Name:

What Is the Constitution?

By Anita Kim Venegas



America was a new country after the Revolutionary War. The country needed a central government and a set of laws for people to live by in order for it to become a strong, unified nation. During the war, colonies would not send money or supplies to provide support for soldiers in other colonies. If soldiers were in battle in Pennsylvania, the government of Virginia would not send food or

supplies. After the war, each colony began to make its own laws and govern its own people.



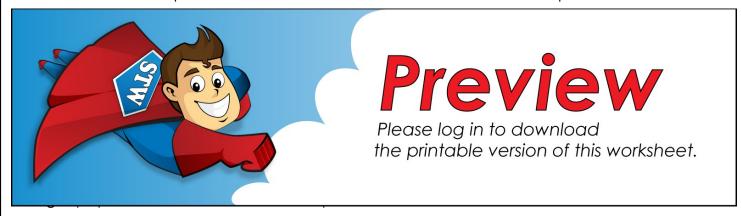
tables to discuss how to form a republic. A republic is a type of government where the power is held by the people and their elected representatives. No other country in the world was a republic in 1787. Each colony had authority to create laws for themselves. However, representatives from each colony would work together to create federal laws that all citizens would follow.

The most important decision they had to make was how many votes each colony would have when it was time to vote on federal topics such as taxes or education.

Representatives from the smaller colonies were concerned that the larger colonies would have more votes on issues in government.

