

Debate to Document

Read how debate and compromise shaped a new government.

USI.7.b "describing the Constitutional Convention and the development of the Constitution of the United States, with an emphasis on the role of James Madison;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline **Great Compromise** and **Three-Fifths Compromise**, then write 1 and 2 beside the sentences that explain what each agreement did.

Writing a New Constitution

- ① In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia because the Articles of Confederation gave the national government too little power to solve problems. James Madison of Virginia arrived prepared with ideas and studied notes. He helped present the Virginia Plan, which called for a stronger national government with three branches. Madison carefully recorded convention debates, so historians know much about the meeting.
- ② Delegates disagreed about how states would be represented in Congress. Large states wanted representation based on population, while small states wanted equal representation. The Great Compromise created two houses, the House of Representatives based on population and the Senate with equal representation for each state. Delegates also made the Three-Fifths Compromise, counting three fifths of enslaved people when states counted population for representation and direct taxes.
- ③ After months of debate, delegates signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. It created a stronger federal government but divided power among legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Madison supported ratification by writing essays with John Jay and Alexander Hamilton in *The Federalist*. Later, he helped guide the Bill of Rights through Congress, answering worries that the Constitution did not protect individual freedoms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem with the Articles of Confederation led delegates to meet in Philadelphia?

2 How did the Great Compromise answer the disagreement between large and small states?

3 What did the Three-Fifths Compromise count, and why was it counted?

4 Give two ways James Madison helped develop or support the Constitution.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence news report about the Constitutional Convention. Explain the disagreement over representation, name both compromises, and include one contribution James Madison made.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline **Great Compromise** and **Three-Fifths Compromise**, then write 1 and 2 beside the sentences that explain what each agreement did. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem with the Articles of Confederation led delegates to meet in Philadelphia?	The national government had too little power to solve problems.
2	How did the Great Compromise answer the disagreement between large and small states?	It created two houses of Congress: the House of Representatives based on population and the Senate with equal representation for each state.
3	What did the Three-Fifths Compromise count, and why was it counted?	It counted three fifths of enslaved people when states counted population for representation and direct taxes.
4	Give two ways James Madison helped develop or support the Constitution.	Answers include helping present the Virginia Plan, recording debates, writing The Federalist to support ratification, and helping guide the Bill of Rights through Congress.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the convention, large and small states disagreed about representation in Congress. The Great Compromise created two houses, while the Three-Fifths Compromise set a population-counting rule for representation and direct taxes. James Madison brought plans, recorded debates, and supported the new Constitution.

Accept clear paraphrases that match the passage. For the news report, look for all required ideas, accurate descriptions of both named compromises, and one accurate Madison contribution.