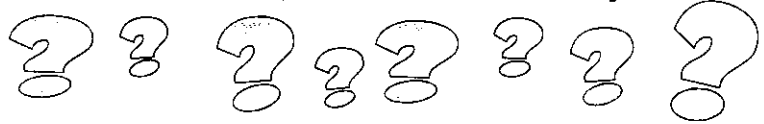


# Constitution Trivia

Enjoy Constitution trivia anywhere, anytime. See if you can answer the questions by yourself, or let everyone join in and have a lot of fun with it. Score 1 point for each correct answer. You can have a winner for each page or for the entire trivia section. Make the rules to suit the players and your time limit. Bet you laugh a lot! Bet you learn a lot!



1. Which young lieutenant colonel in the Patriot Army wrote a letter in 1780 about what he thought the country would need once the Revolutionary War was over?  
 a) Alexander Hamilton       b) Abraham Lincoln       c) Ulysses S. Grant
2. Which war brought the need for a Constitution for the new United States?  
 a) War Between the States       b) World War I       c) Revolutionary War
3. Supporters of the Constitution felt that a central government should be able to—  
 a) act with power, tax people, and name officers to a Cabinet.  
 b) invent football.  
 c) build cabinets.
4. Supporters of the Constitution thought that the central government should—  
 a) not have any Cabinet positions.  
 b) collect tax from the poor.  
 c) have more power in order to protect the nation.
5. The country was weak because—  
 a) it could not support its armies.  
 b) it could not pay its bills.  
 c) both a and b.
6. Alexander Hamilton was—  
 a) an aide to General George Washington.  
 b) not born in the United States.  
 c) both a and b.
7. In 1781, how many states made up the United States?  
 a) 3       b) 48       c) 13
8. In 1781, how many of the states each had their own government and constitution?  
 a) 3       b) 48       c) 13



Alexander Hamilton



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9. Some of the founding fathers were afraid to set up a national government because—

- a) it would not be strong enough.
- b) it would be too much like France.
- c) they were afraid of losing their freedom.



10. The Constitutional Convention met in order to—

- a) rewrite the Articles of Confederation.
- b) rewrite the Declaration of Independence.
- c) rewrite the Bill of Rights.

11. The president of the Constitutional Convention was—

- a) William Shakespeare.
- b) George Washington.
- c) Benjamin Franklin.

12. Which of the following did the Constitutional Convention complete?

- a) They wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- b) They wrote the Constitution using other older documents.
- c) They declared war on Britain.

13. Which of the following was the first Constitution of the United States?

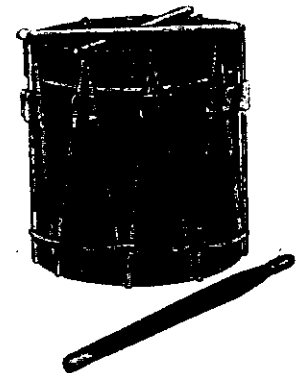
- a) Articles of Confederation
- b) Declaration of Independence
- c) neither a nor b

14. Under the Articles of Confederation, the government could—

- a) tax states
- b) declare war
- c) neither a nor b

15. When the government asked the states for money to pay the bills and soldiers, they—

- a) paid in full and proudly.
- b) paid a little bit.
- c) paid absolutely nothing.



16. To change an Article of Confederation you had to have—

- a) the vote of every state.
- b) George Washington's signature.
- c) a typewriter.



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17. After the American Revolution, England had given America land—

- a) west to California and south to Florida.
- b) west to the Mississippi River and north to Canada.
- c) north to New York and south to Florida.

18. After the American Revolution, the newly independent states—

- a) were very happy with their land.
- b) fought over what belonged to whom.
- c) were ready to go back to England.



Patrick Henry

19. In the new United States, if you could not pay your bills, you were—

- a) sent to debtor's prison
- b) sent back to England
- c) both a and b

20. A Massachusetts farmer named Daniel Shays incited other poor farmers to mob the courts so judges could not send people to prison. This uprising was called—

- a) Shays' Rebellion
- b) the One Horse Shays
- c) World War I

21. James Madison, a lawyer from Virginia, called a meeting of the states to make changes in the Articles of Confederation. This meeting was called the—

- a) Continental Congress
- b) Constitutional Convention
- c) House of Parliament

22. In which city did the delegates for the Constitutional Convention meet?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) London
- c) Las Vegas

23. The men at the Constitutional Convention would come to be known as—

- a) Pennsylvanians.
- b) founding fathers.
- c) Phillies.

24. Which president of the United States did NOT attend the Continental Congress?

- a) George Washington
- b) James Madison
- c) George Bush

25. Patrick Henry was invited, but did not go, saying:

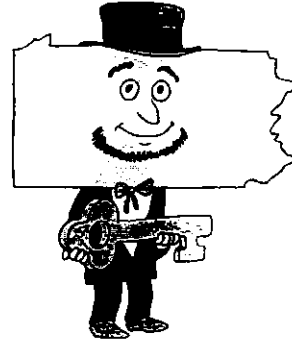
- a) "I smell a rat."
- b) "Give me liberty or give me death."
- c) "I have another engagement."