La transfer de la companya de la co	IN CONGRESS. July 4, 1776.	We Be Leople of the United Shills, in our or from may apple to make the state of th
Congress of the United States	The unanimous Declaration of States of America,	Diricle 1
Some and hell at the City of Michalan	When the transfer and the property of the prop	The little to the distribution of the second
begins nat held at the Caty of Maziljad, as Wildserday the Frath of March, as limited was handral and eighty inne	and all continued to feel that many for me if a land on the print of the page of the by you have high for grown the securities and the page for your feel your feel when the feel to have been been a feel on the securities and to such as the securities are for your feel on the securities are feel on the securities and the securities are feel on the securities are feel of the securities and the securities are feel of the securities are feel of the securities are feel of the securities and the securities are feel of the securi	er and tribuded here demolection reported of Caster of the most memorial reach of the little deposition. Not there where the art deposition of which are there altered to the elgo of faculty for beginned here were bound to the elgo of faculty for beginned here were bound to the elgo of faculty for beginning the most of the elgo of the elgo of faculty for the elgo of faculty faculty for the elgo of faculty faculty for the elgo of faculty facul
THE lands from the first finds for the first for the first for the glad the first way to have not been an annual	and not seed for granted by granted of producted assembly by high and broads soft, and analogy of reference held from the models of most before the artists of the production	I make a de de la lacitation de la colonia del la colonia della dell
THE "The form the first with you have been been been the first way the top the start of the star	the straight was now of a place of the good of the first the fraging of grown of the day of the said they of four of the said the good of the said	and within carry value years of an ejern on which transment by shally shall are direct. He when he of the provisibilities what it bety Thomas of the right and the transfer of the provision of the transfer of the state of the s
ARTICLES or notes to medicate the house of the last the following months band a state to the state.	the control of the co	within to have then in higher hearities girll then below in the term of the medium and, constant for the light may be a girl about the constant for the girl and provided in the constant for the
the different form we fifty make for you to make the state of the stat	ing in the said of them, to me in the best of a lang to displace from complete from them are stand to the light of they be the same the best was a facility of the same to the same and the same of the same to th	The titien is the hours of the same the described of a superal of the absorber from and allow from by the degendative thereof from An allow the way to be the superal of the formal of the first from the graded to devoted as equally a rough and a "Dame to the first they about the aformal of an agreement of the first the bound of superal of a superal of and
will de with of Experience delicand and special special special by Copy of the desired of a fifth as hard Special special special by Copy of the desired of a fifth as hard Special sp	The state of the s	The state of the s
both the weed the way of a more from the time we sometime dothe for me when I formed whether it was to the till the little the time the weed we want women when the property of more of a charge of from the forty of the of the property of the sound of a charge of from the first of the property of the sound of the soun	and such range is the problem from a great range from problem from the pro	and him which he also the choice of here attended to Sought for ground here was good a layer of the trades. A here has be watched and of the last for the her better here.
Abole the forth it will make make lang upong the range for for the de upto flagged they and have a dellar to a frage both the lat flag. I then the water from layer a range on what is weat of the second of the sec	are to make the account of its option of in the large land whether the total the between The language and who the total gas and whether the and above the best of the large fire granters. It was a farmed proceedings and the large land to the large large land to the large large land to the large	and be the second of the second of the second of the special proportion was force of the second of t
. Paid no could be advantage of a label to the date of the late of	proposed in the antenname of the proposed of t	you to the the thing factor dead grown . That is the month of the world or that the Common feet that of the Browning free from the first property of the world of the the state of the the state of the
All the country the state of the second property of the second of the se	has been for the given be been the grant the best in a man of plant daying. It has now dearly a low of the grant of the strong of the man files strong or and man files strong or the strong of the same files strong or the same files to the grant of the grant of the same files to the grant of the grant of the same files to the grant of the grant of the same files to the grant of the grant of the same files to the grant of t	Tall to by the them, Olans and trainer of building Chicar for land to send the promotion, which be promoted in such that
the deliberation of made in a state of the s	The first hand the second of t	The last of the state of the section
Athele the rich of was stream he who has no more and a significant from the rich of was stream he who has no more and with the property of the stream a more day.	The state of the s	The first of the Advance due to the first of the Marie (Marie and Benjacker of the Marie and the stay of the Marie (Marie and Marie and Marie and Marie (Marie and Marie and Mar
At he halls being het det changed manifer for good mand and good soft of good		Since there and large of formal of the Boundary and from time to the publish the term, respecting on the second of
the same stayed and from all stayed to the title the first terminated of wall have an amen od the marting as depute	The State of the S	The literal state for front of Branch and the state of the literal state of the literal state of the state of the literal state of the
Arren Shind any a Prairie of John of Description of Description of Prairie of the Season of Section of Se	ben (e.g.) and the total billion billion	Come has a multi-the last had been shall be writing to the company of the continuous of the machine of the forestern of the continuous of
Som to they the land	The layer of growth of the thing he there was	No charte or Representative distributing the land for which he was whited for apparent of any and offer and with a latter
	The Thomas Martin State of the Contract of the	This shall be having place these strong to territories in Africa. This trip of the Bull of record because that injusted in the Consept formaching to the Santa may propor arrows and since This trip of the Bull of the supply of the consept formaching and the state of part to them, as the strong to the supply of the consept formaching and the state of the supply of the consept formaching and the supply of th

Throughout the hot and humid summer, the men created a set of laws to rule the country. Everyone decided it was important to keep the meetings secret. The tall windows on both sides of Independence Hall were hammered shut with nails to prevent



Another decision the men needed to make was to choose a leader; someone needed to lead the country and speak with leaders of other countries. They knew they did not want a king. They called this position "president". They voted for George Washington to be the first president of the United States. He represented all the citizens of the new nation.

In September of 1787, they finished writing the Constitution and proposed it to the colonies to ratify, or approve. As each colony approved the Constitution, the colony became a state. The Constitution was approved by nine colonies in the summer of 1788. The first ten amendments, or additions to the Constitution, were made in 1791. They are called the Bill of Rights.

About the Author

Anita Kim Venegas is the author of <u>The Adventures of Peanut and Dutch</u>.

