

Convention Leaders

Read closely to identify the leaders who guided the Constitutional Convention.

SS4H2.a "Identify the major leaders of the Constitutional Convention (James Madison, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of the three major leaders. Circle one fact about how each leader helped at the convention.

A Difficult Meeting

- ① In 1787, delegates from twelve states met in Philadelphia to improve the weak Articles of Confederation. Instead, they decided to write a new plan of government at the Constitutional Convention. The work was not easy. Delegates disagreed about representation, powers, and other important choices. Three major leaders, James Madison, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin, helped guide the meeting.
- ② George Washington was chosen to preside over the convention. As presiding officer, he led the meetings and helped keep order when delegates spoke. Washington was widely respected because he had led the Continental Army during the American Revolution. His calm, serious presence helped delegates treat the convention's work as important, even when they strongly disagreed with one another.
- ③ James Madison arrived with ideas from his study of earlier governments. He helped prepare the Virginia Plan, which gave delegates a starting point for debate. Madison also took detailed notes about the convention. Benjamin Franklin, at age eighty-one, encouraged delegates to compromise. He reminded them that working together mattered more than every person getting exactly what he or she wanted.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Who were the three major leaders named in the passage?

2 What job did George Washington have at the convention?

3 Which leader helped prepare the Virginia Plan and took detailed notes?

4 How did Benjamin Franklin help the delegates?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about the Constitutional Convention. Name George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin, and tell one way each leader helped.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the names of the three major leaders. Circle one fact about how each leader helped at the convention. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who were the three major leaders named in the passage?	James Madison, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin.
2	What job did George Washington have at the convention?	He presided over the convention, leading meetings and helping keep order.
3	Which leader helped prepare the Virginia Plan and took detailed notes?	James Madison.
4	How did Benjamin Franklin help the delegates?	He encouraged them to compromise and work together.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the Constitutional Convention, George Washington presided over meetings and helped keep order. James Madison helped prepare the Virginia Plan and took detailed notes. Benjamin Franklin encouraged delegates to compromise and work together.

Accept three sentences that name all three leaders and accurately connect each leader to a contribution from the passage. Accept equivalent wording for presided, prepared, took notes, and encouraged compromise.