Virginia Fitzgerald

Ch. 7 Creating the Constitution

Sec. 2 The Constitutional Convention

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| Heading | Paragraph Main ideas and Details | Additions and Corrections |
| The Constitutional Convention Begins | * The Convention met in ***Philadelphia*** in 1787
	+ Met in ***secret***
	+ Goal to ***alter or abolish – to fix the old system or create a new one***
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| Aims of the ConventionWho called for the convention and was the meeting called?Why was the meeting held in secret? | * Meeting had been called by the Articles government to revise the Articles
	+ Did not have the authority to form a whole new system
	+ But many delegates thought revising would not be enough
* Voted to keep their debates secret
	+ Nailed windows shut despite high heat
	+ Posted guards
	+ Why – Would be going beyond their power
 | Going beyond their power – will create new government not revise |
| The DelegatesWho sent delegates?Name some famous delegates and their roles. | * ***12 states sent delegates***
	+ ***55***
	+ ***Rhode Island did not send delegates***
* Who were the delegates
	+ ***George Washington***, VA - quickly elected ***president*** of convention
	+ ***Alexander Hamilton***, NY –only 32, economic guru
	+ ***James Madison***, VA – took extensive notes
	+ ***Benjamin Franklin,*** *PA* ***–*** respected, trusted leader
 | ADD – ***Madison called Father on Constitution*** – Had read 100s of books on government and had already planned many of the details, including the compromises before the convention |
| The Virginia PlanWhat was the first plan introduced? | * First plan to be offered called the Virginia Plan –
	+ Presented by Edmund Randolph of Virginia
	+ Plan was really written by Madison
	+ Debated this plan for one month
 | ADD - Madison wants to later offer the Great Compromise |
| **Virginia Plan** Three Branches of GovernmentWhat two parts of the Virginia Plan were easily accepted? | * ***Three branches***
	+ ***Legislative – make the laws***
	+ ***Executive – carry out the laws***
	+ ***Judicial – interpret the laws***
* Executive branch
	+ Necessary to correct weaknesses of Articles
	+ But one person or a group?
* Debate over three or one executives
	+ Three people – more easily win the people’s confidence – OR One – act quickly when urgent action required
	+ ***Decided on one person called the President***
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| **Virginia Plan** A Two-House Legislature | * Two houses
	+ Lower house
	+ Upper house
* **Some** wanted the members of the houses to be ***chosen by state legislature***
	+ Roger Sherman of Connecticut
	+ ***People*** should have as little to do with selecting reps because they can be ***misled***
* **Others** warn about keeping people out of process
	+ James Wilson of Penn.
	+ ***Election of legislature by the people*** is the cornerstone of the whole government
 |  |
| ~~The Great Compromise –~~ ***Virginia Plan:******The Problem***What part of the Virginia was argued over? | * One part of the ***Virginia Plan*** tore convention apart – The plan called for ***both houses of the legislature to be based on population***
	+ The people in the state the more representative the state got
	+ ***Large states*** supported this
 |  |
| New Jersey PlanWhat plan challenged the Virginia Plan: name it explain it and state who supported it. | * ***Smaller states*** opposed the idea
	+ ***Wanted each state to have the same number of votes***
	+ No change from Articles
* Plan proposed
	+ ***One house***
	+ ***With equal representation***
* As debate ran – emotions high
	+ Fear convention will fail
	+ Fear Union will break
 |  |
| Terms of the CompromiseExplain how issues at the convention were settled.Name and explain the compromise the settled the issue of representation in the legislature. | * The Great Compromise
* ***Compromise – an agreement in which each side gives up something to get what it wants***

* Proposed by Roger Smith
* Brings together large states and small states
* ***Two House Legislature***
* ***Lower house – House of Representatives***
	+ ***based on population***
	+ ***Voted in by people***
	+ ***Two year terms***
* ***Upper house – the Senate***
	+ ***Each state would have two seats***
	+ ***Appointed by state legislatures***
	+ ***For six year terms***
* Vital step – gets small state support

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| Debates over Slavery | * Bitter debate over slavery
	+ North
	+ South
 |  |
| Three-Fifths CompromiseExplain ***the argument that led to*** the Three-Fifths Compromise.Explain the compromise. | * ***Will slaves count as population for representation in House?***
	+ ***South – should count***
	+ ***North – since can’t vote, shouldn’t count***
* Three Fifth’s Plan
	+ ***Three-fifths of the slave population would count***
	+ ***Thus 500 enslaved people would count as 300***
	+ South - got more representation
	+ North - agrees to keep the South in the Union
* ***Hurts African Americans***
	+ ***Preserves slavery in the new Constitution***
	+ ***Makes “free persons” and “all others” separate***
 | ADD – Remember ***The population of whites in the south is low**** ***Large plantations***
* ***No big cities***
* ***1/3 of population is slave***
* ***No power in Senate - only 5 of 13 states are Southern***
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| Slave TradeExplain ***the argument that led to*** the Slave Trade Compromise.Explain the compromise. | * Some Northern states want to ***ban importation of slaves***
	+ South says it will ruin their economy
	+ ADD – Other Northern states are the ones importing slaves – the merchants
* Compromise
	+ ***Import slaves for another 20 years – until 1808***
	+ Slave trade INSIDE the United States NOT affected
 | ADD – Need more workers as number of plantations growingADD – Congress can tax the slaves when imported  |
| A New Constitution | * Once agree on terms – A Committee of Style is created to write it
	+ Gouverneur Morris writes the beautiful Preamble
* Preamble highlights difference with Articles
	+ ***We the People*** – means authority is from the people ***not the states***
	+ ***A more perfect union*** – means better than Articles
* Franklin’s advice needed to encourage others to sign
	+ Had to remain seated as very ill and let another deliver his speech
	+ Admits faults but accepts it
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