

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

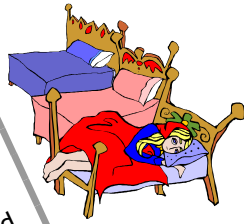


### But Wait...

- 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!*

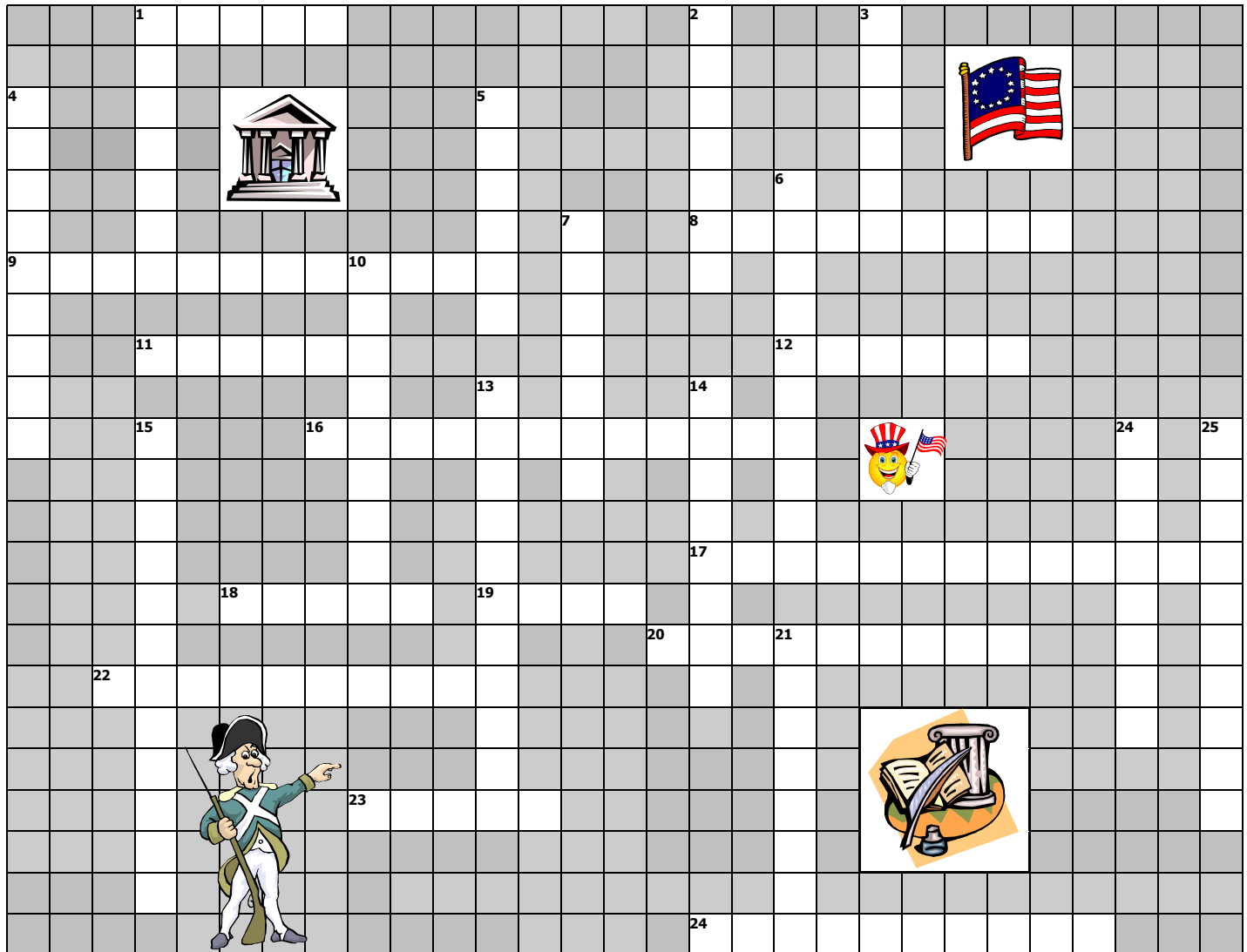
## Article VII

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.

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**Across**

1. The Declaration of Independence said all “men” (people) were created this way.
8. Fraction of Congress required to change the Constitution
9. One of two things people were afraid states might lose
11. The chamber of Congress where each state gets two votes
12. Under the Virginia Plan, these states would have more power
16. The highest court in the country
17. A group of individuals united together for a purpose
18. One of two things people were afraid states might lose
19. One of the “unalienable” rights
20. One of the “unalienable” rights is to pursue this
22. The Articles of Confederation was America’s first plan for \_\_\_\_
23. One problem was that states charged these on goods from other states
24. Early Americans had something in common with this fictional character!

**Down**

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress could not do this to its laws, so states could just ignore laws
2. One of the “unalienable” rights
3. The Articles of Confederation created a government that only had one of these
4. Under the Articles of Confederation, America did not have one of these
5. These were the “individuals” in the “confederation” created by the Articles
6. In the House of Representatives, the number of votes a state gets depends on this
7. Under the New Jersey plan, these states would have more power
10. The branch that carries out laws.
13. The branch that makes laws.
14. The branch that interprets laws.
15. Fraction of states needed to change the Constitution.
21. One of the Constitution’s goals was for states to have this kind of relationship
25. The Constitution is divided into sections called \_\_\_\_
26. Changes added to the Constitution later, giving people rights.