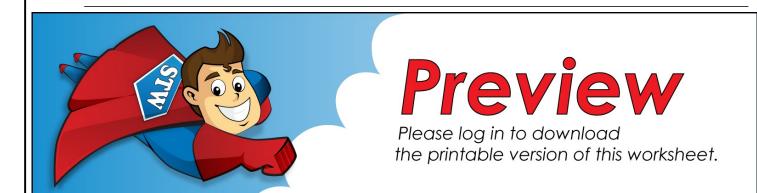
k 1		
Name:		
NUITIC.		

Identify the two beyon of Congress

What Is the Constitution?

By Anita Kim Venegas

- 1. Based on the information in the article, what immediate problem did the colonists need to solve?
 - a. The colonies were fighting among each other.
 - **b.** America needed a central government and laws.
 - **c.** The colonies did not have enough food to feed the people.
 - **d.** America needed to appoint a king like Great Britain had.
- 2. What kind of government did the colonists want to form and why?



	and
How do the two	o houses of Congress represent a compromise between the larger and ss?

k 1		
Name:		
radilio.		

What Is the Constitution?

By Anita Kim Venegas

Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



_____ 1. colony

a. secretly listening to a conversation

2. president

b. the legislative branch of the U.S. government

3. compromise

c. a territory under the political control



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

_____ **6.** govern

f. an agreement that is reached when two parties give up some of their demands to meet in the middle

_____ **7.** Congress

g. the lower house of the U.S. Congress that had representation based on a colony's population

8. Senate

- building where both the U.S.
 Declaration of Independence and Constitution were written
- **9.** House of Representatives
- i. the upper house of the U.S. Congress represented by two men from each colony

_ **10.** authority

j. the elected leader of a republic

k 1		
Name:		
radilio.		

What Is the Constitution?

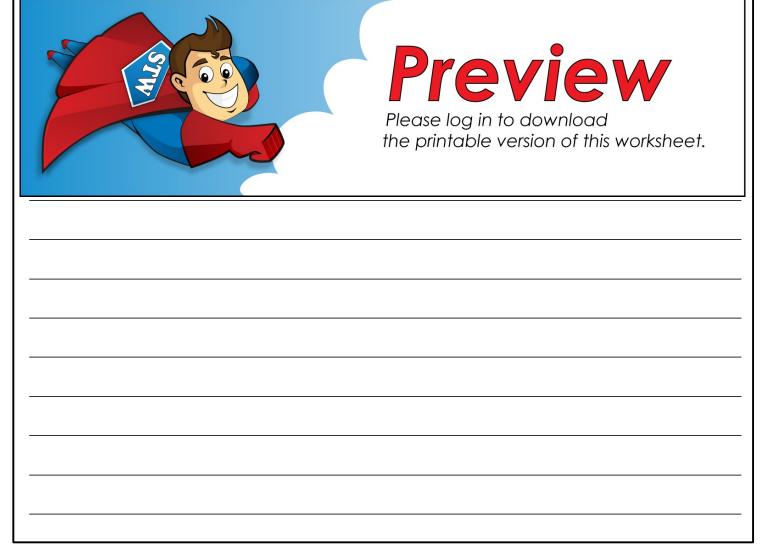
By Anita Kim Venegas

In the article, "What Is the Constitution?" you learned that it was important for the newly independent nation to develop a central government and a set of laws that applied to all the colonies. It took an entire summer and fifty-five colonists, but by September of 1787, the American Constitution was written.



On the lines below, describe several challenges the writers of the Constitution faced when drafting the document.

Base your answer on the information from the article.



ANSWER KEY

What Is the Constitution?

By Anita Kim Venegas

- 1. Based on the information in the article, what immediate problem did the colonists need to solve?
 - **a.** The colonies were fighting among each other.
 - b. America needed a central government and laws.



In the Senate, all colonies were represented by two men, no matter how big or small. In the House of Representatives, colonies were represented according to their population.

ANSWER KEY

What Is the Constitution?

By Anita Kim Venegas

Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



c 1. colony

a. secretly listening to a conversation

j 2. president

b. the legislative branch of the U.S.



e 10. authority

j. the elected leader of a republic

LI