

Learning About the Constitution

Directions: Complete the paragraphs below. Choose the correct term from the Word Bank. Some terms may be used more than once.

Word Bank

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1781 | delegates | President |
| 1787 | Edmund Randolph | Rhode Island |
| Alexander Hamilton | George Washington | smaller |
| Benjamin Franklin | government | three |
| compromises | James Madison | unanimous |
| Confederation | leader | Virginia |
| Constitution | New York | Virginia Plan |
| Constitutional | Philadelphia | William Paterson |

During the Revolutionary War in **1)** _____, the states adopted the Articles of **2)** _____. Now that the war was over, the states were faced with serious problems. Something had to be done to make the **3)** _____ stronger.

In May of **4)** _____, the **5)** _____ Convention was held in **6)** _____. All but one state sent **7)** _____ to the convention. Outstanding men such as **8)** _____ of Virginia, **9)** _____ of Pennsylvania, and **10)** _____ of New York were present. The delegates chose **11)** _____ as **12)** _____ of the convention.

Two plans of government were suggested. One plan was called the **13)** _____. The plan was suggested by **14)** _____ of Virginia. A second plan was suggested by **15)** _____ of New Jersey. His plan favored the **16)** _____ states.

After much debate, several **17)** _____ were made in each plan. Finally, the delegates agreed that the government should have **18)** _____ branches. The **19)** _____ would be the leader of the country.

In September of 1787, the convention completed its work. The **20)** _____ was ready for the approval of the states. Some states agreed to the Constitution quickly. Two important states, **21)** _____ and **22)** _____ were very slow to approve the Constitution. **23)** _____ was the last state to approve it.

In early 1790, all of the states had approved the Constitution. **24)** _____ was the **25)** _____ choice to be the President. A new kind of government had begun.