

CHAPTER 8.3

textbook ÷ guided notes



1. Describe the role of these men in the constitutional convention:

GEORGE WASHINGTON:

- the President of the constitution
- supposed to take lead and direct (teacher)

JAMES MADISON:

- the father of the constitution
- answers questions & concerns (took notes on the convention)
- has the most knowledge on different constitutional topics

2. Why did the important leaders Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry not attend the constitutional convention?

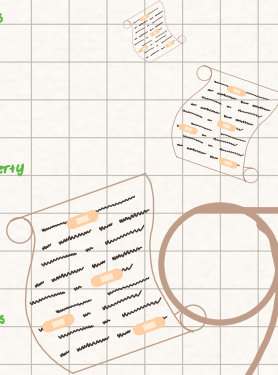
- they feared that a strong national government would endanger the rights of states

3. Do you agree with the delegates' rule of secrecy? Why or why not?

- no because:
 - to create a government people don't oppose or hate you need to share with the public your plans

4. The delegates had differing views on how powerful the national government should be.

- what did delegates for a strong national government believe?
 - if the national government is too weak it cannot properly protect an individual's liberty/property
- what did delegates for stronger state governments (weaker national government) believe?
 - they feared strong national governments would threaten an individual's liberty
- list one belief that these two types of delegates shared.
 - the new government is being created to preserve/protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness



GUIDED NOTES:

— convention reasons —

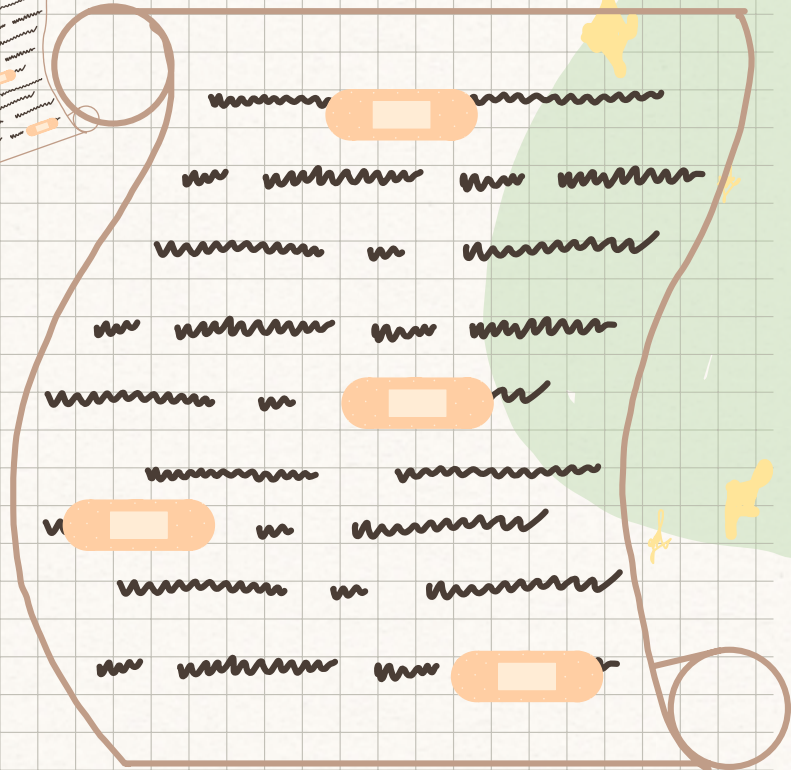
- after Shay's rebellion, Americans realize that the Articles of Confederation did not work
- federal government is too weak
 - they had no:
 - president
 - army
 - supreme court
 - money

— the convention opens —

- convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- opened on May 29, 1787
- purpose was to revise [change] the Articles of Confederation
- every state, except Rhode Island, sent delegates
- some people feared a strong national government

— who was there —

- 55 total delegates
- 8 had signed the declaration of independence
- George Washington
 - President of the convention
- Alexander Hamilton
 - wanted to create a strong national government



benjamin franklin

oldest delegate

james madison

took notes on happenings

the "father of the constitution"

two rival plans

one day into the convention, the delegates realized that the Articles of Confederation could not be fixed as they would be forced to write an entirely new constitution

they disagreed on how the new national government should be organized

two rival plans emerged

the virginia plan

proposed by edmund randolph and james madison

strong national government with 3 branches

legislative branch:

makes new laws

executive branch:

carries out the laws

judicial branch:

interprets laws to ensure they are fair

the legislative branch consists of two houses

in both houses, seats are awarded based on population

the bigger the states population, the more votes they get in congress

the bigger the states population, the more influence they have over the new country

the new-jersey plan

states with small populations despise the virginia plan

proposed new plan by william paterson

3 branches of government (same as virginia plan)

MAIN DIFFERENCE

new jersey plan says only one house in the legislature

each state gets 1 representative in congress - no matter what their population is

the great compromise

proposed by roger sherman

there will be three branches of government (legislative, executive, and judicial)

2 houses in the legislative branch

the upper house is called the "senate"

each state gets two senators, no matter what their population is (big/small)

the lower house is called the "house of representatives"

seats are awarded based on population in this house

