

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

A Letter from James Madison

Dear Fellow Delegates,

Welcome to Independence Hall in the city of Philadelphia! As you know, you have been selected as a delegate to represent your home state during these proceedings. Our purpose is to discuss the defects found in our current government under the Articles of Confederation. Your input is not only desired, but necessary so that we can guarantee "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" to all Americans. I ask you to remember that whatever is said in these meetings is to be held in the strictest of confidence.

Again, welcome to Philadelphia and thank you for helping to secure the best possible government for our country.

*Sincerely,
James Madison*

What state do you represent? _____

Directions: Use the 1790 US Census Information Sheet to answer the following.

1790 Total Population: _____

1790 Slave Population: _____

Directions: Working with the delegate(s) from your state, answer the following questions.

1. Is your state considered a large or small state? Explain how you came to this determination. (Hint: States with populations over 250,000 were considered large states.)

2. As a delegate from your state, do you prefer the Virginia Plan or the New Jersey Plan?

3. Why do you prefer this plan?

4. How should the US Constitution address the issue of slavery? Should slaves be counted for representation?

5. How does your state feel about the issue of representation in Congress? Why?

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1790 United States Census Data

<u>State</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Slave Population</u>
Connecticut	237,946	2,764
Delaware	59,096	8,887
Georgia	82,548	29,264
Maryland	319,728	103,036
Massachusetts	378,787	0
New Hampshire	141,885	158
New Jersey	184,139	11,423
New York	340,120	21,324
North Carolina	393,751	100,572
Pennsylvania	434,373	3,737
Rhode Island	68,825	948
South Carolina	249,073	107,094
Virginia	691,737	292,627

Source:

Center for Civic Education, *We the People*. CA: Center for Civic Education, 1990.

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The Constitutional Convention Simulation: Tally Sheet

Directions: Fill in the information as students present their responses.

	Prefers the Virginia Plan	Prefers the New Jersey Plan	Feelings About Slavery	Feelings About Representation
New Hampshire				
New York				
Massachusetts				
Maryland				
North Carolina				
South Carolina				
Pennsylvania				
New Jersey				
Delaware				
Virginia				
Georgia				
Connecticut				

The Constitutional Convention Simulation: Reflection

Directions: Answer each of the following in complete sentences. You can use the information from the Tally Sheet you completed in class to help you.

1. How would you summarize the feelings of the various states (as seen in the classroom simulation) regarding their feelings toward the Virginia and New Jersey Plans?

2. In the classroom simulation, how would you describe the states' feelings about slavery? Were the states divided? Why?

3. At the Constitutional Convention, how did the slave compromises attempt to settle the different opinions regarding slavery?

4. During the classroom simulation, how did the states feel about representation in Congress? Was there a noticeable difference on this issue between northern and southern states? Large and small states?

5. At the Constitutional Convention, how did the Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) settle differences between the states who favored the Virginia Plan and those that favored the New Jersey Plan?