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26. The Constitutional Convention was held in the Assembly Room of the Old State House in Philadelphia, now called—

- a) Congress.
- b) Printer's Alley.
- c) Independence Hall.



27. The first thing the delegates did was to—

- a) find the bathroom
- b) elect George Washington to preside
- c) ring the Liberty Bell

28. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention decided that—

- a) their meeting would be open to the public for comment.
- b) they would share every step of the decision making process with the press.
- c) everything they decided on would be kept secret until they were finished.

29. Much is known about the Constitutional Convention because—

- a) someone broke the code of secrecy.
- b) there was a spy.
- c) James Madison kept a written record.

30. The biggest argument at the Constitutional Convention was between—

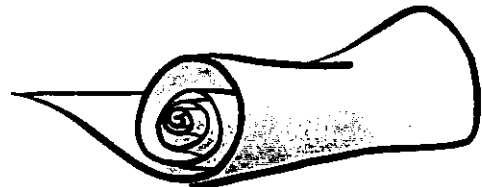
- a) the big and small men.
- b) the large states and the small states.
- c) the rich and the poor.

31. On which of these plans was the Constitution of the United States based?

- a) the Virginia Plan
- b) the Pre Plan
- c) the Continental Plan

32. The Virginia Plan provided for—

- a) the nation's capital to be in Virginia.
- b) a strong national government.
- c) the Kentucky Derby.



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33. The Virginia Plan called for a national executive, known today as—

- a) the president.
- b) a Supreme Court justice.
- c) Speaker of the House.



34. Smaller states were not happy with the Virginia Plan; instead they presented the—

- a) Small State Plan.
- b) New Jersey Plan.
- c) American Plan.

35. In order to decide which plan or plans to use, the delegates had heated—

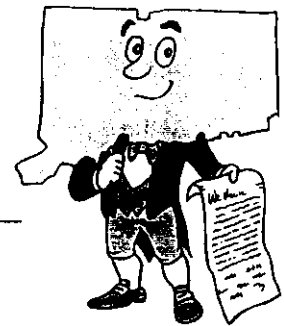
- a) swimming pools.
- b) soup.
- c) debates.

36. It was clear that to reach a decision, there would have to be some—

- a) compromises.
- b) referees.
- c) soda crackers.

37. The Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan were both—

- a) accepted.
- b) unacceptable.
- c) used to create a compromise.



38. Eventually the Connecticut delegates presented a plan that was called the—

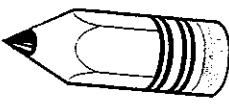
- a) Small States Compromise or the Great Compromise.
- b) They're Great Compromise.
- c) Connecticut Plan or the Great Compromise.

39. The Great Compromise let the House of Representatives be based on population. Which group of states was happy with this decision?

- a) The big states
- b) The small states
- c) Southern states

40. The Senate would be elected by the state legislature. Each state would have the same number of Senators. This was a victory for—

- a) the big states.
- b) the small states.
- c) Northern states.

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41. The two houses—the Senate and the House of Representatives were modeled after—  
 a) England’s House of Lords and House of Commons.  
 b) the House of Usher and the House that Jack built.  
 c) the White House and the outhouse.
42. The Senate was and still is considered—  
 a) the upper house.                       b) the middle house.                       c) the lower house.
43. The House of Representatives is—  
 a) the lower house.  
 b) the upper house.  
 c) the middle house.
44. The Constitution says that states could vote for representatives in the national government. This process is called—  
 a) dog eat dog.                       b) every man for himself.                       c) democracy.
45. Together, the Senate and the House of Representatives are called the—  
 a) White House.                       b) Pentagon.                       c) Congress.
46. According to the Constitution, the President is elected by—  
 a) electors.  
 b) Congress.  
 c) the elections board.
47. The Constitution established 3 branches of government called—  
 a) Republican, Democrat, and Independent.  
 b) executive, legislative, and judicial.  
 c) earth, wind, and fire.
48. The three branches of government provide a system of—  
 a) checks and balances.  
 b) checks and stubs.  
 c) checks and statements.
49. The president can veto acts of—  
 a) terrorism.                       b) Congress.                       c) plays.



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50. The word "veto" means—

- a) to vote for.
- b) to vote against.
- c) to vote more than once.

51. Congress can impeach the president. The word impeach means—

- a) to bring formal charges against the president.
- b) to throw peaches at the president.
- c) to feed the president peach pie.



The U.S. Capitol

52. The Constitution gave Congress the power to—

- a) "provide for the common defense."
- b) "provide for the common man."
- c) "provide for the common denominator."

53. Most delegates \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.

- a) agreed
- b) disagreed
- c) could not get along

54. How long did it take to draft the final version of the Constitution (not including the Bill of Rights)?

- a) 2 years
- b) A little over 3 months
- c) 3 days

55. Who put the final version of the Constitution into proper wording?

- a) George Washington's English teacher
- b) A Committee on Style
- c) The delegates' wives



The original Constitution is on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

