

# Social Studies-Unit 5

## Challenges of a New Nation

Yeah!!! We won the American  
Revolutionary war and defeated King  
George III's tyranny.....**what now?**

# Vocabulary

- **Constitution**-A written plan for government
- **Courage**-acting bravely
- **Citizen**-an official member of a city, state, or nation
- **Republic**- a government in which the citizens elect leaders to represent them
- **Honesty**-telling the truth
- **Compromise**-both sides give up something to settle an agreement

# Vocabulary

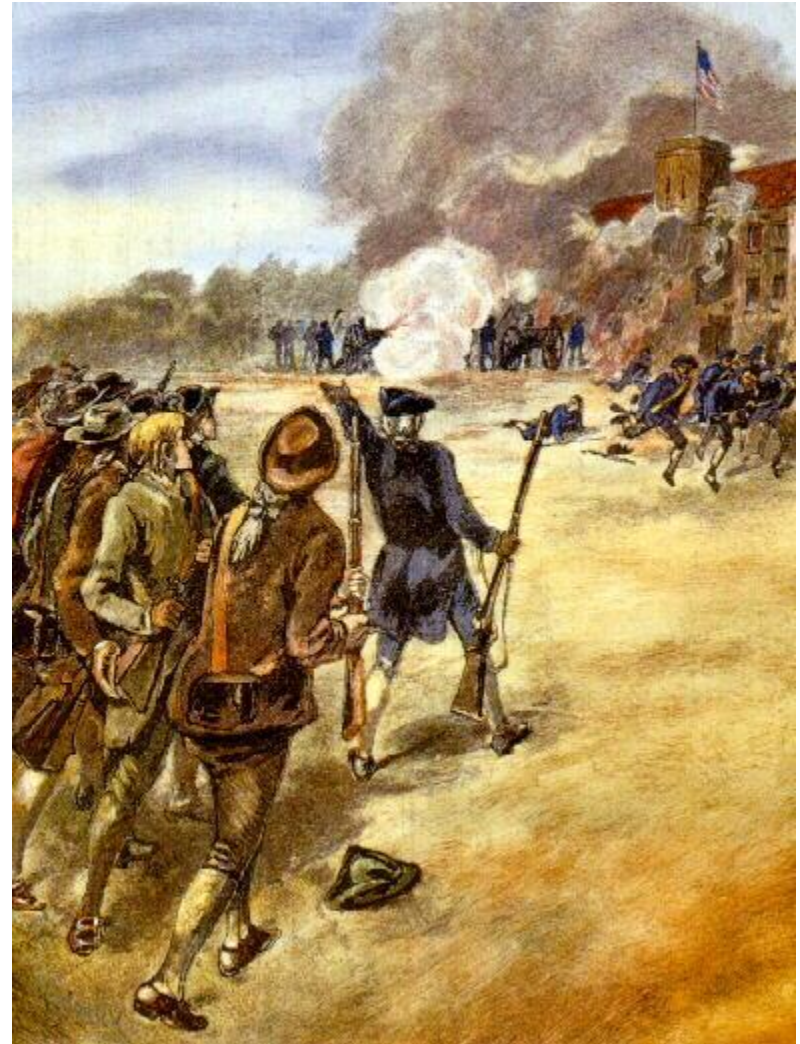
- **Ratify**-to accept
- **Democracy**- a government in which the people have the power to make political decisions
- **Trustworthiness**- being able to be trusted
- **Checks and Balances**- a system that lets each branch limit the power of the others
- **Amendment**-a change to the constitution
- **Patriotism**-working for the goals of your country

# After the War- Economic Depression

- The United States went through a depression, or a time when economic activity slowed and unemployment increased, after the American Revolutionary War
  - Farmers could not sell the goods they grew and therefore did not have money to pay state taxes.
  - As a result, farmers lost their lands when state officials took their farms to pay the debt they owed.
  - Some farmers were even jailed.

# Shays' Rebellion

- The Shays' Rebellion occurred as a result of the problems farmers suffered.
- In 1787 Daniel Shays led a group of more than 1,000 angry farmers. They forced courts in western Massachusetts to close so judges could not seize farmers' lands.
- The state militia fired over their heads and then directly at them, killing four.
- The uprising was over when Shays and his followers scattered.
- Many Americans were scared that future uprisings could occur and called for a stronger government.



