

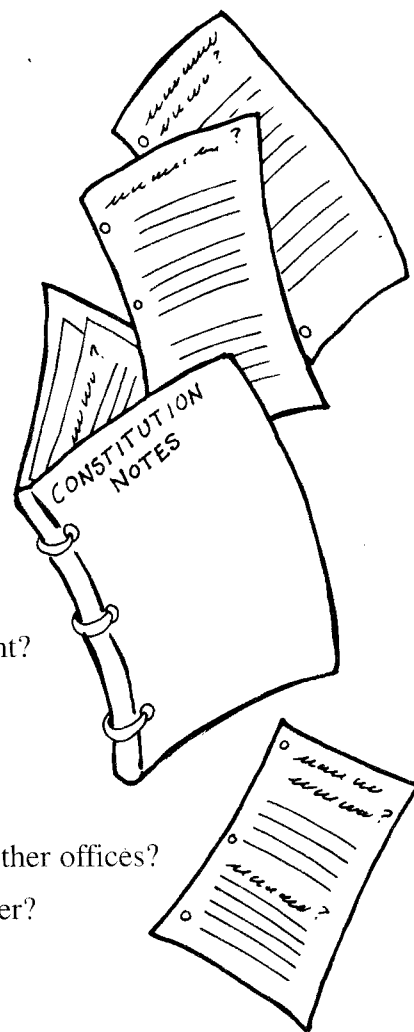
Conventional Comprehension Questions

Develop the critical thinking skill of comprehension with the questions on this page. (Possible answers appear on page 18.) Modify the following four assignments to suit your classroom needs.

- Write one question on the board each day. Direct the students to copy the question and to write an answer. Use as a daily writing activity. At day's end, take some time to let some students share their answers.
- Use these questions for whole class discussions. (See the simulation activity on page 15.)
- Present these questions as a written assignment. Provide each student with a copy of the page or make a transparency of the questions for use on an overhead projector.
- Direct the students to copy each question on a separate page of a composition book or notebook. Have them write answers to the questions. Students can use the books as a study guide. Create an evaluation tool based on these questions and answers.

QUESTIONS

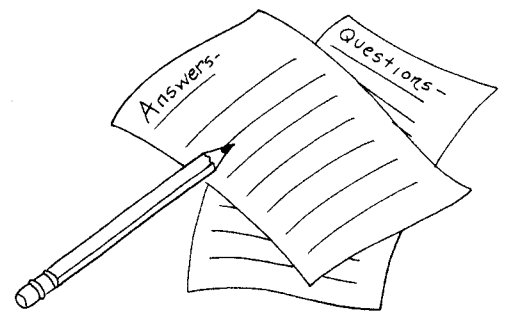
1. Why did George Washington scoff at the idea of “sovereign states”?
2. What were the Articles of Confederation?
3. Why did the Articles of Confederation not work?
4. What was the original purpose of the Grand Convention?
5. Why did the first meeting not begin on May 14, 1781, as planned?
6. Why was it decided to keep the meetings secret?
7. What provisions were in Governor Randolph’s Virginia Plan?
8. Why did the smaller states fear the larger states?
9. What were the terms of the presidency that were finally reached?
10. What did the people of Philadelphia do to keep the delegates happy?
11. What were some of the hardships faced by the delegates?
12. What were the terms of the Great Compromise?
13. What bargain did the North and South strike on the issue of slavery?
14. What were the citizenship requirements for legislators and the President?
15. What was Madison’s position about a Bill of Rights?
16. Who were the Federalists? the Anti-Federalists?
17. What is the system of Checks and Balances?
18. Who approves the President’s choices for Supreme Court judges and other offices?
19. Why can it be said that the people themselves had the controlling power?
20. Which state was the first to ratify the Constitution? the last?
21. What nickname was given to the Constitution?
22. Where were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson during the Constitutional proceedings?



Answers to Comprehension Questions

Possible answers to the questions from page 17 appear below. You may want students to expand on them.

1. Because he knew that the states could not be truly independent for long and still survive.
2. A list of rules for a “firm league of friendship” among the states.
3. Although Congress could make all the rules it wanted, there was no real way to enforce them.
4. To improve the existing form of government by revising the old Articles of Confederation.
5. Only delegates from two states showed up that day; representatives from seven states were needed to begin proceedings.
6. The delegates did not want the whole country to listen in and take sides.
7. There would be three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial. The legislative branch would consist of two houses—the House of Representatives and the Senate.
8. Because the larger states had more people. In the past, votes of all states—no matter what the population—had counted the same. This new government was as much concerned with individuals as with the states.
9. There would be a single executive who would be paid out of the treasury of the new government. He would be chosen by electors from each state and serve a term of four years. If necessary, he could be impeached.
10. Entertained them, provided musicals, covered the cobblestone with gravel to make it quieter.
11. They were away from their families; the heat; bluebottle flies; prisoners jeered at them; long-winded speeches from other delegates.
12. Every state would have two members in the Senate and be allowed two votes; the House of Representatives would have one representative for every 40,000 inhabitants.
13. Northern states agreed to continue the slave trade until 1808, while the Southern states gave up their demand that commercial regulations had to be passed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses.
14. Senators have to be citizens for nine years, representatives for seven, and the President must be native born.
15. He felt it was taken for granted that individuals kept all the rights that they did not specifically give over to the government.
16. Federalists were those people who were for the Constitution; Anti-Federalists were against it.
17. Every bill the House passed had to go to the Senate for approval. If it made it through the Senate, it went to the President for his signature. If he did not like the bill, he could veto it. However, the bill could pass anyway if two-thirds of the House and Senate voted for it. Finally, the Supreme Court could determine if a law was constitutional or not.
18. The Senate.
19. Every four years they would be electing a President; at stated intervals they would elect representatives to Congress.
20. Delaware was first; Rhode Island was last.
21. “The Supreme Law of the land.”
22. John Adams was serving as an ambassador to England; Thomas Jefferson was serving as ambassador to France.



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