
  - This compromise addressed northern and southern disagreements about foreign trade.
• The Constitutional Convention began on May 25, 1787, with 55 delegates.

  – These individuals, called the Framers, came from many backgrounds:
    • Many had fought in the Revolutionary War.
    • Eight had signed the Declaration of Independence.
    • 34 had attended college at a time when it was a rare achievement.
    • Two would become President, one a Vice President, nineteen a U.S. Senator, and thirteen a member of the House of Representatives.
NOTE TO TEACHERS: The above image depicts George Washington, who was president of the Constitutional Convention.
Then, on May 30th, the Framers made their biggest decision: to replace the Articles of Confederation rather than amend them.

- James Madison (right) was a major figure in the movement to replace the Constitution.
The Virginia Plan

• This plan called for a government with a legislative, executive, and judicial branch.

  – Congress would have two houses, with representation based on state population or the money given to the central government.
  – Congress would have more power than it had under the Articles.
    • It would be able to force states to obey federal law.
  – The members of Congress would elect a national executive and judiciary.
    • These two branches would form a council that could veto acts passed by Congress.
• This plan proposed a much different organization of the three branches.
  – Congress would have a single house with equal representation for each state.
    • This Congress would have more limited powers than under the Virginia Plan.
  – There would be an executive committee of several people, chosen by Congress.
    • At the request of a majority of state governors, Congress could remove members of this committee.
  – The executive committee would appoint a supreme tribunal to be the federal judiciary.
Checkpoint Answer: The combining of elements of the Virginia and New Jersey Plans to create a bicameral federal Congress in which state representation in the Senate would be equal while representation in the House of Representatives would be based upon state population.
• Southern states wanted to count slaves as part of the state population. Northern states did not.

  – The Three-Fifths Compromise counted each slave as three-fifths of a person when figuring representation in Congress.
• Southern states wanted to protect their agricultural exports and the slave trade from regulation by Congress.

  – Under the Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise, Congress could not tax state exports or interfere with the slave trade until 1808.
The Issue of Slavery

- Disputes over slavery during the Convention arose because slavery was far more common in the agricultural South than in the more industrial North.

- However, slavery was legal in every state except Massachusetts.
Check your answer: Because the Framers had to make a number of compromises about many specific details of how the new government would function in order to gain enough votes to approve the document.
Review

- Now that you have learned what compromises enabled the Framers to create the Constitution, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
  - How does the Constitution reflect the times in which it was written?