# A Call for Change- Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

- The main weakness of the government established by the Articles of Confederation was that it gave too much power to the states
  - States printed their own money for trade
    - Decided own rules
    - Hard for them to trade with other states and countries
    - Hurt the New Nation's economy
  - Congress could not make money to pay debt of war because it was not allowed to tax
    - Asked states for money, but could not force them to pay

# A Call for Change- The Constitutional Convention

- In September 1786, Alexander Hamilton proposed calling a meeting in Philadelphia to discuss possible changes to the Articles of Confederation
- Political leaders were divided on the issue of the type of government the country should have.

- ▶ James Madison and Alexander Hamilton were proponents of a strong central government.



Madison



Hamilton

# The Constitutional Convention

- The Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia beginning in May 1787 and consisted of
  - 55 delegates
  - none of the 55 were Native American, African American, or women.
- Leaders of the Convention
  - George Washington
  - Ben Franklin
  - Alexander Hamilton
  - James Madison, who became known as “Father of the Constitution” because he wrote the Constitution.
- These men are known as the “Founding Fathers”<sup>8</sup>





# The Constitutional Convention

- Two plans of government were proposed—the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan.



# The Virginia Plan

- The Virginia Plan called for a federal system in which the government was divided into three parts, or branches
  - Congress- make the laws for the nation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> branch- carry out laws
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> branch- settle legal arguments
- Madison suggested that each state's representatives in Congress would be based on the state's population
  - Larger populated states would get more votes in congress than smaller populated states
  - The smaller populated states of course did not like this plan so they created their own plan.....

***POWER TO THE  
POPULATION! SUPPORT  
THE VIRGINIA PLAN!***



# The New Jersey Plan

- The New Jersey Plan gave each state one vote so that the small states would have as much power as the large ones.

*POWER TO THE Small States!*

*SUPPORT THE New Jersey PLAN!*

- Which plan would you vote for?
- Delegates argued bitterly about these plans until they finally had.....

# The Great Compromise

- The delegates decided to combine the two plans. There would be three branches, however there would be two parts of congress.
  - Senate- would have equal representatives
  - House- representatives based on population
- This broke the great debate that divided large and small states.



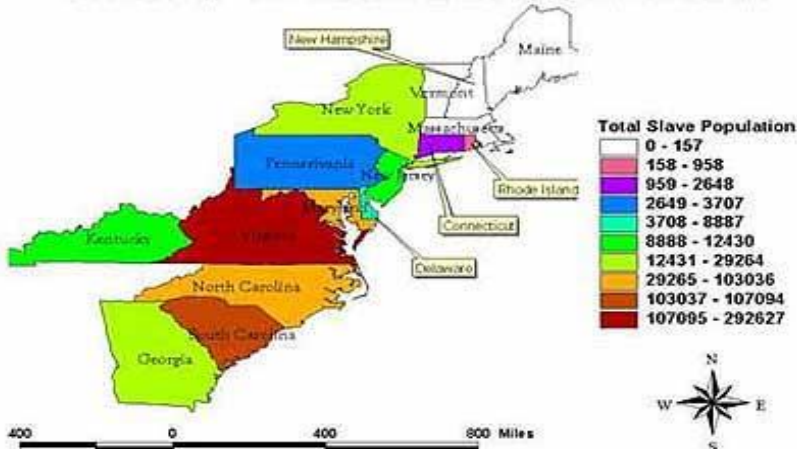


# The Issue of Slavery

- Southern delegates wanted slaves to count as part of a state's population, while other delegates said that it was unfair because slaves were not considered citizens.
- Delegates also argued about whether to end the practice of bringing slaves into the United States. Delegates in the southern states said that they would NOT accept the new government unless slave trade continued.
- Arguments led to a compromise, the Three-Fifths rule
  - Counted 5 slaves as three free people

$\frac{3}{5}$

**Total # of slaves in each state**



# The Constitution

- Delegates continued to work on the new plan for government. The constitution was written on September 17, 1787
  - At least nine states had to ratify, or accept the constitution
  - Many people were shocked when they found out about the Constitution. They had expected changes to the Articles of Confederation, not a whole new government
- “We the people of the United States.....”
  - Our government is based on the idea of Popular Sovereignty
    - Popular means related to the people
    - Sovereignty means the people have the power to make political decisions



