

WANTED—A “JUST RIGHT” GOVERNMENT

Name: _____



When the colonists declared independence from Britain, they had a pretty good idea of what they wanted in a new government. In fact, they said it loud and clear right in their Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these _____ to be self-evident, that all men are created _____, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable _____, that among these are _____, _____, and the pursuit of _____."

WANTED—A government that:

- has enough _____ to do its job
- doesn't give anyone too _____ power
- considers the needs of all _____
- lets people have a _____
- protects individual _____

Sounds great!
Where do I sign up?



The Declaration goes on to say that:

- The purpose of government is to "_____ these _____"
- Government gets its _____ from the "_____ of the _____"
- People have a right to create a _____ government if the old one isn't meeting these goals.

All right, then! We're ready to create a new government! But wait—maybe it's not so easy.

A **confederation** is a _____ of individuals together for a _____.

The First Attempt: These Articles Ain't Workin'!

The Americans wrote their first plan for _____ in a document called the _____ of Confederation. The year was _____.

⇒ Each state was _____ and had its own _____

⇒ Each state sent _____ to the "Congress of the Confederation"

⇒ The Congress was the only _____ government. There was no _____.

⇒ In Congress, each state got _____ vote



Hey, This is Great!

- States get to keep their _____ and _____
- No _____ telling the states what to _____
- Congress had the power to create a _____ to protect all the _____



But Wait...

- Congress has no way to _____ its _____
- That meant states could _____ laws
- Congress did not have the power to collect _____ to pay for the military
- The Articles could only be _____ if _____ states agreed

Goldilocks and the...
The new Americans and their constitutions were a little like Goldilocks in the three bears' house: They had to try out governments until they found one that was "just right!"



Trouble in Paradise

Without a strong central government, there were _____ between the _____ that the powerless Congress could not _____. For example, states made their citizens pay _____ on goods that came from other _____.

It was hard for new Americans to agree on what kind of government they needed. Here's why:

- **States had different** _____. For example, some states depended on _____, while others mostly grew _____.
- **States had different** _____. Some states had _____ people and some states had _____.
- **People had different** _____. Some people _____ a central government while others thought a central government was _____.

Something needed to change! Even so, people were _____ of a _____ government that might have too much _____ over the states.



Good luck with that...

Despite these differences, leaders from the different states got together to fix the problems with the Articles of Confederation.

Instead, they came out with a whole new idea. Here's how it compares:

Articles of Confederation

Government has _____ branch:

- _____—makes _____

New Idea

Government has _____ branches:

- _____—makes _____
- _____—carries out _____
- _____—interprets _____



But how many votes should each state get in the legislature?

The Virginia Plan

- Legislative branch has _____ "chambers"
- Number of votes a state gets depends on the size of the state's _____
- _____ states would have more power

The New Jersey Plan

- Legislative branch has _____ "chambers"
- Each state gets _____ vote
- _____ states would have more power

People were afraid some states would have more than their fair share of _____!

Ta-Da! Presenting . . . The Constitution!

Preamble

Explains the _____ why the Constitution is being written:

- Create a better _____ of _____ than what they had under the Articles of Confederation
- _____ the country
- Make sure the states have a _____ relationship
- Secure _____ for future generations

Where did these ideas come from?

Remember Virginia and New Jersey?

Article I

- Creates a _____ branch that _____ laws.
- Gives law-making power to a _____ that has _____ chambers:
House of Representatives—the more _____ a state has, the more _____ it gets
Senate—each state gets _____ representatives (that means two _____)
- Gives Congress a list of specific _____. Any powers not listed, _____ get to keep.

Article II

- Creates an _____ branch to _____ the laws.
- A _____ will be the _____ of the executive branch.

Article III

- Creates a _____ branch to _____ the laws.
- A _____ will be the _____ court in the country.

Two more branches to balance government!

Article IV

Requires each state to treat _____ of other states the _____ as it treats its own citizens.

Article V

Lets the Constitution be _____ if two-thirds of the members of _____ and three-fourths of _____ agree.

What problems get solved here?

Article VI

Says that the _____ and the laws passed by Congress are _____ to laws passed by _____.

All right!

Article VII

Allows the Constitution to take effect after _____ out of _____ states _____ to accept it.

Amendments

The Constitution did not say anything about peoples' individual _____, so they added the _____ and other changes later.