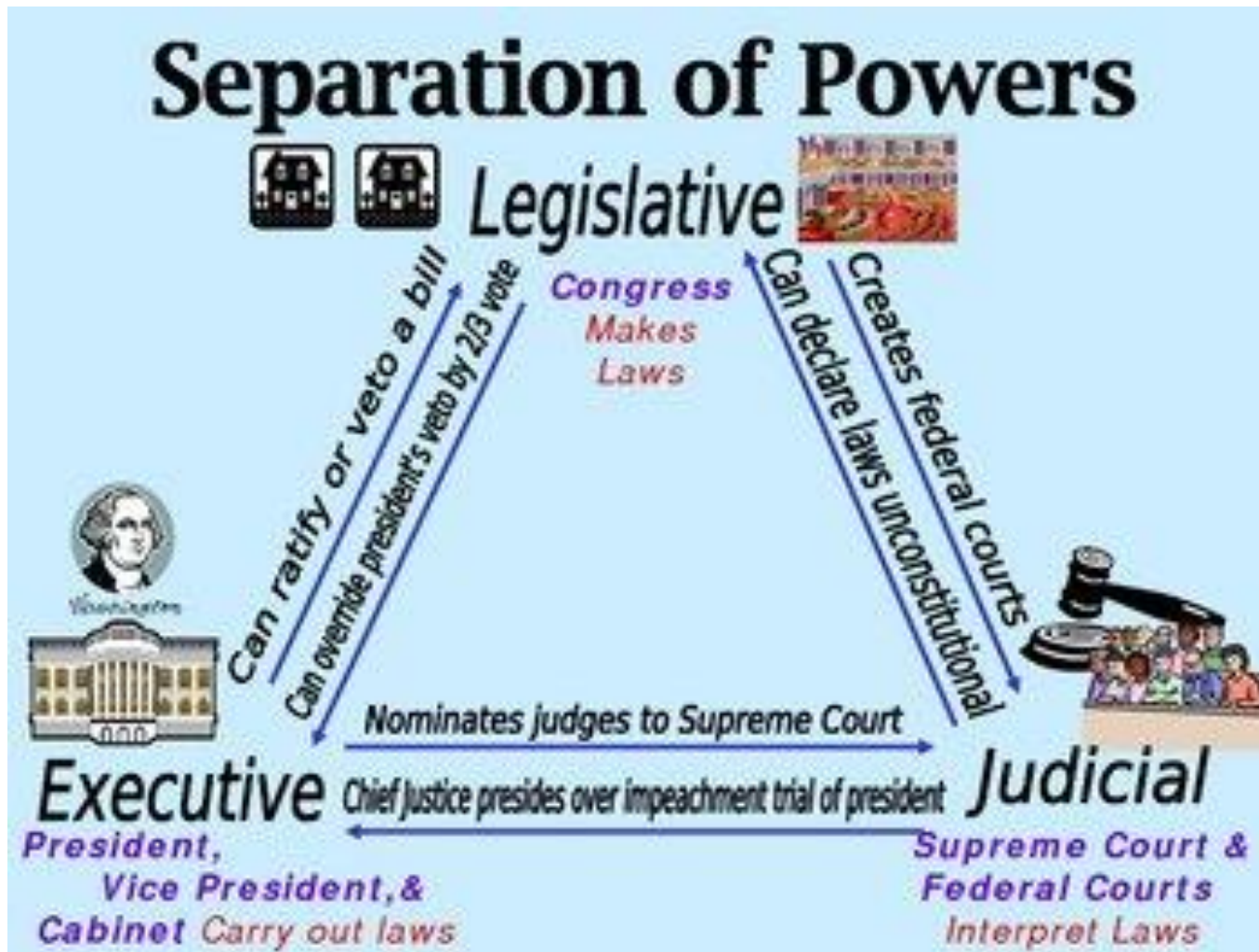
# Inside the U. S. Government

## Three Branches of Government

- Legislative Branch (Congress)
  - Makes the laws for the country
  - This branch is called Congress and they can declare war
- Executive Branch (President)
  - Can suggest laws
  - It enforces, or carries out the laws made by Congress
  - The head is the President and they lead the military and make treaties with other countries
- Judicial Branch (Supreme Court)
  - Settles conflicts about the meaning of laws and whether laws have been followed
  - Supreme courts make up the Judicial branch and they resolve conflicts between citizens or states

# Checks and Balances

- Checks and Balances are a system that lets each branch limit the power of the other branches





# The Bill of Rights

- The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights
- An amendment is an official change or addition to a law
- In 1791, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to prevent the government from abusing its power on the states and their citizens
  - Thomas Jefferson wanted a Bill of Rights “To guard the people against the federal government”
- The first amendment was important to all Americans because it gave them the right to speak their minds



# First Amendment = 5 rights

- Freedom of Speech
  - Being able to state your own opinions about certain topics
- Freedom of Religion
  - You can worship in your own way and the government cannot support any religion over another
- Freedom of the Press
  - People have the right to write and print their opinions about certain topics
- Freedom of Assembly
  - People have the right to gather in public by having parades or protest
- Freedom to petition the government
  - You may sue the government for wrongs.
  - You cannot be punished for exposing wrongs by the government.